
WELCOME TO FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.



First Lutheran Church



Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

VENI EMMANUEL

Leo Sowerby

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Please stand as you are able

ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP

L: November ends. December begins.

C: We find our beginning and our ending in God.

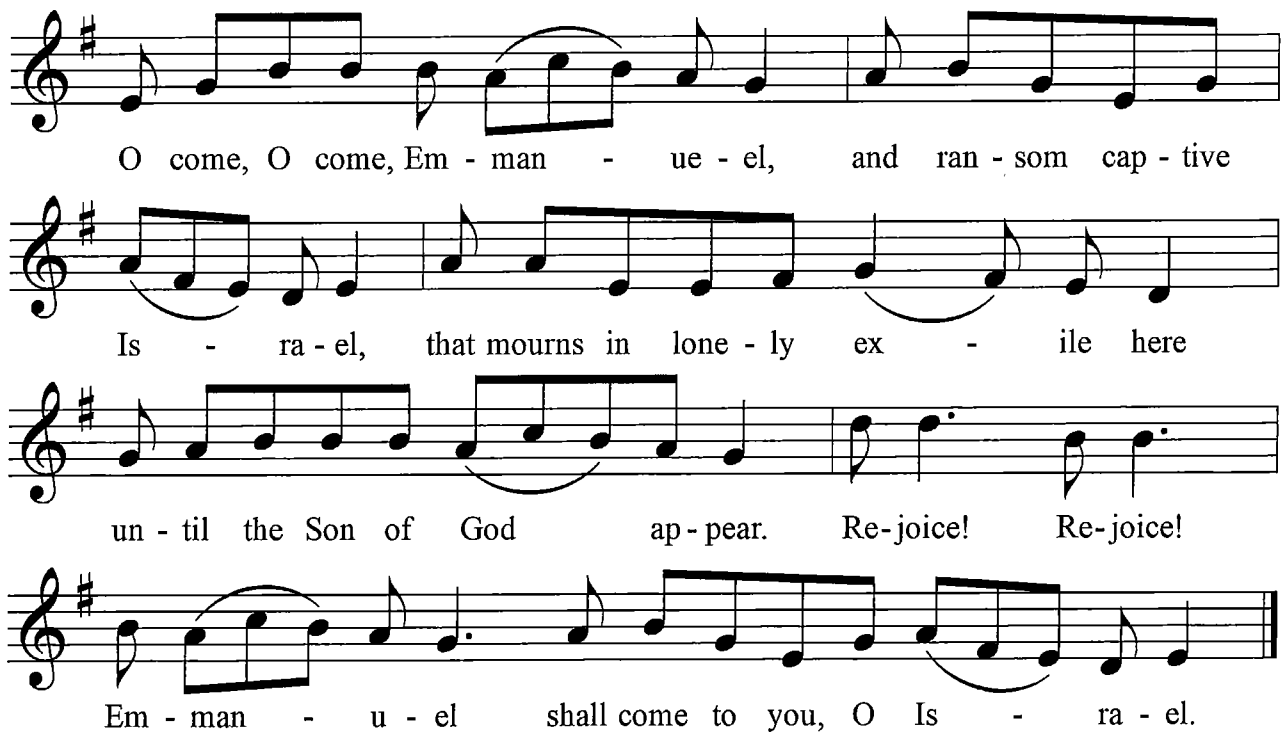
L: Month after month, our God attends us and supports us.

C: For God's company, we offer thanks and praise.

L: Let us worship the God who gives us Jesus Christ:

C: God who is the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end,
the Living One and our Redeemer, now and forever.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES



O come, O come, Em - man - ue - el, and ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

P: At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.

L: O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

P: We gather together to allow our deeply held hopes to be reshaped by God's promises.

L: O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

P: We wait for the day when God will make for us a future that is no longer predicated on our fear.

L: O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.

P: We find a new receptivity within us that desires God's will over our own will and relies on God's justice and mercy to accomplish it.

L: O Emmanuel,

C: Open us up to your coming.



Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is-ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.

P: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope.

C: Amen.

O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

SOLO

Rejoice in the Lord Always
 Elijah Shiley, bass

Richard W. Gieseke

FIRST READING

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

R: A reading from Zephaniah the 3rd chapter:

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book,

prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸ as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the Lord.

R: Word of God, Word of Life!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING:

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

R: A reading from Philippians the 4th chapter.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

R: Word of God, Word of Life!

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL INTRODUCTION



*After the congregation sings the Alleluia, the Cantor will sing the verse.
The congregation will sing the Alleluia a second time.*

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

3:7-18

P: This is the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the 3rd chapter.



⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" ⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹ In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³ He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord!



Please be seated

TODAY'S REFLECTION

Reverend Bill Schultz

Please stand

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

CONFESSION OF FAITH

L: In Christ, we have heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation.
C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

L: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

You are invited to kneel

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us,
let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

We respond to each prayer petition:

L: Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us
be reconciled to God and to one another:

A time of silence and reflection

P: Gracious God,

C: **Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in the newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

P: May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: Sisters and brothers, rejoice! Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace!

P: May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*You are welcome to share the Peace of Christ
with those around you as you feel comfortable.*

KIND REMINDER

As we prepare for the offering, please fill out a blue Fellowship card for you and your family. Cards are located in the pew rack. Once completed, place the card in the offering plate. This is a great way to let us know you are here, and to share any prayers concerns.

Please be seated

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

REJOICE, REJOICE

Mark Sedio

*Hymn Preludes for Organ
Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.

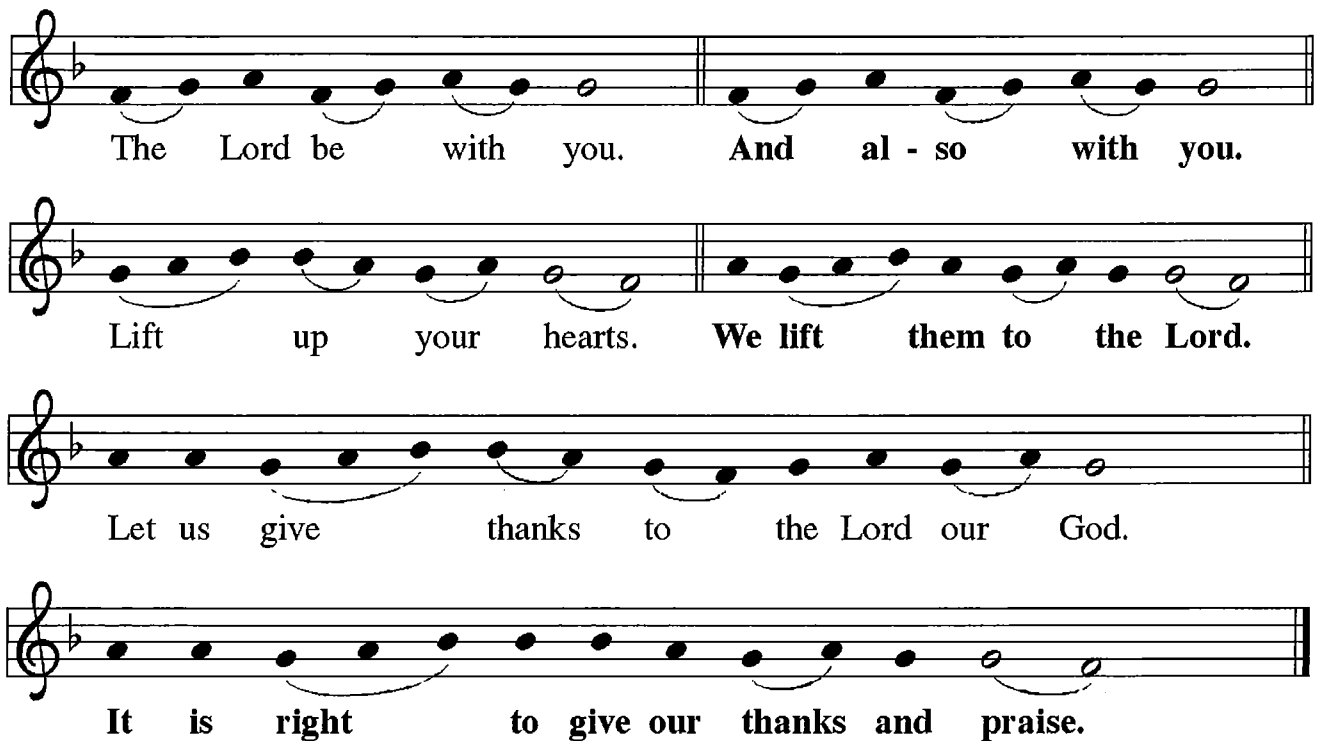
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Please stand

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

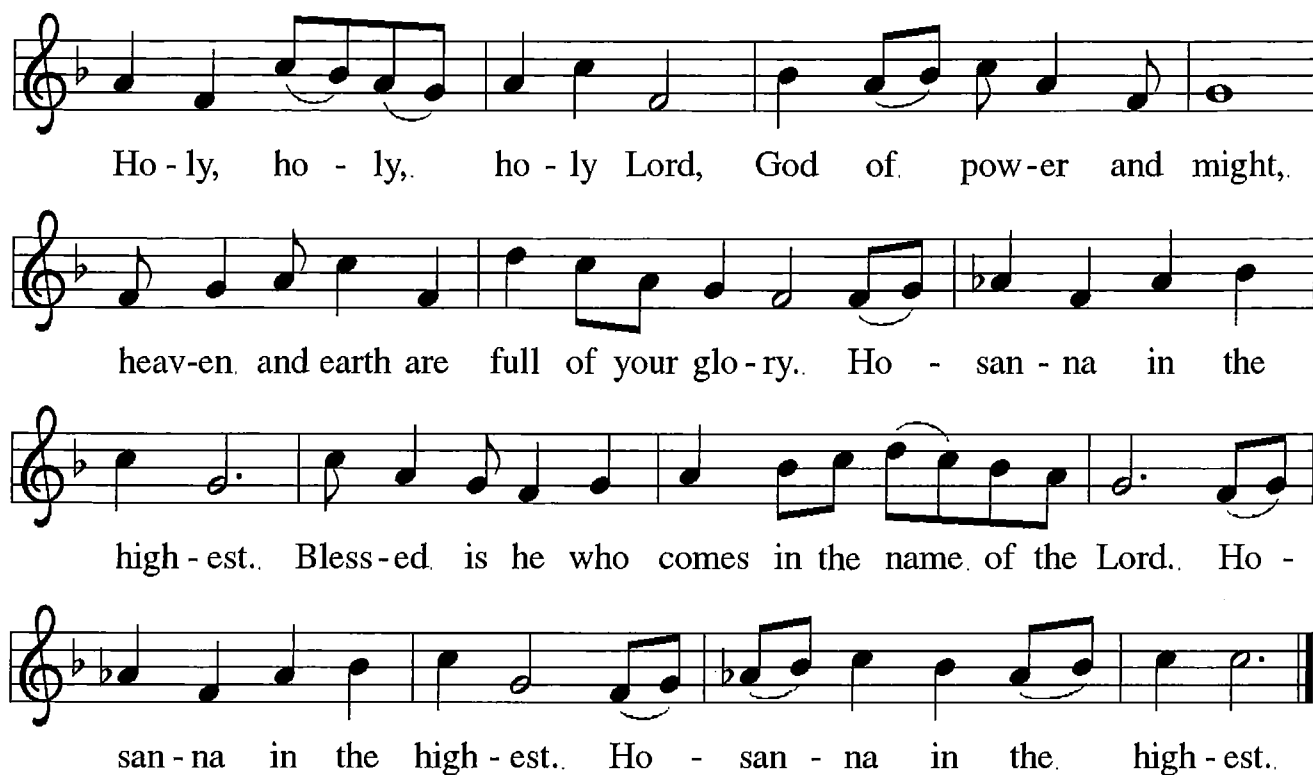
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ADVENT PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav-en. and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.
In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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.**

Please be seated

COMMUNION IS DISTRIBUTED IN TWO MANNERS AT FIRST LUTHERAN

† *You may commune in your pews.*

Individual communion kits are available at the Narthex doors.

Pastor will share a blessing, all communing in-place will commune together.

† *You may come to the Table, where both Bread and Wine will be distributed.*

A basket is available for disposal of your individual communion cups.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.

*At this time, we share in taking the bread and wine as we feast on the body
and blood of Christ. All are welcome to the Table of the Lord!*

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW # 253

He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

C: Oh God, your everlasting love for us is always trustworthy and sure. We are grateful for the goodness you have shown us through the years, and we ask now for confidence to go forward into the future. Bless our community of faith, bless our healing, bless the changes that are before us, bless our call process and the pastoral leaders who will shepherd us through this time of transition. We thank you now for the wisdom you will show us as we align with your will, and servant or servants you are already preparing to send us in your blessed time. Help us to keep looking to you to define our ministry and our future. In his name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

BLESSING

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey, bless and keep you now and forever.



Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

SENDING

L: Go in peace.

P: Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

HE CAME DOWN

*Advent Organ Settings
V. He Came Down*

David Lasky