

Advent 4: December 17, 2023: Cast Down or Lifted Up?

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 holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.

Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

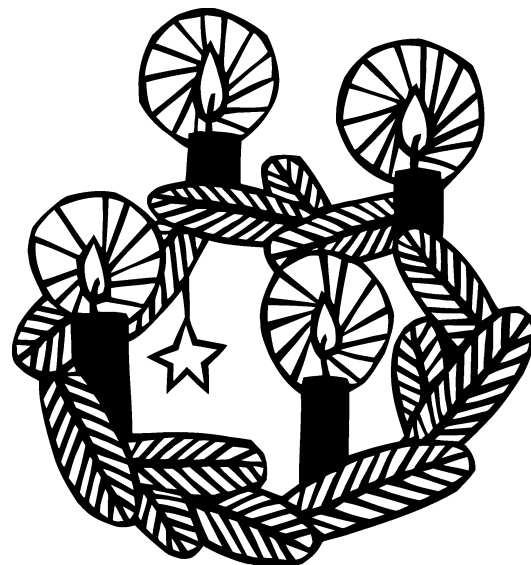
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed,

and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against

oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**



Gathering Song *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (ELW 244)



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tiency their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
- 4 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.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Kyrie (ELW p. 203)

The words "kyrie eleison" are an ancient prayer meaning "Lord have mercy".

Leader



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son

All



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son



Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri ste e - le - i - son



Ky - re - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Canticle of Praise (ELW p. 204)



Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

We sing glo - ry to God in the high - est.

We__ wor - ship you, we__ give__ you thanks.

We__ praise you for__ your glo - ry Lord.

Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”

⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

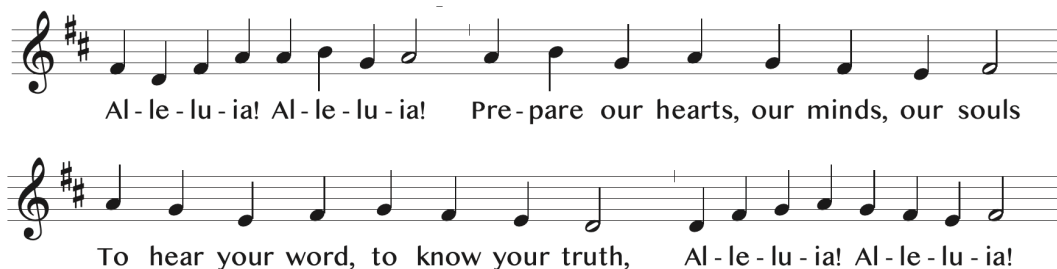
Lighting Of The Advent Wreath

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.**

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Gospel Acclamation (Remain seated)



Gospel: Luke 1: 26-55

The Gospel for today is sung.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *No Wind at the Window* (ACS 906)



No wind at the win - dow, no knock on the door; no
 "O Ma - ry, O Ma - ry, don't hide from my face. Be
 This child must be born that the king - dom might come: sal -
 No pay - ment was prom - ised, no prom - is - es made; no

5
 light from the lamp - stand, no foot on the floor; no
 glad that you're fa - vored and filled with God's grace. The
 va - tion for man - y, de - struc - tion for some, both
 wed - ding was dat - ed, no blue - print dis - played. Yet

9
 dream born of tired - ness, no ghost rasied by fear; just an
 time for re - deem - ing the world has be - gun, and
 end and be - gin - ning, both mes - sage and sign; both
 Mar - y, con - sent - ing to what none could guess, re -

13
 an - gel and a wom - an and a voice in her ear.
 you are re - quest - ed to moth - er God's Son."
 vic - tor and vic - tim, both yours and di - This
 plied with con - vic - tion, "Tell God I say yes."

Nicene Creed

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin
 Mary and became truly human.**

**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, who
 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends with “Merciful God,” and the congregational response is “receive our prayer.”

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Anthem:

Meal

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our 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. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving Dialogue

Leader **Congregation**

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Leader **Congregation**

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Leader **Congregation**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, to the Lord our God.

All

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry Lord.

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.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

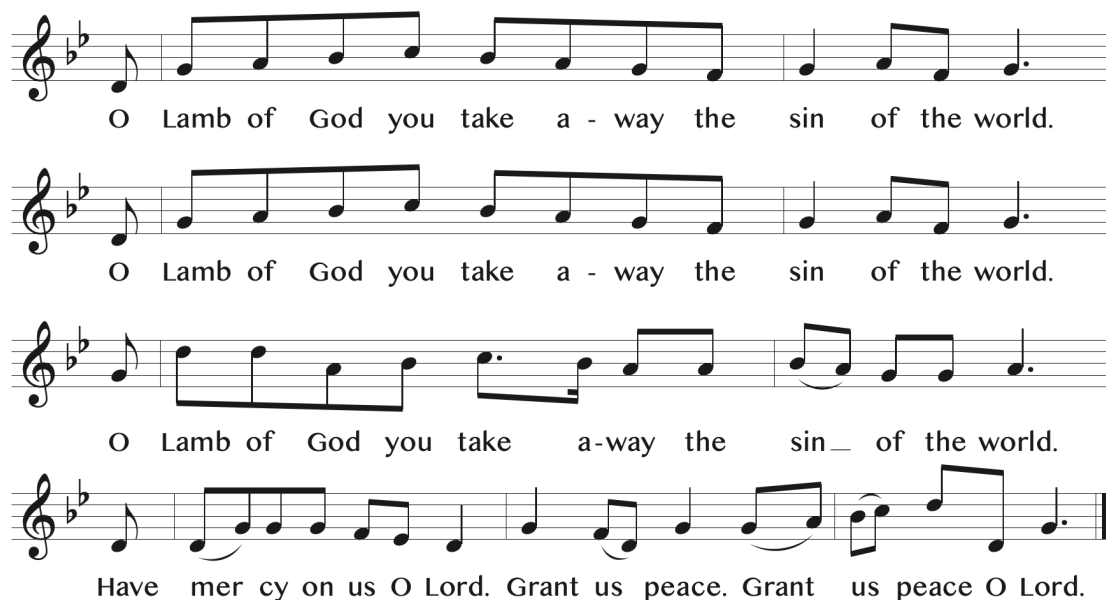
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Communion Song



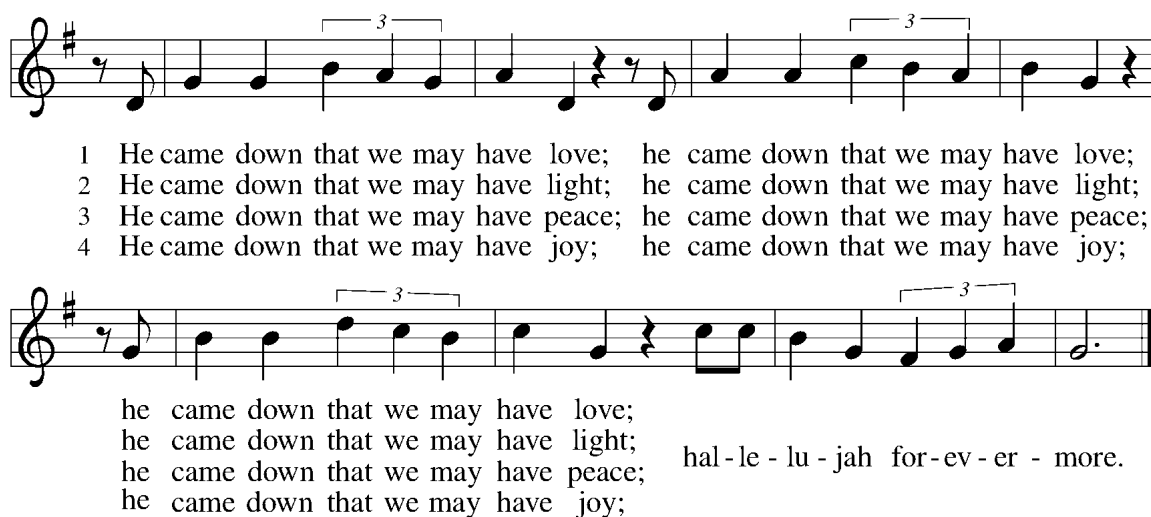
O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a-way the sin_ of the world.

Have mer cy on us O Lord. Grant us peace. Grant us peace O Lord.

Communion Hymn: *He Came Down* (ELW 253)



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

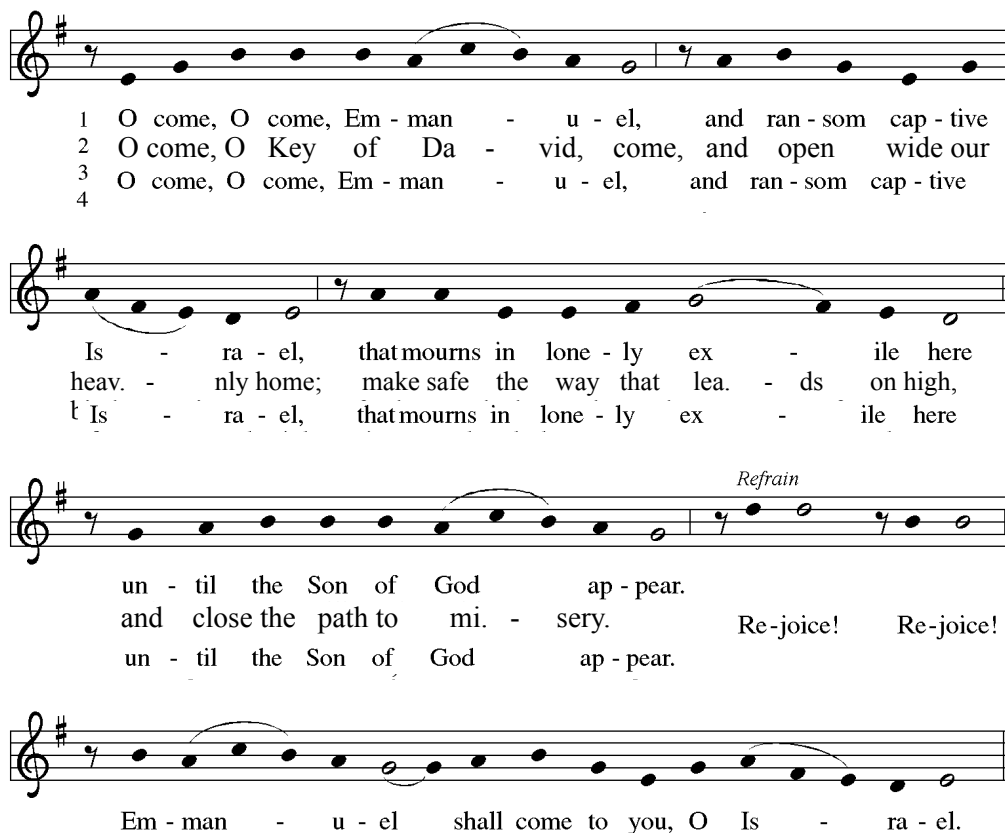
Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

Blessing

The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (ELW 257)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and open wide our
3 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
4

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
heav - nly home; make safe the way that lea - ds on high,
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

Refrain
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
and close the path to mi - sery. Re-joice! Re-joice!
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

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

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**