

PRESERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Reader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

R Eternal Father, Creator and Preserver,

C Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

R Obedient Son, Savior of the World,

C Come, deliver us from sin and death!

R All powerful Spirit, abide in our hearts.

C Come, gather the elect from all nations!

PRAYER

R Gracious Lord, we have gathered to prepare our hearts for Your coming. We are acting on Your promise and anticipate Your presence among us.

C Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds.

R Move among us so that we see the possibilities of using our abilities and resources to help others. Enable us to know and do Your will and thus accomplish things of eternal consequence.

C Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make us ready to see you coming to us today through your word, and your coming on the great day of the Lord. Amen.

HYMN 331 THE ADVENT OF OUR KING

sts. 1–3, 6

1 The advent of our King

**Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.**

2 The everlasting Son

Incarnate deigns to be,

**Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.**

**3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.**

**6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.**

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THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING

2 Peter 3:8-14

But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is

not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

SONG *"Jesus, Draw Me Close"*

Jesus, draw me close; Closer Lord, to You.

Let the world around me fade away.

Jesus, draw me close; Closer Lord, to You.

For I desire to worship and obey. Repeat.

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THE GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:1-8

P The holy Gospel according to Saint Mark, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CONFESSION

P This is the word of our Lord: "Your people say, 'The way of the Lord is not just, when it is their own way that is not just. When the righteous turns from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it. And when the wicked turns from his wickedness and does what is just and right, he shall live by this. Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, I will judge each of you according to his ways." *Ezekiel 33:17-20 ESV.*

Let us confess our sins, turning away from the hardness of our hearts to the forgiveness and restoration of the Lord.

C Gracious Lord, we confess our sins and admit the guilt of our trespasses against Your law. We have not lived as You command. Only by Your grace can we be saved. By the power of Your Holy Spirit, create in us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us. Cast us not away from Your presence, but restore to us the joy of Your salvation and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen.

ABSOLUTION

P The Scripture promises, "Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy." *Proverbs 28:13.* As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sits at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Sit)

CHILDREN'S TALK

HYMN OF THE DAY "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" LSB 357

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear. Refrain**

**ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. Refrain**

**3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain**

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THE SERMON "Welcome Home"

OFFERING

(Stand)

THE PRAYERS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

P Lord, in Your mercy

C Hear our prayer.

After the special petitions of the day are prayed:

P The Lord has said, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.

Psalm 50:15

C Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. In the day of my trouble I will call to You, for You will answer me.

P Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; no deeds can compare with Yours. All the nations You have made will come

and worship before You, O Lord; they will bring glory to Your name. For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God.

C Teach me Your way, O Lord, and I will walk in Your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify Your name forever." *Amen. Psalm 86:6–12*

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Sharing of the Peace before the Lord's Supper is distributed at the altar.

(Sit)

LSB HYMN 629

SONG *"God Will Make a Way"*

God will make a way where there seems to be no way,
He works in ways we cannot see,
He will make a way for me.

He will be my guide, hold me closely to His side,
With love and strength for each new day,
He will make a way, He will make a way. *Repeat.*

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(Stand)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His favor upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen!

THE FINAL SONG OF PRAISE

"Jesus, Name Above All Names"

Jesus, Name above all Names

Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord

Emmanuel, God is with us

Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

Jesus, Loving Shepherd

Vine of the Branches, Son of God

Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor

Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

CCLI Song # 21291 Naida Hearn

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Dismissal