



SOTC Worship
December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY

ELW 264

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

After Pastor Aleese calls the congregation to confession, the congregation prays together:

So with that confidence, let us approach our God in prayer, and in confession:

God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt; and a million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge. Forgive us our sin. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger than before, and the wisdom to choose a better way.

Dear friends in Christ, hear this good news:

We who have chosen wrong, are given a second chance.

We who have lost our way, are welcomed into community.

We who feel alone, are seen, held, and known.

We who have sinned, have been forgiven and redeemed through Jesus Christ.

This is the good news of the gospel.

No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way,

God continues to be a God of second chances, of community, of love, and of redemption.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray -

Eternal God, we wait with hope for the coming of your Son into our hearts and into our world. Prepare our hearts for the brightness of your glory and for the fullness of your truth, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON AND ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In preparation to receive God's Word, we light the Christ candle and pray for God's Word to be illuminated in our midst. Take a moment for silent reflection.

READING: ISAIAH 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

PSALM: PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth
²before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
Stir up your might,
and come to save us!

³**Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

⁴O Lord GOD of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears,
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
⁶You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
our enemies laugh among themselves.

⁷**Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

¹⁷But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one whom you made strong for yourself.
¹⁸Then we will never turn back from you;
give us life, and we will call on your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

Word of God, Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 1st chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you O Christ

SERMON

HYMN

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

ELW 257
(vs. 1, 2, 5, 7)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!
And also with you!

Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others. Pull out your cell phones and send a text and/or a picture to someone, sharing the peace of Christ with them as well!

————— **MEAL** —————

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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." The score ends with a double bar line.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit... To you, almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.

Following the directions of the ushers, the congregation will be invited forward in groups. Each group will stand before the altar to receive the bread and wine/juice. After receiving both bread and wine, remain with your group until Pastor Aleese offers a short blessing, dismissing each group to return to their seats. Those not desiring to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD

C 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, grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

————— SENDING —————

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

ELW 254

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God!

Copyright acknowledgements:

Music covered under Augsburg Fortress License #SB135131, CCLI License #1141706, One License #738128-A. Scripture from New Revised Standard Version Bible, © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

Prelude: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Text and Music: Mark Hayes. Text and Music: © 1985 Gaither Music Co (ASCAP). Covered under One License subscription.

Gathering Song: Prepare the Royal Highway. Text: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1722-1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Music: Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Covered under One License subscription.

Hymn of the Day: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite. Music: French processional, 15th cent. Text: sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997, 2006 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Covered under One License subscription.

Offering Song: Sing We Now of Christmas. Text and Music: Mark Hayes. Text and Music: © 1991 Alfred Sacred. Covered under One License subscription.

Communion Song: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus. Text and Music: Mark Hayes. Text and Music: © 2014 The Lorenz Publishing Corporation. Covered under One License subscription. Gentle Mary Laid Her Child. Text and Music: Mark Hayes. Text and Music: © 2016 The Lorenz Publishing Corporation. Covered under One License subscription.

Sending Song: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus. Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788. Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835. Text and Music: © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress Publishers. Covered under One License subscription.

Prayers written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Adapted Rev. A. Kenitzer.