



# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 8:45 & 11:15 AM

**Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School**

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

*Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.*

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 & 660  
*(Savior of the Nations Come)*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things. Blessed be God's name forever.  
**Amen.**

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of new beginnings,  
**we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

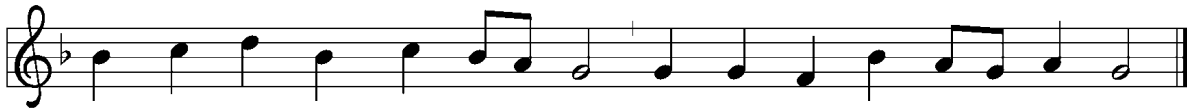
People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on **+** Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN • ELW 263

*Savior of the Nations, Come*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version  
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray.  
Praise to you, O God, who lives with us,  
sharing our flesh and bones.  
As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed,  
so we wait and dream for you.  
Bless us and let your face shine upon us,  
more radiant than these candles,  
and more dear than all else we seek.  
Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good,  
and banish all our fears.  
We pray in the name of Emmanuel,  
your promised child and our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING CAROL

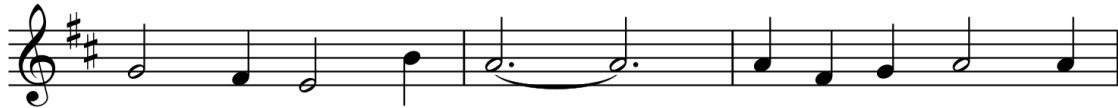
*Please sing all verses as we light the fourth candle.*



(Advent 1) Light the can-dle of love to-day, the giv-er of love is  
 (Advent 2) Light the can-dle of peace to-day, the giv-er of peace is  
 (Advent 3) Light the can-dle of joy to-day, the giv-er of joy is  
 (Advent 4) Light the can-dle of hope to-day, the giv-er of hope is



here!\_\_\_\_\_ Wel-come the love we live and die for, but  
 here!\_\_\_\_\_ Wel-come the peace we fight and cry for, but  
 here!\_\_\_\_\_ Wel-come the joy we crave and pray for, but  
 here!\_\_\_\_\_ Wel-come the hope we long and wait for, but



on - ly Christ can give.\_\_\_\_\_ Flick-er and flame and  
 on - ly Christ can give.\_\_\_\_\_ Flick-er and flame and  
 on - ly Christ can give.\_\_\_\_\_ Flick-er and flame and  
 on - ly Christ can give.\_\_\_\_\_ Flick-er and flame and



glow\_ with love, light up the world a - round you.  
 glow\_ with peace, light up the world a - round you.  
 glow\_ with joy, light up the world a - round you.  
 glow\_ with hope, light up the world a - round you.



Flick-er and flame and glow with love, light up the world a -  
 Flick-er and flame and glow with peace, light up the world a -  
 Flick-er and flame and glow with joy, light up the world a -  
 Flick-er and flame and glow with hope, light up the world a -



round \_\_\_\_\_ you.  
 round \_\_\_\_\_ you.  
 round \_\_\_\_\_ you.  
 round \_\_\_\_\_ you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

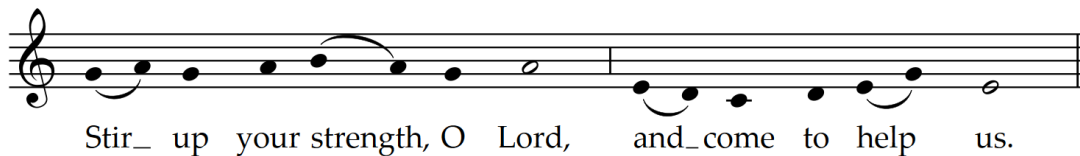
The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALMODY (11:15)

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

*The cantor introduces the antiphon. Please sing the 2nd time and after the verses*



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.  
Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.  
O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?  
You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.  
Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.  
Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.  
And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.  
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. [*Antiphon*]

**.SECOND READING**

Romans 1:1-7

*Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
 Repeat alleluia

*Alleluia.* The virgin shall conceive and | bear a son,\* and they shall name | him Emmanuel.  
*Alleluia.* (Matt. 1:23)

## GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

The holy gospel according to Saint Matthew, the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

Pastor Nuss

*Please stand as you are able.*

HYMN OF THE DAY • ELW 257

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*



- 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O 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, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,  
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
 refresh the hearts that long for you;  
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
 and ransom captive Israel,  
 that mourns in lonely exile here  
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

## APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*After each portion of the prayers:*

We come to you...



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

Text and music © 1973 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*The prayers conclude:*

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*



# MEAL

## OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at [saintlukegive.us](http://saintlukegive.us)

You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church  
9100 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## VOCAL SOLO

*O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings To Zion*

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain; o thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Text: Isaiah vii, 14: Matthew I, 23  
Music: G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

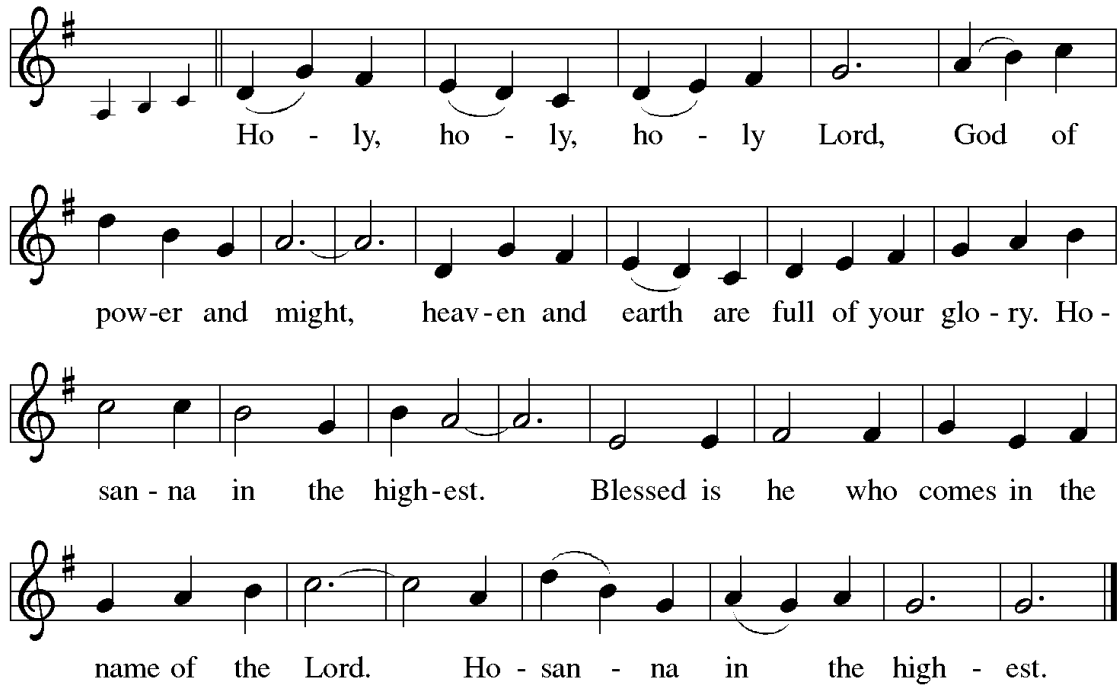
Let us pray.

**Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food, you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance. You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life, and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven. You sent your Son to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

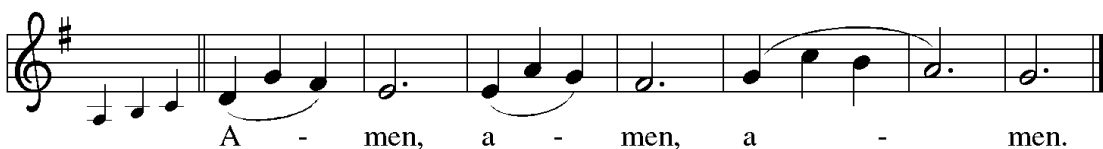
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life given for us and his rising from the grave, we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal: strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want, and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Please pray in your own preferred language.*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos,  
santificado sea tu nombre,  
venga a nosotros tu reino,  
hagase tu voluntad,  
asi en la tierra como en el cielo.

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día;  
perdona nuestras ofensas,  
como nosotros perdonamos  
a los que nos ofenden;  
y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion,  
mas libranos del mal.

Porque tuyo es el reino,  
el poder, y la gloria,  
por los siglos de los siglos. Amen

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong do not fear!

Hear is our God, who has come to save us.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

## COMMUNION

*All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are two stations at the foot of the chancel steps. Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ. (Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server) Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say:*

**Amen.**

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION HYMN • ELW 245

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -  
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in  
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all  
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -  
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,  
last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,  
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child  
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be  
we pray you hear us when we call.  
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.  
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.  
from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE—ACS 905

*We Are Waiting for Jesus*



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.



Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.  
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.



We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.  
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

# SENDING

## BLESSING

God the eternal Word,  
who dwells with us in Jesus,  
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN • ELW 260

*The King Shall Come*



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'

Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

## WORSHIP LEADERS

### PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski, *Confirmation Pastor*

### PREACHING MINISTER

The Rev. Gary Nuss, *Support Pastor*

### COMMUNION SERVER

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

### READER

8:45 Rob Ahlberg

11:15 Yenny Morales

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

8:45 Greg Sanders

11:15 The Hinjoosa Family

### MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lauren McDonald, *Alto*

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## This week at Saint Luke Lutheran Church

### SUNDAY, Dec. 18—Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:45 AM Holy Communion  
10:00 AM Sunday School  
10:00 AM Affirmation of Baptism Class  
10:00 AM SLSHY  
10:00 AM Reception  
10:15 AM Up For Discussion (Hybrid)  
11:15 AM Holy Communion  
3:00 PM San Lucas Gospel Meditation online  
4:40 PM Organ Prelude  
5:00 PM Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

### MONDAY, December 19

8:00 AM CDS Classes  
10:15 AM CDS rehearsal  
6:00 PM Yoga  
6:00 PM Posadas Devotional

### TUESDAY, December 20

8:00 AM CDS Classes  
4:30 PM Piano Lessons  
6:00 PM Posadas Devotional  
7:00 PM Reformation Bells  
7:00 PM Girl Scouts

### WEDNESDAY, December 21

7:00 AM Zoom Faith Connections  
8:00 AM Advent Devotions  
9:15 AM CDS Christmas Worship & Reception  
5:00 PM Choristers RSCM program  
5:30 PM Zoom Sara/Lydia Circle  
6:00 PM Posadas Devotional  
7:30 PM AA  
7:30 PM Schola Cantorum Rehearsal

### THURSDAY, December 22

6:00 PM Posadas Devotional  
7:30 PM Zoom Centering Prayer

### FRIDAY, December 23

6:00 PM Posadas Devotional

### SATURDAY, December 24—Christmas Eve

9:30 AM AA  
11:00 AM Al-Anon  
4:00 PM Creche Service  
5:30 PM Creche Service  
8:00 PM Candlelight Festival Service  
10:00 PM Candlelight Festival Service  
12:00 AM Midnight Misa Navidad (*online only*)

### SUNDAY, Dec. 25—Christmas Day

10:00 AM Christmas Day Festival Service

*NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed*

## Upcoming Commemorations

### Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552

*Tuesday, December 20, 2022*

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.



## Saint Luke Update

12/18/2022 Edition

**MASKS ARE ENCOURAGED INDOORS AT SAINT LUKE**

### **SPECIAL FORUM THIS MORNING: *THE NATIVITY IN ART***

Join Ruth Manchester, our Parish Nurse, and also Art Historian, in the sanctuary **this morning, 10:00 a.m.**, for a special media presentation looking at the Nativity in Art. Where is Christmas hope? Don't miss this wonderful presentation and time together.

### **POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS**

**Today, December 18,** is the last day for "Poinsettia" Dedications. Consider honoring or remembering someone with the gift of a Poinsettia Food Card. Simply go to [www.saintluke.us](http://www.saintluke.us) and see the left hand column. All dedications will be listed in the Christmas bulletin.

### **FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS: TONIGHT**

Come, **tonight**, for this very special evening. Organ **prelude will start at 4:40 p.m.** The Word of hope, beautiful music by the Schola Cantorum and Choristers, followed by a reception. The offering will benefit Community Family Life Services. Please pass the word.

### **BE BORN IN US THIS DAY**

Join Pastors Miller and Morales for the final Wednesday Advent Devotions, *Be Born In Us Today*, this **Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m.** [www.saintlukeonline.us](http://www.saintlukeonline.us) We are familiar with the physical birth of the baby in the manger but how is Jesus born in us each day? The theme comes from the stanza of the beautiful hymn, O Little Town of Bethlehem; *O Holy child of Bethlehem, descend on us we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.*

### **IN PERSON CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Children's** Creche (Christmas Story) **Service**  
**8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** Candlelight Services of Lessons, Carol and Holy Communion  
**12:00 Midnight** Misa Navidad (Worship is in Spanish) - **Online Only**

### **IN PERSON CHRISTMAS DAY**

**10:00 a.m.** Festival Worship

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### **THE NAME OF JESUS/FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**JANUARY 1**

**10:00 a.m.** (one service only)

### **THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

**JANUARY 8**

Resume 8:45 and 11:15 a.m. schedule

# Today's Music

## HYMN NOTES

### **Savior of the Nations, come**

*St. Ambrose, 340-397*

The bishop of Milan is known as the father of Latin hymnody. His hymn rings the keynote for Advent, with the seven stanzas providing opportunity to proclaim God's purpose in sending the Messiah and our response to this Good News. Martin Luther's German translation, "Nun komm, der heiden Heiland," was put into English by William M. Reynolds, son of a captain in the Revolutionary War.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

### **O come, O come Emmanuel**

*Latin, 12th Century*

From the seven antiphons sung in the medieval Roman Church at Vespers before and after the *Magnificat* (Mary's Song), just prior to Christmas, sometime in the 13th century five were selected for a hymn and the "Rejoice, rejoice" refrain added. Biblical references to the Great "O's" are Emmanuel (Isaiah 7:14), Root of Jesse (Isaiah 11:10), Dayspring (Malachi 4:2), Key of David (Isaiah 22:22), and O Lord (Adonai) (Exodus 3:15). The purpose of Advent is to prepare for Christmas, as Lent prepares for Easter.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

### **Creator of the stars of night**

*Anon. Latin, 9th century*

The Latin original, found in a ninth century manuscript in Bern, Switzerland, was appointed to be sung on certain days during Advent. In stanza two there is more than a hint of the hymn "At the name of Jesus." In this hymn the inclusion of a final doxology (a Trinitarian formula of praise) appears for the first time in a Latin hymn.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

### **The King shall come**

*Anon. Greek Hymn*

No Greek source for this hymn has ever been found, and it is possible that it was an original hymn by Brownlie, a Scotsman whose translations were admired by John Julian, the author of *Dictionary of Hymnology*. However, the thoughts of the hymn certainly reflect the early Greek emphasis on light and salvation. The last stanza ends with a translation of the famous second-coming phrase, "Maranatha" - "Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come!" - Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

## MUSIC NOTES

### **Prelude: Nun Komm Der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 & 660 - J.S. Bach (1685-1750)**

The Leipziger Choräle include two 'trilogies': one based on Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr (BWV 662-664), and one on the Advent hymn Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, of which BWV 659 forms the first section. Whereas Allein Gott concerns the Trinity, here it is all about Jesus, who has three roles in the catechism: sanctifier, redeemer and protector. This chorale arrangement is full of mystical expectation, which is underlined by the 'quiet' recording of this performance. Although Bach borrowed the form from Buxtehude, in style BWV 659 would not be amiss as the middle movement of a concerto in Italian style. All the elements are present: a walking bass, a duet of middle voices (sometimes in canon and sometimes referring to the chorale melody) and a leading upper voice. In the arrangement of the melody in the upper voice, Bach goes much further than his predecessors. Each phrase grows out of the chorale into the most wonderful, spun-out coloratura. At the end of the third line of the verse, the world's amazement is reinforced by a harmonic pause and an abrupt deceleration of the bass – everyone holding their breath – a trick often used by Bach when writing about the birth of Jesus.

Many a preacher remarks at Christmas time how the Passion – the Christian promise of redemption – could never have come about without the birth of Jesus. The two poles are closely connected, and Luther refers to this in Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland with the contrast between light and dark. In his turn, Bach also leaves us in no doubt about it in BWV 660. The whole sombre work is pervaded with symbols of the cross.

In any case, this compact work leaves room for interpretation. The two well-matched bass parts are probably arrangements of viola da gamba and cello parts (the big chords at the end of each phrase are typical of gamba music), but at the same time they could symbolise God as the foundation, or even a duet between God and Jesus – equal yet different. In the curious ending, some people hear how God leaves his son, while others interpret the difficult harmonies as representing Jesus' descent into hell, foretold in the Advent chorale, and the fulfilling of God's commandment.—<https://www.bachvereniging.nl/en>

### **During the offering: O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings To Zion—G.F. Handel (1685-1759)**

The aria "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" comes from the first part of *Messiah* and precedes one of Handel's famous choruses. It is in a lilting 6/8 meter and features virtuosic passages for the vocalist.

**Postlude: Toccata on ‘Veni Emmanuel’**

**Andrew Carter (b. 1939)**

Andrew Carter was invited by Oxford University Press to write a Christmas piece for organ based on a seasonal theme. The composer writes about the Organ Toccata on Veni Emmanuel:

As everyone had used the best tunes, I felt my favourite Advent hymn might work well. I had just returned from France having heard Jean Guillou playing the mighty organ at Saint Eustache in Paris and had the notion of a Grand French Toccata in my mind. So I chose the tune ‘O come, O come, Emmanuel’ which I had also set as an Advent anthem. I thought I would use the same key and adopt the Toccata idiom and allow the tune to weigh in played by the pedals. After a short development section in an imitative style, the theme returns, this time with the notes disposed more than two octaves with the glittering manual figurations above.

The work was first performed by John Scott at York Minster on 29 July 1995.—William McVicker