

INTRODUCTION

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* OPENING HYMN

"Lift Up Your Heads"



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold, the
 2 Oh, blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
 3 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 4 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to
 5 So come, my Sov - 'reign; en - ter in! Let new and



King of glo - ry waits! The King of kings is
 rul - er is con - fessed! Oh, hap - py hearts and
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee: here, Lord, a - bide! Let me thy in - ner
 no - bler life be - gin; thy Ho - ly Spir - it



draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel: thy grace and love in me re - veal.
 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829–1878
 Music: TRURO. T. Williams, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

*** GREETING**

P Christ has called us to this place,
gathered one and all by his Holy Spirit

C **We are followers of Christ
who seek to hear the Word,
live the Word,
and share the Word.**

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

C **And also with you.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Doug Thompson

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Angel

P O faithful and loving God,
we praise you for your tender compassion
and give thanks for your steadfast love for us and all creation.
Bless us who see the light of this wreath,
that we may welcome your messengers who
announce your advent among us.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

ELW #240



4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.



He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

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*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

5:30

9:30 Edie and Joan

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

¹Now when David 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.

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your name.
⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you,**
from generation to generation.
⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm;
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones**
and lifting up the lowly.
⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,**
to remember the promise of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

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 VERSE

Refrain



Re-joice! Re - joice!



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

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

C **Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!**

* GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”

LBW #34

1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, Who to your tribes on
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
 4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by your

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 In cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.

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

5 Oh, 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*

*Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.
 Tune: French processional, 15th cent.*

VENI, EMMANUEL
 88 88 88

*** THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the
 power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again 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

THE OFFERING



*** THE OFFERTORY**

“In the Bleak Midwinter” (v. 3 only)

ELW #294

3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?

If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;

yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
 Music: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

CRANHAM
 Irregular

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

A brief silence.

P Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

P Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C Amen.

* THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

*** BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you,
 the Lord make His face shine upon you
 and be gracious to you;
 the Lord look upon you with favor
 and give you peace.

C Amen

*** SENDING HYMN**

"Joy to the World"

ELW #267

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

*** DISMISSAL**

P Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE