



**Pilgrim**  
LUTHERAN  
**Church**

## Divine Service



**December 21, 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

# Welcome

## Opening Hymn

### 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

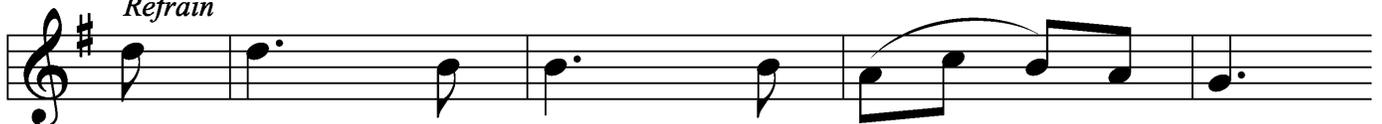


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y

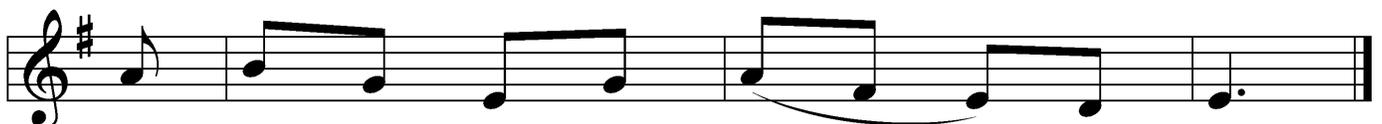


ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

#### *Refrain*



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



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

## Confession and Forgiveness

*The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

## The Sign of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Songs of Praise

### How Long?

How long? Will You turn Your face away?  
How long? Do You hear us when we pray?  
On and on, still we walk this pilgrim way  
How long?

How long 'til Your children find their rest?  
How long 'til You draw them to Your breast?  
We go on holding to Your promises  
How long?

'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye  
'Til we see our home descending from the sky  
Do we wait in vain?  
Jesus, give us hope again!



How long 'til Your word will still the storm?  
How long 'til You bare Your mighty arm?  
How we groan 'til You snatch us from the thorns  
How long?

How long? Sweet the dawn that ends the race.  
How long? Weak our hearts but strong our legs.  
Looking on great that cloud of witnesses!  
How long?

'Til You wipe away the tears from ev'ry eye  
'Til we see our home descending from the sky  
Do we wait in vain?  
Jesus, give us hope again!

### **Glory (Let There Be Peace)**

One star  
Burns in the darkness  
Shines with the promise Emmanuel  
One child  
Born in the stillness  
Living within us Emmanuel

We're singing Glory Glory  
Let there be peace let there be peace  
Singing Glory Glory  
Let there be peace let it start in me

One voice  
Speaks for the voiceless  
Hope for the hopeless Emmanuel  
One love  
Brings us together  
Now and forever Emmanuel

We're singing Glory Glory  
Let there be peace let there be peace  
Singing Glory Glory  
Let there be peace let it start in me

Do not be afraid  
His love is strong enough to save us  
Nothing stands in the way  
His love is strong enough to lead us  
(Repeat)

We're singing Glory Glory  
Let there be peace let there be peace  
Singing Glory Glory  
Let there be peace let it start in me  
Let there be peace let it start in me

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Let us pray...

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading

### Isaiah 7

10 Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: 11 "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." 12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." 13 And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

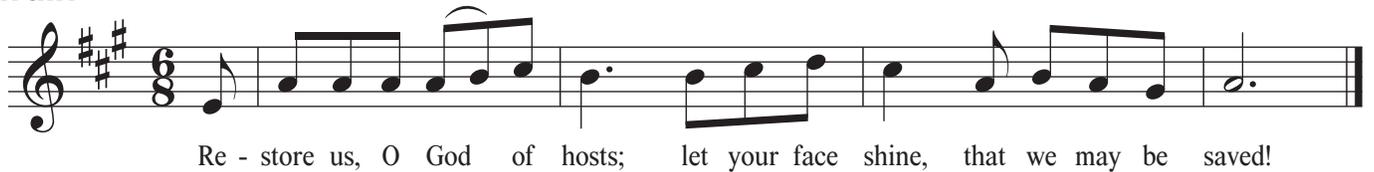
# Psalm

## Psalm 80

### Tone



### Refrain



## Second Reading

### Romans 1

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Children's Message

**Gemma Rodriguez**

## Gospel Acclamation

**Restore us, O Lord of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the first chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). 24 When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

## Sermon

**Rev. Lew Upchurch**

# Confession of Faith

## Apostles' Creed

**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**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Following each prayer petition:*

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

## Offering

### The Sacrament of the Altar

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed our duty and our joy...evermore praising You and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed + is He who comes in the Name of the Lord, Hosanna in  
the highest.**

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## Words of Institution

### 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.**

## O Lamb of God...

### Ways to Commune

**Intinction** – Pastor places bread in hands. Communicant dips bread in chalice held by Communion Assistant.

**Sealed Cups** – Gluten-Free in Blue and Alcohol-Free in Pink are available (take to seat, and we will commune together).

**Prayer** – Approach the communion table with arms crossing your chest.



# Communion Song

## Emmanuel

Holy holy  
I will bow before  
My Lord and King  
Hallelujah  
You have come to us  
You make all things new

Emmanuel  
Jesus Christ  
You'll never let me go  
My Shepherd King  
You're watching over me  
Emmanuel

So amazing  
You have named the stars  
Of the deepest night  
Still You love me  
You have called my name  
I will follow You

Emmanuel  
Jesus Christ  
You'll never let me go  
My Shepherd King  
You're watching over me  
Emmanuel

Holy holy God Almighty  
There is none like You  
Holy holy God Almighty  
There is none like You

Emmanuel  
Jesus Christ  
You'll never let me go  
My Shepherd King  
You're watching over me  
Emmanuel

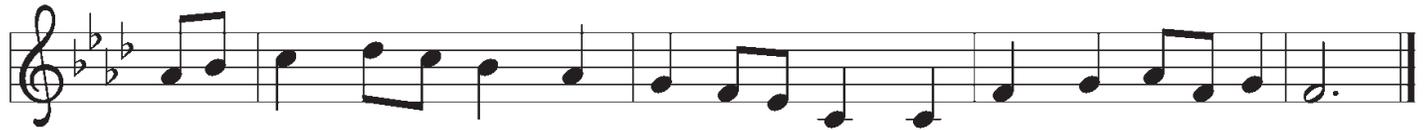
## Blessing

# Closing Hymn

## The King Shall Come



- 1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
- 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
- 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
- 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
- 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

## Announcements

## Your Name

Humbly to the earth You came  
Born into this world to save  
God with us Emmanuel  
Now we adore Your Name

Your Name is a strong and mighty tower  
Your Name is a shelter like no other  
Your Name let the nations sing it louder  
For nothing has the power to save  
But Your Name

Jesus in Your Name we pray  
Come and fill our hearts today  
Lord give us strength to live for You  
And glorify Your Name

Your Name is a strong and mighty tower  
Your Name is a shelter like no other  
Your Name let the nations sing it louder  
For nothing has the power to save  
But Your Name

Wonderful Counselor Prince of Peace

Your Name is a strong and mighty tower  
Your Name is a shelter like no other  
Your Name let the nations sing it louder  
For nothing has the power to save  
(Repeat)

But your Name

God with us Emmanuel  
God with us Emmanuel  
God with us Emmanuel  
Now we adore Your Name

*Please use the basket in the Narthex to dispose of your used  
Holy Communion Cups as you leave the Sanctuary*

# Sermon Notes



# Serving at Worship Today

## **Preaching & Presiding**

Rev. Lew Upchurch

## **Director of Music**

Mary Harper

# Upcoming Events



**Learn more about all upcoming events at [pilgrimsm.org/calendar](https://pilgrimsm.org/calendar)**

## **Christmas Eve Service**

**Wednesday, December 24th** at 7:00 PM

## Pilgrim Giving



Your faithful financial stewardship is as important as ever. We will be creating cards with QR code to access online giving.

## Serve at Pilgrim



Interested in serving at Pilgrim? Scan the QR code or go to <https://pilgrims.org/serve-at-divine-service/> to complete an information form. We will contact you when trainings are scheduled for various service opportunities.

## Bible App



Scan this QR code to download a Bible app and access scripture, devotionals, and more right from your phone!



**Pilgrim**  
L U T H E R A N  
**Church**

Called by the Holy Spirit,  
**we are an intergenerational community of  
worship and service**  
that invites the people of  
Santa Monica and beyond  
**to flourish in the love of Jesus Christ  
through Word and Sacraments.**

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