

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 
 OF *St. John the Baptist*

"Where All Are Welcome . . . No Exceptions!"

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

The Holy Eucharist

The Word of God

Prelude *Voluntary 'The King Shall Come'* *Charles Callahan*
 Hymn Tune: St. Stephen
 Voluntary 'People, Look East' *Timothy Shaw*
 Hymn Tune: Besançon

Processional Hymn (*Please stand as able*) *Please see pages 8*

#259 | *"Fling Wide the Door"*

Children's Chat - *Robert Freeman*

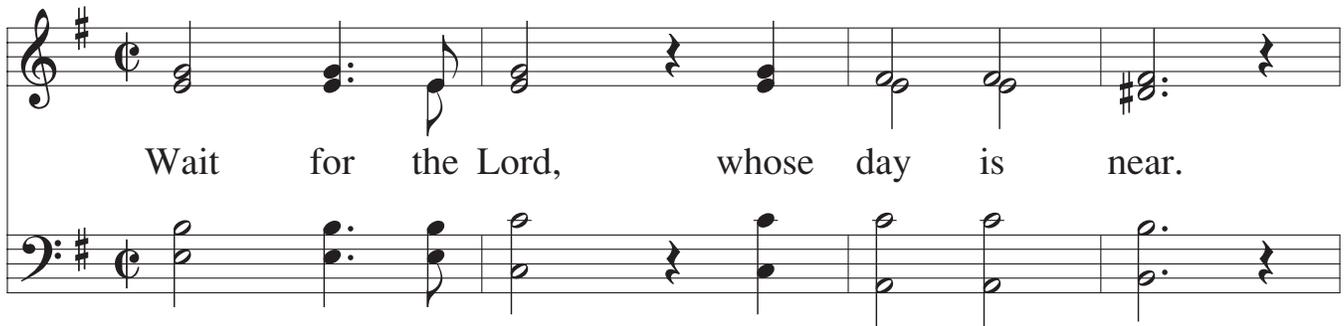
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Hymn of Praise: Wait for the Lord (*Sung 3 times*)

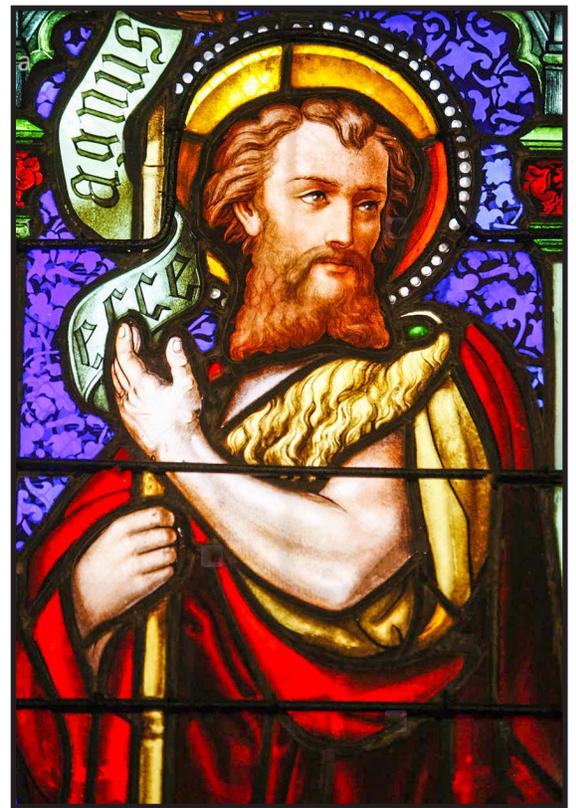
Taize Community



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant prays the Collect

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People ***Amen.***

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

Vocalist & Guitar: Rob Freeman

1. Light one candle to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel,
God fulfills the promise.

2. Light two candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.

3. Light three candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.

First Reading *(Please be seated)*

Reader A Reading from Isaiah:

Introduction to the First Reading

Here the prophet speaks a message of hope to those returning from exile in Babylon. He describes an ultimate year of Jubilee---a time of full blessing brought by divine favor, deliverance for the oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

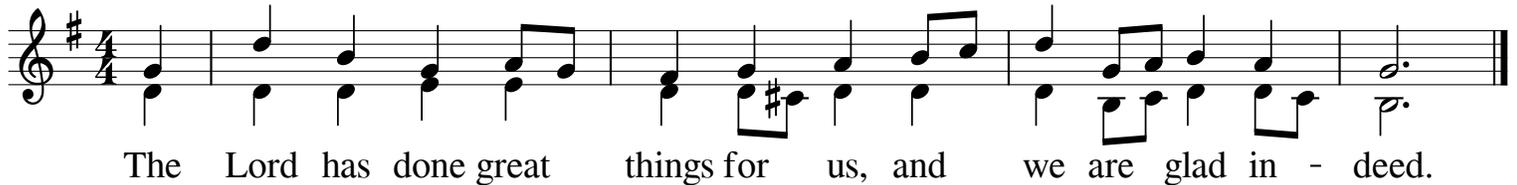
The spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the LORD GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***



When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
 then were we like those who dream.
 Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
 and our tongue with shouts of joy.
 Then they said among the nations,
 "The LORD has done great things for them." [ANT.]

Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
 like the watercourses of the Negev.
 Those who sowed with tears
 will reap with songs of joy.
 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
 will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. [ANT.]

From *A Hymn Tune Psalter, Revised Common Lectionary Edition* © 2007 by Carl P. Daw, Jr.
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Second Reading

Reader A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians:

Introduction to the Second Reading

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and gratitude. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (*Please stand as able*) - *Please see page 9* Vs. 5 & 6 #56 | "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John:

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Holy Gospel (*The Gospel is carried into the congregation so that we remember it is our Good News to hear and to share.*)

John 1:6-8,19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Nicene Creed *(Please stand as able)*

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.*

For us and for our salvation

*he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.*

*On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven*

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

*He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.*

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

*We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

The Prayers of the People *The Leader and People pray responsively.*

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Episcopal Relief and Development, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love especially Lucy, martyr of the church. Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers, especially remembering those on our parish prayer list and those we name in our hearts.

(The congregation may add their own petitions either silently or aloud after the prayer list is read.)

(The Celebrant may add a concluding Collect.)

The Confession of Sin *(Please kneel as able or be seated)*

Reader Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence may be kept)*

People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Absolution

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace *(Please stand as able)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Being seated, we begin with a time of offering, giving money as a sign that our life serves God's purposes and showing our gratitude for God's many blessings.

Your faithful tithes and offerings are much needed and can be sent to:

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, PO Box 441, Milton, DE 19968 OR

Securely online through our website - <https://www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org/give.html>

Offertory Sentence & Interlude

Doxology *(The offering is presented as the Doxology is sung.*

Please stand as able)

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow;
Praise him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.

Offertory Hymn

Please see page 10

#516 | "Come Down, O Love Divine"

The Great Thanksgiving

“Enriching Our Worship,” Prayer 2

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People *We lift them to the Lord.*
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: *Holy, holy, holy Lord*

Ho- ly, ho- ly, ho- ly Lord. God of power and might,
hea- ven and earth are full, full of your glo- ry. Ho-
san- na in the high est. Ho- san- na in the high- est.
Bless- ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
san- na in the high- est. Ho- san- na in the high- est.

The people may kneel as able, or be seated. The Celebrant continues.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with [_____ and] all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
People **Our Father, who art in heaven,** *And forgive us our trespasses,*
hallowed be thy Name, *as we forgive those*
thy kingdom come, *who trespass against us.*
thy will be done, *And lead us not into temptation,*
on earth as it is in heaven. *but deliver us from evil.*
Give us this day our daily bread. *For thine is the kingdom,*
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart and my soul. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you, my Lord and my God! Amen.

Distribution Anthem – “People, Look East” *Music: Barry Rose Words: Eleanor Farjeon*
Vocalist: Robert Freeman Accompanist: Scott Kresge

Post Communion Prayer *(Please kneel or be seated)*

Celebrant Let us pray.
People **Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all whom you have made.**
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your presence, that as we lament our separation from one another, we may continually show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Benediction

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**
May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**
May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn *(Please stand as able)* *Please see page 11* #68 | **“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

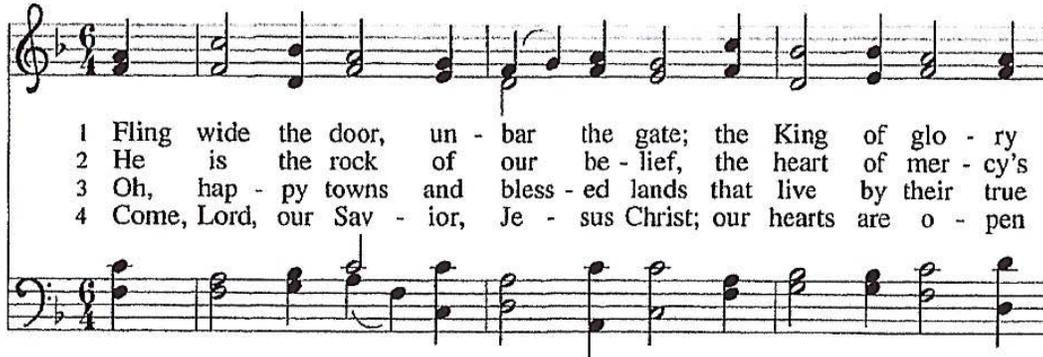
Postlude **Voluntary “Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”** *Hymn Tune: ‘Llangloffan’ John Carter*

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The Rev. Thomas M. White, Rector
J. Edwin Stout, Acolyte
Scott Kresge, Organist/Videography/Streaming
Robert Freeman, Cantor/Soloist
Elizabeth Scheer, Videography/Streaming

Processional Hymn

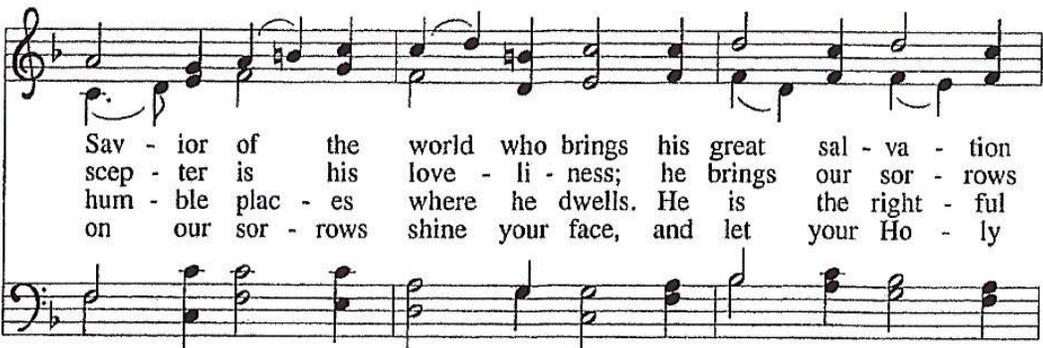
"Fling Wide the Door"



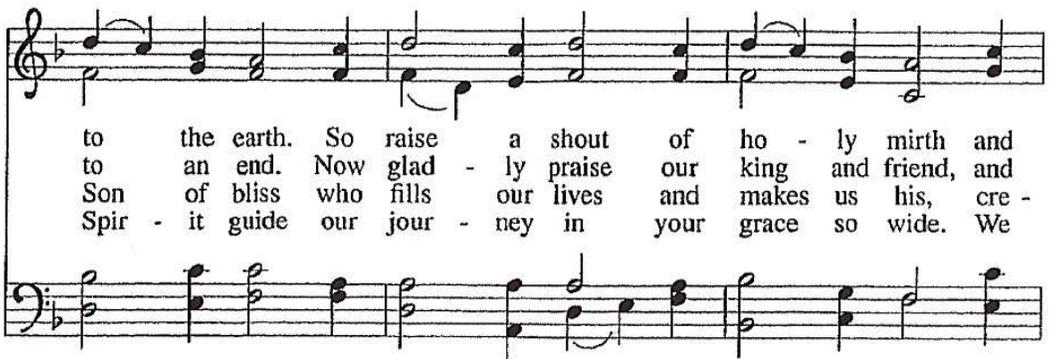
1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



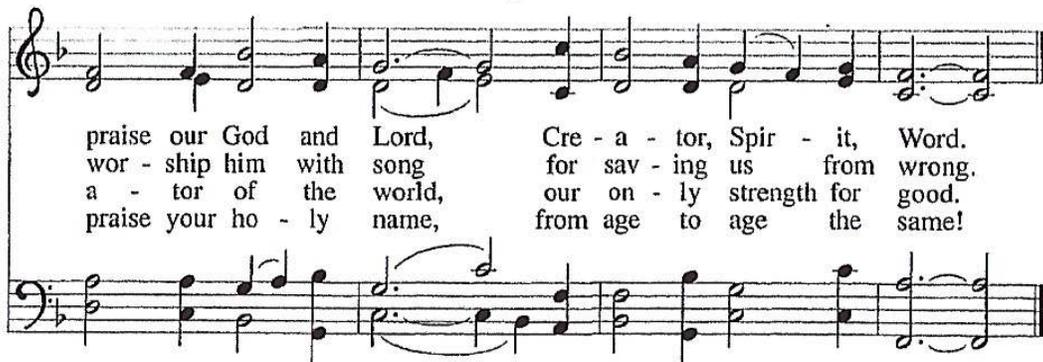
comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704; arr. hymnal version
Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Arr. © 2000 Augsburg Fortress

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Advent

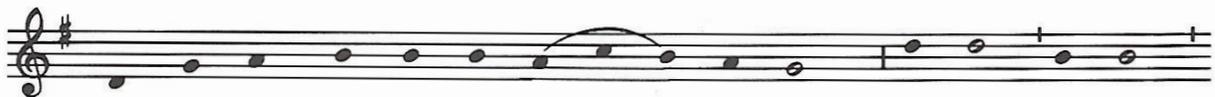
56



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with “The Song of Mary” on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

LM with Refrain

516

The Holy Spirit

1 Come down, O Love di - vine, seek thou this soul of mine,
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;
 shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
 and let thy glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 for none can guess its grace, till Love cre - ate a place

and kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spi - rit makes a dwell - ing.

Words: Bianco da Siena (d. 1434?); tr. Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890), alt.
 Music: *Down Ampney*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

66. 11. D

Advent

68

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple - nish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt.

Music: *Llanglofan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865

76. 76 D