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Organist: Jean Loberger

THE PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB#357

***Congregation please speak V 1-2-3, sing V 4-5-6-7*

- 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*
- 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,

And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Refrain

5 O come, Thou 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*

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on
high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Refrain

THE INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

*RESPONSIVE PSALM: *Psalm 85*

- P** ¹LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
C ²You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.
P ³You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
C ⁴Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!
P ⁵Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
C ⁶Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?
P ⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.
C ⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

- P** ⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.
- C** ¹⁰**Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- P** ¹¹Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- C** ¹²**Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.**
- ¹³**Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.**

*CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- 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.**
- 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 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.**

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.
- 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; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 40:1-11*

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak 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. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A 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. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get 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!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him;

behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He 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.

Emmanuel

BOB#44

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

His name is called Emmanuel;

God with us, revealed in us;

His name is called Emmanuel. (Repeat x1)

EPISTLE READING: 2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸But 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. ⁹The 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. ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting 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! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB#344

**1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!**

***Congregation please rise in singing*

**5 All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
Whose advent sets Thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore.**

***HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8**

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And 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. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And 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. ⁸I 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.

***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 will 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 in 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.

SERMON HYMN

Come To My Heart, Lord Jesus

OSB#35

1 **Thou didst leave Thy throne
and Thy kingly crown,
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem’s home was there found no
room
For Thy holy nativity.**

*O come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
There is room in my heart for Thee.*

2 **Heaven’s arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal degree;
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,
And in great humility. Refrain**

3 **The foxes found rest, and the birds their nest
In the shade of the forest tree;
But Thy couch was the sod, O Thou Son of
God,
In the deserts of Galilee. Refrain.**

4 **Thou camest, O Lord, with the living
Word,
That should set Thy people free;
But with mocking scorn and with crown of
thorn,
They bore Thee to Calvary. Refrain.**

SERMON

**5 When the heavens shall ring, and the angels sing,
At Thy coming to victory,
Let Thy voice call me home,
Saying Yet there is room,
There is room at My side for thee.
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus,
When Thou comest and callest for me.**

OFFERING

***PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

***LORDS PRAYER** [Tune: Midnight Clear]

**Our Father, Lord in heav'n's high throne,
Most holy be Your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done
One earth in heav'n the same.
Give us this day the food we need;
Forgiven may we be;
Into temptation do no lead;
From evil set us free
Yours is the kingdom; unto You
In grateful love we bow;
And Yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view
Your mighty presence now
The glory Yours, Your praise be sung
Through-out the world again
In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue
For-ever-more, Amen!**

***HOLY COMMUNION** [Tune: I Heard the Bells]

C The night Lord Jesus was betrayed
He took the bread, and when He'd prayed,
He broke and gave them of the bread
And unto His disciples said:

P "Take and eat; this is My body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

C Then, when the sacred meal was o'er,
Our blessed Savior spoke once more:
He offered thanks, and lifted up,
To give to all, the blessed cup:

P "Drink of it all of you; this cup is the New Testament of My blood which is shed for you for the remission of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen

COMMUNION HYMN:

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB#349

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come
 prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es
 throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

***BENEDICTION**

- 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 His favor and give you His peace.
- C** Amen.

CLOSING SONG:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

LSB#361

- 3 **How silently, how silently
 The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of His heav'n.
 No ear may hear His coming;
 But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him, still
 The dear Christ enters in.**
- 4 **O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin, and enter in,
 Be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Immanuel!**

