



“Called To Belong”
Sunday, December 18, 2022, 9:00 AM
Fourth Sunday In Advent

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN

“LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YE MIGHTY GATES”

LSB 340

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.
- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.
- 4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!
- 5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.

Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weiszel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING COLLECT

- C** 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

LSB 186

- C** Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may
be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.
C Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as
heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O
house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself
will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He
shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy
knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The
LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since
the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Prepare The Way Of The Lord”

arr. Nordmeyer

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised
beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David
according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his

resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL”

LSB 357

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord’rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai’s height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,
Free them from Satan’s tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave. Refrain

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight. Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

THE SERMON

"CALLED TO BELONG"

NICENE CREED

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

**and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P God of love and mercy,

C **Hear our prayer.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P When you call to Me, I will answer you, says the Lord.

C **I will be with you in trouble; I will rescue you and honor you.**

P With long life the Lord will satisfy you

C **and show you His salvation.**

(Silence for meditation and reflection)

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

HYMN

“JESUS! NAME OF WONDROUS LOVE”

**LSB 900
Sts. 1–3, 6**

1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev'ry knee
Bow in deep humility.

2 Jesus! Name decreed of old,
To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell,
By the angel Gabriel.

3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth
To the fallen of the earth

For the promise that it gave,
"Jesus shall His people save."

- 6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-97, alt.
Text: Public domain

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

SANCTUS

LSB 195

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;**
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P Holy and gracious Father: In Your infinite love You made us for Yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, You, in Your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, Your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to You, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out His arms upon the cross, and offered Himself, in obedience to Your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night on which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat: This is My Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also after supper, He took the cup; and when He had given thanks, He blessed it and gave it to His disciples and said, "Take, drink of this all of you: This cup is the New Testament in My Blood, which is shed for You and for many for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.**

P We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this our act of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling His death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts of bread and wine.

Sanctify them by Your Holy Spirit to be for Your people the Body and Blood of Your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy

Sacrament, and serve You in unity, steadfastness, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all Your saints into the joy of Your eternal kingdom.

THE GREAT AMEN

P All this we ask through Your Son, Jesus Christ: By Him, and with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is Yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION

P Welcome to the Lord's Table. Receive the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:

“LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING”

LSB 336

- 1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending,
Once for ev'ry sinner slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending
Swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.
- 2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him
Robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
Shall their true Messiah see.
- 3 Those dear tokens of His passion
Still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation
To His ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!
- 4 Yea, amen, let all adore Thee,
High on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
Claim the kingdom as Thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and Thou alone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.
Text: Public domain

- 1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.
- 2 Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!
- 3 My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.
- 4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Text: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

- P** Eternal God, Heavenly Father, You have graciously accepted us as living members of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and You have fed us with the spiritual food in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve You with gladness and unity of heart; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

BENEDICAMUS

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

- 1 O God of God, O Light of Light,
 O Prince of Peace and King of kings:
 To you in heaven’s glory bright
 The song of praise forever rings.
 To Him who sits upon the throne,
 The Lamb once slain but raised again,
 Be all the glory He has won,
 All thanks and praise! Amen, amen.
- 2 For deep in prophets’ sacred page,
 And grand in poets’ wingèd word,
 Slowly in type, from age to age
 The nations saw their coming Lord;
 Till through the deep Judean night
 Rang out the song, “Goodwill to men!”
 Sung once by firstborn sons of light,
 It echoes now, “Goodwill!” Amen.
- 3 That life of truth, those deeds of love,
 That death so steeped in hate and scorn—
 These all are past, and now above
 He reigns, our King once crowned with thorn.
 Lift up your heads, O mighty gates!
 So sang that host beyond our ken.
 Lift up your heads, your King awaits.
 We lift them up. Amen, amen.
- 4 Then raise to Christ a mighty song,
 And shout His name, His mercies tell!
 Sing, heav’nly host, your praise prolong,
 And all on earth, your anthem swell!
 All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain!
 Forever let the song ascend!
 Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign,
 All glory, pow’r! Amen, amen.

Text: John Julian, 1839–1913, alt.
 Text: Public domain

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in God’s peace; love and serve your neighbor!
C Thanks be to God!

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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