## O Antiphons Advent-Christmas Vespers 2021 December 22, 2021

Tonight's Service of Advent Lessons and Carols is based on the Great O Antiphons of Advent. Each lesson is paired with one of seven antiphons sung as antiphons from December 17 to 23. The Antiphons address the Messiah with various titles drawn from the Hebrew scriptures:

December 17 O Sapientia – O Wisdom December 18 O Adonai – O Lord December 19 O Radix Jesse – O Root of Jesse December 20 O Clavis David – O Key of David December 21 O Oriens – O Dayspring December 22 O Rex Gentium – O King of the Nations December 23 O Emmanuel – O God with Us

The "O" Antiphons are a monastic Christian tradition dating back to the 4<sup>th</sup> Century. The Antiphons are recited during evening prayer, and each carries significant meaning. Each Antiphon calls Jesus a unique title, all of which come from the Old Testament prophesies of Isaiah.

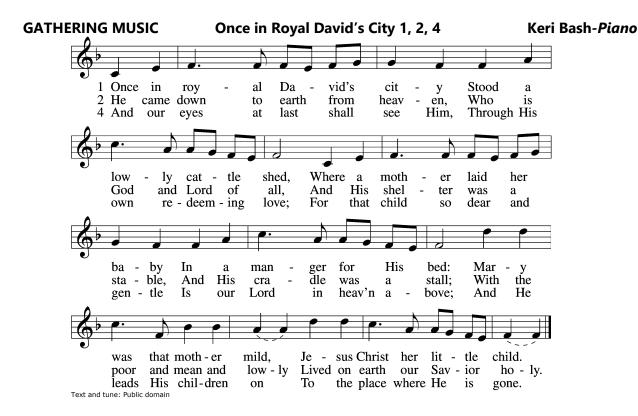
The Latin text of the O Antiphons imbeds an acrostic: the first letter of each of those titles, when read backwards, for the Latin words:

ERO CRAS, which means: "Tomorrow I Come."

Our worship service today features the O Antiphons read one at a time, each followed by a prophetic text of the Old Testament and a corresponding fulfillment text from the New Testament. Each pair of texts is followed by a musical work illuminating its lesson. May the light of Christ shine brightly to all this blessed Advent and Christmas season!

In the coldest, darkest part of winter, we find ourselves longing for the light. It is precisely at this point the Son of God chose to come into the world for the "Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" John 1:5

> As our longing grows for a savior throughout Advent and all our lives, tonight holds a special intensity of our longing to see the Word made flesh all over again.



#### WELCOME AND INVOCATION

Pastor Aaron Boerst

### **BLESSING OF THE LIGHT**

Pastor: The Lord is my light and my salvation

#### All: whom shall I fear? [Psalm 27:1]

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord God, creator of day and night: to you be praise and glory for ever. As darkness falls you renew your promise to reveal among us the light of your presence. By the light of Christ, your living Word, dispel the darkness of our hearts that we may walk as children of light and sing your praise throughout the world.

All: Blessed be God forever.

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF LIGHT**Joyous Light – Marty HaugenKeri Bash-Piano

We stand and turn to one another lighting each taper candle, as the pastor enters the sanctuary.

Joyous light of heav'nly glory, loving glow of God's own face, You who sing creation's story, shine on ev'ry land and race. Now as evening falls around us, we shall raise our songs to you, God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

## **BIDDING PRAYER**

Pastor: Dear People of God, in the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in the manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of

God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one forever more. And now. to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, singing...

#### LORD'S PRAYER [sung to melody of Away in a Manger] Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name. Your kingdom among us, Your will done the same By people and angels, Come, Lord, rule alone: Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day; As we forgive others, our sins take away; In times of temptation, oh lead us, be near; From evil deliver Your children most dear.

For Yours is the kingdom, o'er all things You rule; And Yours is the power; our supporter are You; To You be the glory, we sing loudly again From all of creation, forever! Amen.

### **OFFERING**

### **Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

Come thou long expected Jesus Born to set Thy people free From our fears and sins release us Let us find our rest in Thee

Born Thy people to deliver Born a child and yet a king Born to reign in us forever Now Thy gracious kingdom bring

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus," words and music by Charles Wesley, Ken Bible & Rowland Hugh Prichard © 1998 Pilot Point Music. Used By Permission. CCLI License #1530621

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Pastor: God of abundance, we offer you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our

Cross Road

very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

#### All: Amen.



#### Please Extinguish Your Candles

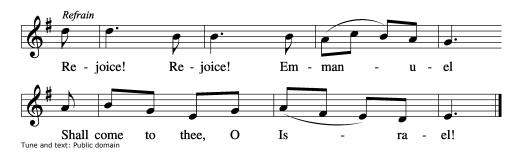
#### PRAYER

Pastor:

O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout the world to be a demonstration of hope. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to yearn for that coming day when Jesus will reign forever in justice and righteousness, and all creation will be restored. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.





#### **FIRST LESSON**

Isaiah 11: 2-3

<sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the Spirit of counsel and might,

the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

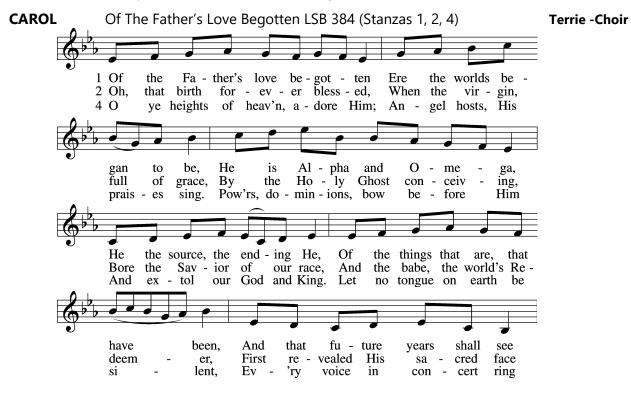
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

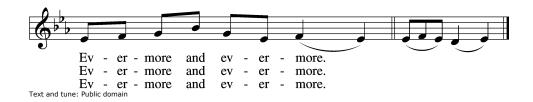
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

John 1:1-5, 14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

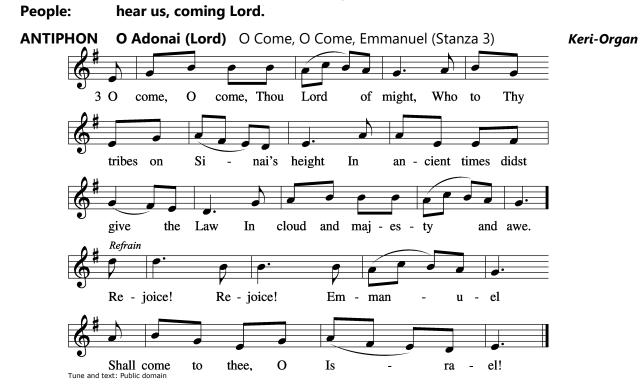
<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.





#### PRAYER

Pastor: O Lord of might, help us during this Advent season both to look back to those days when our salvation was won in Your death and resurrection and to look forward to the day of Your return, when by Your power You will bring the dead to life and restore all creation. We pray,



## SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11: 4-5; Isaiah 33:22

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
<sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>22</sup>For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us.

#### Revelation 1: 4-8

<sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

<sup>8</sup>"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

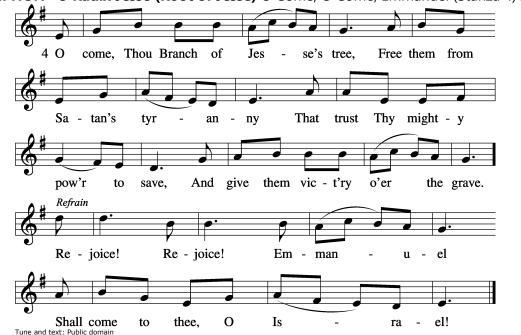
**CAROL** It Came Upon A Midnight Clear 1, 4 It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven's all gracious king." The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on, By prophets seen of old, When with the ever-circling years, Shall come the time foretold When the new heaven and earth shall own The Prince of Peace their King And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

## PRAYER

Pastor: O Root of Jesse, bless our homes with Your Presence and keep our families safe from all harm and danger. Be with us that the evil one may have no power over us. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.



ANTIPHON O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 4) Keri-Organ

## THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 11: 1, 10

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

## Revelation 22: 12-13; 16-17; 20

<sup>12</sup>"Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay everyone for what he has done. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

<sup>16</sup>"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

<sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.

<sup>20</sup>He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

CAROLLo, How A Rose E'er BloomingLSB 1-3Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!Of Jesse's lineage coming as prophet's long have sung.It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winterWhen half spent was the night.

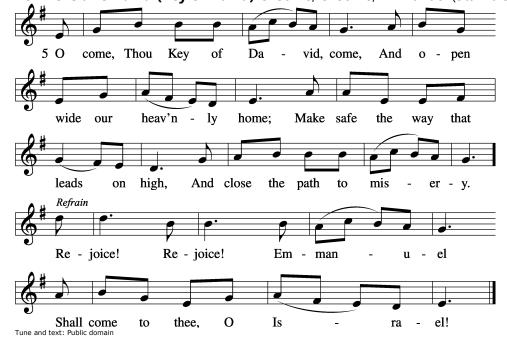
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind. With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior When half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us And lightens every load.

# **REFLECTION ON THE ROOT OF JESSE**

## PRAYER

Pastor: O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,
 People: hear us, coming Lord.



ANTIPHON O Clavis David (Key of David) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 5) Keri-Organ

#### **FOURTH LESSON**

#### Isaiah 22:22-25

<sup>22</sup>And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. <sup>23</sup>And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honor to his father's house. <sup>24</sup>And they will hang on him the whole honor of his father's house, the offspring and issue, every small vessel, from the cups to all the flagons. <sup>25</sup>In that day, declares the LORD of hosts, the peg that was fastened in a secure place will give way, and it will be cut down and fall, and the load that was on it will be cut off, for the LORD has spoken."

### Revelation 3:7-11

<sup>7</sup>"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

<sup>8</sup>"'I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. <sup>9</sup>Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet and they will learn that I have loved you. <sup>10</sup>Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. <sup>11</sup>I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown.

#### CAROL

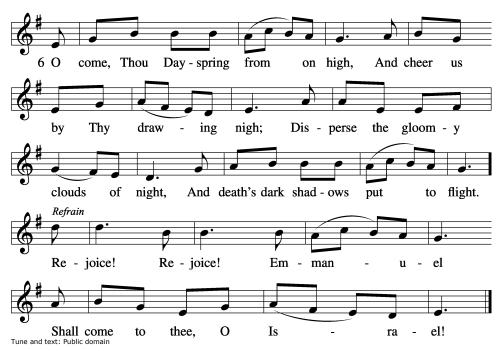
The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

**Terrie** - Piano



### PRAYER

- Pastor: O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [especially those in our congregation. . .]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray, hear us, coming Lord.
- ANTIPHON O Oriens (Dayspring) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 6) Keri-Organ



## **FIFTH LESSON**

Isaiah 9:2; Isaiah 42:5-7

 <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
 those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

<sup>5</sup>Thus says God, the LORD,

who created the heavens and stretched them out,

who spread out the earth and what comes from it,

who gives breath to the people on it

and spirit to those who walk in it:

<sup>6</sup>"I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;

I will take you by the hand and keep you;

I will give you as a covenant for the people,

a light for the nations,

<sup>7</sup>to open the eyes that are blind,

to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,

from the prison those who sit in darkness.

## Luke 2:25-32

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

<sup>29</sup>"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

- <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation
  - <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
- <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

CAROL For Unto Us a Child is Born **Cross Road** For unto us a Child is born A Son is given A Son is given For unto us a Child is born A Son is given A Son is given The Messiah Oh to see Him To see Him high and lifted up Shining in the light of Your glory Pour out Your power and love As we sing Holy Holy Holy For unto us a Child is born A Son is given A Son is given For unto us a Child is born A Son is given A Son is given The Messiah Oh to see Him To see Him high and lifted up Shining in the light of Your glory Pour out Your power and love As we sing Holy Holy

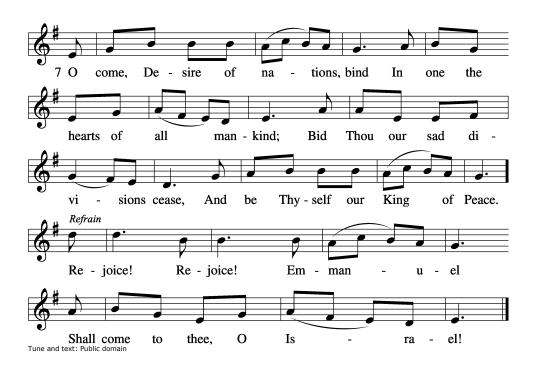
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#### PRAYER

Pastor: O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

ANTIPHON O Rex gentium (King of Nations) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 7) Keri-Organ



## SIXTH LESSON

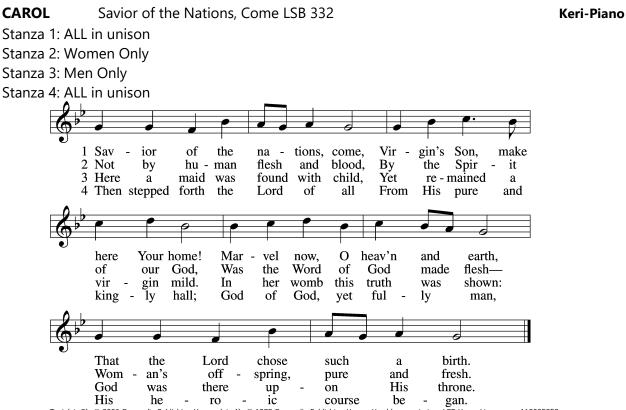
Isaiah 9: 6-7; Isaiah 2:4

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

## Ephesians 2: 11-16

<sup>11</sup>Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup>remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup>But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup>For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup>by abolishing the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup>and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

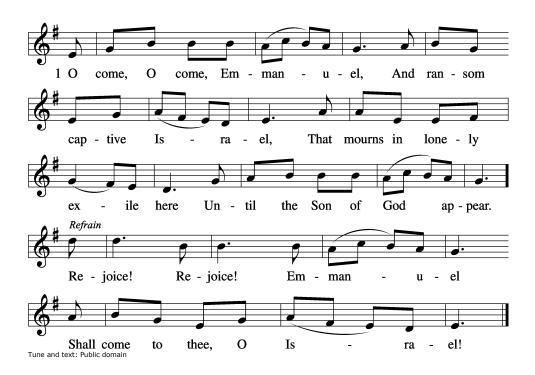


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#### PRAYER

Pastor: O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,
 People: hear us, coming Lord.

ANTIPHON O Emmanuel (God With Us) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanza 1) Keri-Organ



## SEVENTH LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-14

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

### Matthew 1:20-23

<sup>20</sup>But 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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us).

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

People:	It is right to give Him thanks and praise
Pastor:	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [Psalm 136]
People:	We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor:	Lift up your hearts. [Colossians 3:1]
People:	And also with you.
Pastor:	The Lord be with you. [2 Timothy 4:22]

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD [Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25]

## **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. [1 Cor.11:26]

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. [Revelation 22:20]

## DISTRIBUTION

## Mary Did You Know

Mary did you know, that your baby boy would one day walk on water? Mary did you know, that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This Child that you've delivered will soon deliver you.

Mary did you know, that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man? Mary did you know, that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand? Did you know, that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? When you kiss your little baby you've kissed the face of God.

Mary did you know?[Instrumental]The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again.

The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the Lamb.

Mary did you know, that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary did you know, that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know, that your baby boy was heavens perfect lamb? This sleeping child your holding, is the great "I AM"? CCLI Song No. 839225 © 1991, 1993 Word Music, LLC | Rufus Music (a div. of Word Music Group, Inc.) | (Admin. by Gaither Copyright Management) Buddy Greene | Mark Lowry For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use. All rights Reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License No. 1530621

## Mary's Little Boy Child

Long time ago in Bethlehem So the Holy Bible says Mary's boy child Jesus Christ Was born on Christmas day.

<sup>Chorus:</sup> Hark now hear the angels sing New King's born today And man will live forevermore Because of Christmas day

While shepherds watched their flocks by night They saw a bright new shining star And heard a choir from Heaven sing The music came from afar **(Chorus)** 

Now, Joseph and his wife Mary

Came to Bethlehem that night They found no place to bare her child Not a single room was in sight

By and by they find a little nook In a stable all forlorn And in a manger cold and dark Mary's little Boy Child was born (Chorus twice)

## **CLOSING PRAYER**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world. You scatter the shadows before our path, and through your Holy Spirit you lead us into all truth. May we who have been baptized in the ocean of your love, also shine as light in the world, become instruments of your peace, and icons of your presence. For you are our God for ever and ever.

#### All: Amen.

### **ADVENT BLESSING**

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in Pastor: great humility, sanctify you with the light of His blessing and set you free from all sin. All:

Amen.

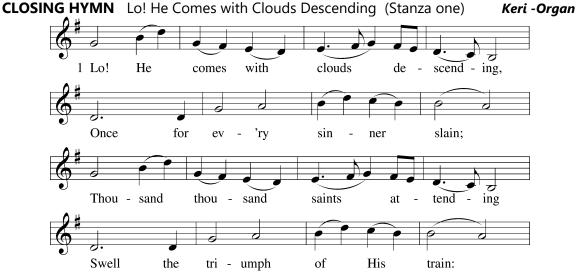
Pastor: May He whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

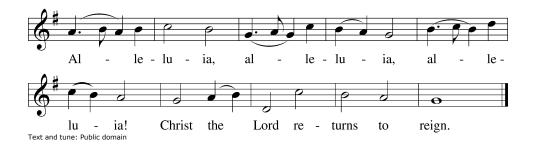
#### All: Amen.

Pastor: May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at His second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

#### All: Amen.

- Pastor: you and remain with you forever.
- All: Amen.





## DISMISSAL

Pastor:Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.All:Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY	Postlude on HELMSLEY (Instrumental)	Keri -Organ
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