

**PRELUDE****WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS****CALL TO WORSHIP****LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come, **let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.**

**ADVENT CANDLE SONG**      *We Are Waiting for Jesus***ACS 905**

1 We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings love.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings love.  
Sun of justice, shine upon us; we are trusting in your promise.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings love.

2 We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings love.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings love.  
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us; stir our hearts, and gently guide us.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings love.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✙ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG**      *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!***ELW 246**

1 Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness, all you children of the day!"

3 See the Lamb, so long expected, come with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all, to be forgiv'n;

4 So, when next he comes in glory and the world is wrapped in fear,  
he will shield us with his mercy and with words of love draw near.

**GREETING****ELW p. 213**

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.**

**KYRIE****ELW p. 213**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.** Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.** Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;**

**glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you,  
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;**

**glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;**

**glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;**

**glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth, and peace to God's people on earth.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**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.**

#### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

#### **CHILDREN'S READING**

##### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16**

<sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <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> Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> 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.

##### **SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> 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.

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

##### **GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25**

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup> 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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY      *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW 257

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. 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

## CREED

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

In the anticipation of these days, prepare our hearts for your arrival. Stir our spirits through the gifts of artists, musicians, poets, and preachers, as together we proclaim your advent among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** The earth breaks forth in singing as it heralds the Messiah's coming. Fill our hearts with wonder as we join heaven and nature in announcing this holy birth. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You send your saving grace and peace to the nations. Lead us in work for justice and care for the common good. May we meet the Christ-child we seek in the faces of our neighbors. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

When tears of grief, exhaustion, or loneliness come, or physical or emotional hurt overwhelms us, come to our aid. Uphold all who are anxious, who know the challenges of depression, or who are ill (*especially*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Surround expectant parents and those suffering from infant loss with communities of support. Bless young children and new parents. Guide us in ways that provide safety for all children and those who care for them. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all who have treasured the gospel and lived in faithful service. Strengthen our earthly journeys until, at the last, your face shines upon us and we are held in your love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

**PEACE**      The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

**OFFERING**      *Wait for the Lord*      (sing twice)

ELW 262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

ELW p. 220

**O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## SPECIAL MUSIC

## BLESSING

**DISMISSAL**      Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SENDING SONG*****Joy to the World*****ELW 267**

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

**POSTLUDE**

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