

Early Service Order of Worship

Divine Service Setting Two

As We Gather Jesus Christ came to that little town of Bethlehem as a frail infant to accomplish the will of His Father in heaven—to become the divine sacrificial offering for sinners. He is the innocent to be slain. We are the guilty to be acquitted by His mercy. There can be no greater confession for the whole Church than to sing with Mary, “My soul magnifies the Lord.”

Prelude

Rorate Caeli

Melissa Dunphy
(b. 1980)

Confession and Absolution

Please stand as you are able

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20 LSB 167

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Advent Candle-Lighting

A As we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath, we remember the One who comes—Jesus, the light of the world.

(The candles are lit)

A He came as a baby in a manger.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A He came to be our Savior.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A He comes to us each day in the promise of His presence.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

A He will come again.

C Come, Lord Jesus.

Opening Hymn

My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9 LSB 167

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Please kneel as you are able

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23] LSB 167

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able

Service of the Word

Introit

1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b–7, antiphon: Luke 1:46b–47

P My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

C **My mouth derides my enemies because I rejoice in your salvation.**

P There is none holy like the LORD; there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

C The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn.

P The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

C The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Kyrie

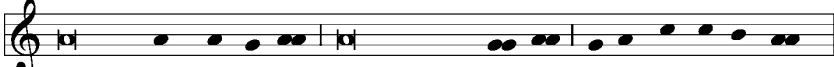
Mark 10:47 LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



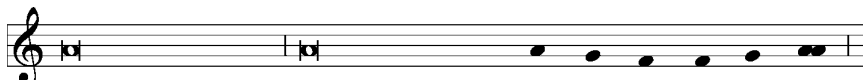
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



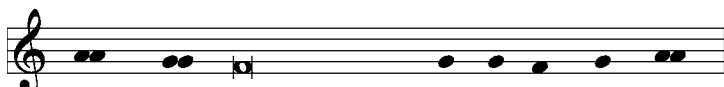
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

2 Timothy 4:22 LSB 172

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated

Old Testament

Micah 5:2–5a

A The Old Testament Lesson for the Fourth Sunday in Advent is from Micah, chapter five.

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth;

then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7



L ¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph | like a flock!*
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.

C ²Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Ma- | nasseh,*
stir up your might
and come to | save us!

³Restore us, | O God;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

⁴O LORD | God of hosts,*
how long will you be angry with your | people's prayers?

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears*
and given them tears to drink in full | measure.

⁶You make us an object of contention for our | neighbors,*
and our enemies laugh a- | mong themselves.

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;*
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Epistle

Hebrews 10:5–10

A The Epistle is from Hebrews, chapter ten.

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68 LSB 173



C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–56

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



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent empty away.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise to You, O Christ.

Please be seated

Children's Message

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of the Day

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357

Stanzas 1-2 All

Stanza 3 Men; all join on the Refrain

Stanza 4 Women; all join on the Refrain

Stanzas 5-7 All

Please be seated

Sermon

Silence for reflection

Please stand as you are able

Apostles' Creed

LSB 175

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

Prayer of the Church

1 Timothy 2:1-4 LSB 175

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy.

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

Offering

During this time, please fill out and pass the blue Friendship Register. Please indicate whether you are a member or visitor. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join the family of believers here at Christ the Redeemer.

Voluntary

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Flor Peeters
(1903-1986)

Please stand as you are able

Offertory Hymn

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

LSB 350

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 LSB 162

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **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.**

Collect

P Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26 LSB 183

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LSB 356

Stanza 1 Solo

Stanzas 2-4 All

Announcements

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Toccata on O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

John Behnke

(b. 1953)

Acknowledgments

Preacher & Liturgist: Rev. Scott Burmeister

Director of Christian Education: Suzanne Watt; Director of Music: Jacob

Drengler; Assistant Director of Music: Craig Amendt

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Music Notes for December 22, 2024 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Prelude for the Fourth Sunday in Advent is *Rorate Caeli*, an evocative chant-based work by Australian composer Melissa Dunphy (b. 1980). The chant *Rorate Caeli* (“Drop down, ye heavens”) is the traditional Gregorian Introit for the Fourth Sunday in Advent. The words of the chant are drawn from Isaiah 45:8: “Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down the Just One.” Dr. Dunphy’s meditative setting employs graceful lyricism and a gentle registration to point to some of the central themes of the Advent season: expectation, reflection, and hope.

Flor Peeters’ (1903-1986) mysterious prelude on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (LSB 357) highlights the beautiful colors of the flute stops of the organ. Peeters, a virtuosic performer and prolific composer, was also an influential teacher and counted the noted American organists Paul Manz (1919-2009) and Kathleen Thomerson (b. 1934) among his many students.

Whereas the preceding piece captures the mystical character of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” John Behnke’s (b. 1953) fiery and virtuosic *Toccata* depicts the resounding praise of the refrain: “Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!”

The Voluntary during the 10:45 service is a choral setting of the Advent hymn “Creator of the Stars of Night” (LSB 351) by the English organist John Scott (1956-2015). Mr. Scott was a highly regarded organist and choirmaster who served as a church musician in a number of notable houses of worship, including Saint Paul’s Cathedral in London and Saint Thomas Church in New York City.