

THE BENEDICAMUS & THE BENEDICTION

p. 40

M: Bless we the Lord.



C: Thanks be to God.

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



C: A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night | 71

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT SUPPERS – Thanks to those who provided the supper this evening. The last Advent Supper on December 20 needs a group of volunteers. If you are able to contribute to this meal, please sign up to plan, serve, and do clean-up for that week.

CHOIR MEMBERS (& NEW VOICES) – Choir practice is scheduled after each of the Advent Services for 45-60 minutes. We are preparing for Advent, Christmas and New Year’s services. This is a great time to join.

CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS BRUNCH – The Kitchen Committee is having a Christmas Brunch after the Sunday worship service on 12-17. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board if you would like to donate a dish and also to mark that you will attend and how many people.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

- Midweek Advent Services—Wednesday at 6:30 pm on Dec. 20. Supper at 5:00 pm
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—Sunday, Dec. 24, at 5:30 pm
- Christmas Day Festival Service—Monday, Dec. 25, at 9:00 a.m.
- New Year’s Eve Service - Sunday, Dec. 31, at 5:30 pm



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DECEMBER 13, 2023 | Second Midweek Advent Service

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship tonight! In our service we gather before our almighty and saving God to hear His holy and powerful Word, offering our prayers and praises as He strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with Him.

SERVICE NOTES FOR TONIGHT

The pregnant Elizabeth visits her relative, the pregnant Mary. Even in the womb, Elizabeth’s unborn child, John, leaps for joy at the presence of the unborn Jesus. This reading is summed up by the words of Elizabeth, “Blessed is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises.” And so, too, are we blessed.

For your convenience the order of service is printed on the following pages. The Order of Vespers is found on p. 41ff in the front of the red hymnal.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Minister	Rev. Peter Zaferos
Organist	Deb Meyer
Elder on Duty	Dan Lindquist
Altar Guild	Lila Barlament & Jan Johnson

VESPERS

Please stand.

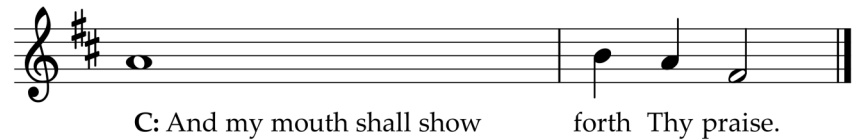
HYMN

Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel | 62

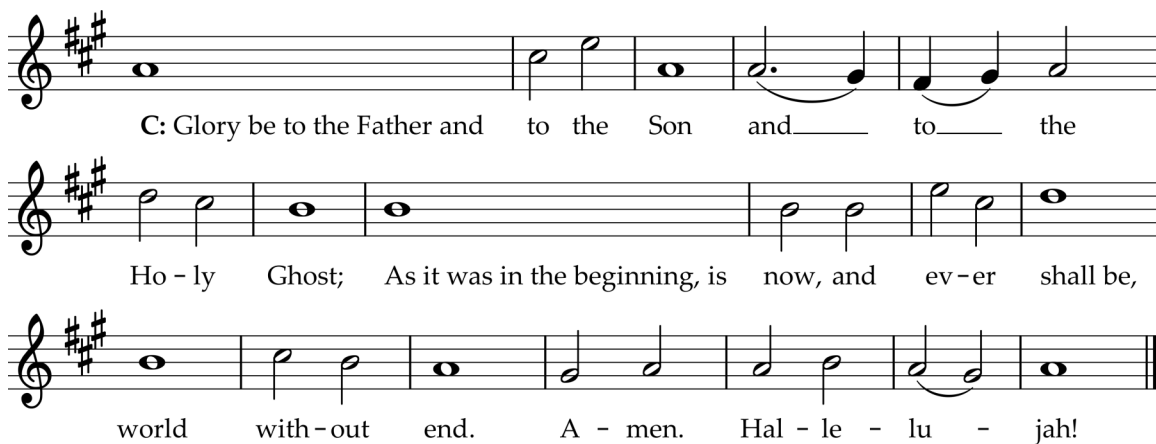
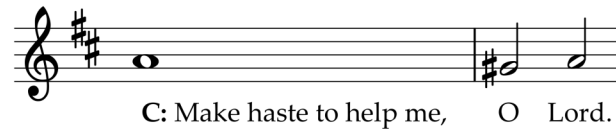
VERSICLES

p. 32

M: O Lord, open Thou my lips.



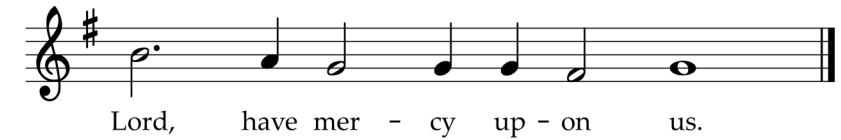
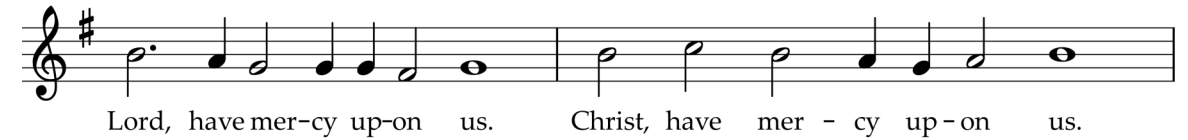
M: Make haste, O God, to deliver me.



Please stand.

THE KYRIE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

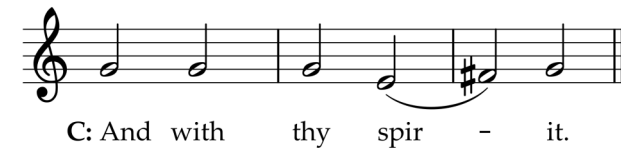
p. 39



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.

THE SALUTATION & THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.



M: Let us pray:

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works proceed, give 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 by You from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness.



VERSICLE

M: Let my prayer rise before You as incense:

C: And the lifting up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de-part in peace accord - ing to
Thy Word, For mine eyes have seen Thy Sal - va - tion,
which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peo - ple; A
Light to light - en the Gen-tiles, and the Glory of Thy peo - ple Isra - el.
Glo - ry be to the Father and to the Son and to
the Ho - ly Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ev-er
shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

You may be seated.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 85

M: LORD, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob. You have forgiven the iniquity of Your people;
C: **You have covered all their sin. You have taken away all Your wrath. You have turned from the fierceness of Your anger.**
M: Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease.
C: **Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong Your anger to all generations?**
M: Will you not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?
C: **Show us your mercy, LORD, and grant us Your salvation.**
M: I will hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to his people and to His saints;
C: **But let them not turn back to folly. Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.**
M: Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed.
C: **Truth will spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**
M: Yes, the LORD will give *what is* good, and our land will yield its harvest.
C: Righteousness will go before him, and shall make His footsteps *our* pathway.

GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 1:39-45

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she **exclaimed**: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

M: But Thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us.



C: Thanks be to Thee, O Lord!

Please be seated.

CHOIR

God’s Own Son Most Holy

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates | **73**

Please stand for the singing of the last verse.

SERMON - LUKE 1:39-45

Trust in the Promise

OFFERING

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for forgiving me all my sins by sending Jesus on that first Christmas. But I also thank you for making known to me my need of forgiveness. Through your Holy Spirit, prepare my heart for the Christ-child by turning me away from sin in repentance towards the peace and joy of your forgiveness and love. Amen.