

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" 357

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

Refrain: 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*

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*

RESPONSES FOR ADVENT

P: In the name of our God, who was, and is, and ever shall be:

C: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

P: In Advent, we celebrate the faithfulness of God. He has been true to his Word in all things. He promised a Savior, and in a manger, on a cross, and in an empty tomb, he has kept his word. He promised to pierce our darkness with his light, and he fulfilled that promise by sending his Son, Jesus Christ, as the Light of the world.

C: Come, Lord Jesus. Come and be the light in our lives.

P: Let your light shine in us,

C: And scatter the darkness of our sinfulness.

P: Let your light shine in us,

C: That others may see you within us.

P: Let your light shine in us,

C: And fill us with joy and peace.

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

C: The light no darkness can overcome.

(The First Advent Candle Is Lit)

ORDER OF VESPERS Sung

P: O Lord open my lips.

C: and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C: make haste to help me, O Lord.

C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spir - it.

as it was in the begin - ning, is now, will be forever. A - men.

Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

THE PSALM Psalm 80:1-9, 14-15, 19

P: Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock; you who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.

C: Awaken your might; come and save us.

P: Restore us, O God;

C: Make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

P: O Lord God Almighty, how long will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people? You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful. You have made us a source of contention to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.

C: Restore us, O God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

P: You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land.

C: Return to us, O God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see!

P: Watch over this vine, the root your right hand has planted, the son you have raised up for yourself.

C: Restore us, O Lord God Almighty; make your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.

(A Brief Silence for Meditation)

P: Lord God, you so tend the vine you planted that now it extends its branches even to the farthest shore. Keep us in your Son as branches on the vine, that, rooted firmly in your love, we may testify before the whole world to your great power working everywhere; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

OFFICE HYMN "Hark the Glad Sound" 349

1) Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

2) He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

3) He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To enrich the humble poor.

4) Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:1-3; John 1:1-14

P: *(After each lesson)* This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY Sung

P: Behold, the days are coming, | says the Lord,*
when I will raise up for David a | righteous Branch.

**C: This is the name by which He | will be called*
The Lord | is Our Righ - teous - ness**

P: In His days Judah | will be saved,* and Israel will dwell
se - cure - - ly

**C: This is the name by which He | will be called*
The Lord | is Our Righ - teous - ness**

P: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy
| Spir - it.

**C: This is the name by which He | will be called*
The Lord | is Our Righ - teous - ness**

SERMON

THE CANTICLE Hymn 934

P: *(Sung)* Let my prayer rise before You as incense,

C: And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

- 1) **My soul now magnifies the Lord;
My spirit leaps for joy in Him.
He keeps me in His kind regard,
And I am blest for time to come.**
- 2) **For He alone who shows such might
Has done amazing things to me.
His mercy flows; His name like light
Remains in time perpetually.**
- 3) **His arm is strong; His strength is great.
He scatters those of proud intent
And casts them down from high estate,
Then gives the low His nourishment.**
- 4) **He feeds the hungry as His own;
The wealthy leave with empty hands.
He gives His help to Israel;
His gracious promise always stands.**

Morning Service

P: As Advent prepares us for the coming of the Son of God into human flesh, so now let us prepare to receive the flesh and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in, with, and under the forms of bread of wine which we receive in the Supper our Lord gave us.

C: Come, Lord Jesus!

P: As John the Baptist declared, we prepare the way of Lord through repentance of our sins, because Jesus took on human flesh to take the penalty for our sins, and to rise again to give our mortal bodies new life through him. Are you truly repentant of your sins and want your Lord Jesus to take them away.

C: I do!

P: Do you believe that your Lord Jesus came to earth in human flesh, still comes to us in this Supper with his true body and blood, and will come again in glory to redeem us body and soul.

C: I do!

P: Then upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: *(Consecration)* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

The Distribution

P: Let us pray . . . now and forever,

C: Amen.

THE PRAYERS

P: We lift up our hearts to you, O Lord; lead us to know your ways and teach us your paths; shine in our darkness.

C: Come, Lord Jesus. Come.

P: Illumine us with your truth, and grant us your peace.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, into our hearts.

P: Help us to serve you; equip us to send forth your light into all the world.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, let your gift of salvation extend to all the earth.

P: Grant the peace which only you can give to all who trust in your name; where there is war, hatred, strife, contention, bring your peace.

C: Come, Lord Jesus, to shine as prince of peace in our hearts, and in our world.

P: Bring your gifts of peace and healing to all who are ill, to all who mourn, to all who know the suffering of this world, that they may be comforted by your abiding presence. *(Include special petitions here)*

C: Come, Lord Jesus, shine with your love and light into the hurts of this world.

P: Help us to be prepared for your return, joyfully expecting that day when you will come again in glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus. Come quickly and establish your Kingdom forever as we pray in the prayer you taught us. Our Father, who art . . .

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION Sung

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The grace of Lord be with you all.

C: A - - men.

HYMN "Once He Came in Blessing" 333

- 1) **Once He came in blessing,
All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us;
Hope and freedom gave us.**
- 3) **Soon will come that hour
When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor
And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.**
- 4) **Come, then, O Lord Jesus,
From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing,
That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You
Till in heav'n we bless You.**

Acknowledgments

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