



# THIRD WEDNESDAY IN ADVENT

## December 17, 2025, at St. Paul's



Special Order of Service with Responsive Prayer 1, *LSB* pg. 282  
Rev. Don McKillop, Vacancy Pastor

**WELCOME** in the name of Jesus who brings us good tidings of great joy!

**Pre-Service Prayer for Lighting the Third Candle — Joy.** Gracious God, as we light the third Advent candle of joy, may the joy of your salvation fill us with gladness. Help us share this joy with others, especially those in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

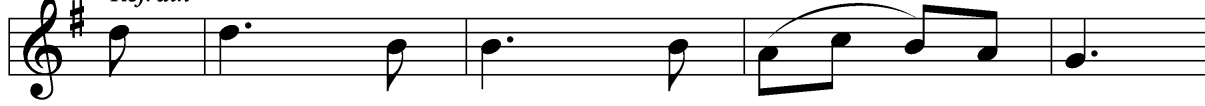


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

#### *Refrain*



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 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*

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. | Tune: French, 15th cent. | Text and tune: Public domain

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

## Responsive Reading

*Psalm 96*

<sup>1</sup>Oh sing to the LORD a new song;

**sing to the LORD, all the earth!**

<sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD, bless his name;

**tell of his salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations,

**his marvelous works among all the peoples!**

<sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

**he is to be feared above all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,

**but the LORD made the heavens.**

<sup>6</sup>Splendor and majesty are before him;

**strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,

**ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!**

<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;

**bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;

**tremble before him, all the earth!**

<sup>10</sup>Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

**Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

**let the sea roar, and all that fills it;**

<sup>12</sup>let the field exult, and everything in it!

**Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy**

<sup>13</sup>before the LORD, for he comes,

**for he comes to judge the earth.**

He will judge the world in righteousness,

**and the peoples in his faithfulness.**

## Collect

**P** Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## First Reading

*Psalm 100*

<sup>1</sup>Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

<sup>2</sup>Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

<sup>3</sup>Know that the LORD, he is God!

It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!

Give thanks to him; bless his name!

<sup>5</sup>For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever,  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

## Second Reading

Philippians 4:4–7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Please stand.*

## Gospel Reading

John 1:1–18

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

## 349 Hark the Glad Sound

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come  
prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es  
throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51 | Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820 | Text and tune: Public domain

- <sup>46</sup>And Mary said,  
 “My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.  
 For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup>for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him  
 from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
<sup>52</sup>he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
 and exalted those of humble estate;  
<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,  
 and the rich he has sent empty away.  
<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
 in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers,  
 to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”  
<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

### 366 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un-furled,  
 3 All you, be-neath your heav-y load, By care and guilt bent low,  
 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



From an-gels bend-ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold:  
 And still their heav'n-ly mu-sic floats O'er all the wea-ry world.  
 Who toil a-long a drea-ry way With pain-ful steps and slow:  
 When down in-to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore-told.



“Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav’n’s all-gra-cious king.”  
 A-bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-’ring wing,  
 Look up, for gold-en is the hour, Come swift-ly on the wing,  
 His word of peace shall to the earth God’s an-cient prom-ise bring,



The world in sol-emn still-ness lay To hear the an-gels sing.  
 And ev-er o’er its ba-bel sounds The bless-ed an-gels sing.  
 The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an-gels sing.  
 And all who take this gift will hear The song the an-gels sing.

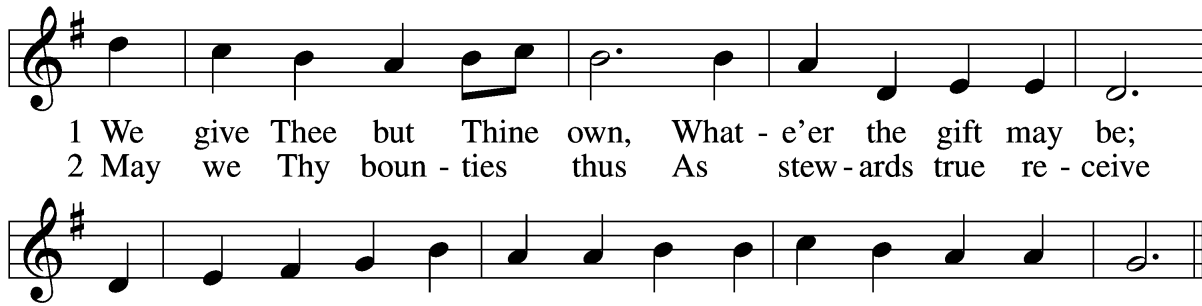
Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–76, alt. | Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900 | Text and tune: Public domain

## The Offering

*Hymn as offerings are brought forward. Please stand.*

### 781 We Give Thee But Thine Own

*sts. 1–2*



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.  
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97 | Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89 | Text and tune: Public domain

## The Prayers

### Responsive Prayer 1

- P** Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,  
**C** have mercy and hear us.
- 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.
- 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.
- L** Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,  
**C** and grant us Your salvation.  
**L** Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness;  
**C** and let Your saints shout for joy.  
**L** Lord, keep this nation under Your care,  
**C** and guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
**L** Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
**C** for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth.  
**L** Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
**C** let all the peoples praise You!  
**L** For the needy shall not always be forgotten,  
**C** and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.  
**L** Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**C** and renew a right spirit within me.

**L** Hear my prayer, O Lord;

**C** let my cry come to You.

**C** I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me.

Amen.

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

*You may be seated for our closing hymn.*

### 358 From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

*sts. 1–5*



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good  
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,  
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your  
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by  
5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad-dling



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great  
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of  
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your  
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,  
clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.  
in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
Tune: Geistliche lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann  
Text and tune: Public domain

#### Acknowledgments

Responsive Prayer 1 from Lutheran Service Book

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