

M: O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai, come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

C: **Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law, in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage, come quickly and deliver us.

C: **Oh, come, O Rod of Jesse's stem. From every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty pow'r to save: Bring them in victory
through the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

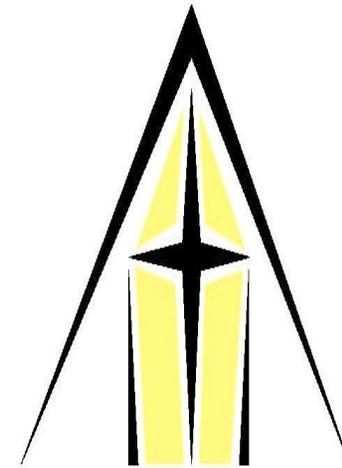
C: **Oh, come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home,
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

C: **Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone for uniting all people, come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

C: **Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all man kind.
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease, and be yourself the King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**



St. Mark

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Reach, Teach, Rejoice!

9:30 AM Worship Service
December 24, 2017

Readiness to Receive

HYMN: CW 1

The Advent of Our King

OPENING DIALOGUE

M: We begin our worship in the name of God the Father,

C: **Who has created us to be the crown of his creation,**

M: In the name of God the Son,

C: **Who has redeemed us with his holy blood,**

M: And in the name of God the Holy Spirit,

C: **Who has brought us to faith and keeps us in faith.**

M: This is the day that the Lord has made,

C: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

M: I was glad when they said to me,

C: **Let us go into the house of the Lord.**

M: One thing I ask of the Lord; this is what I seek:

C: **That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, merciful Father, I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart. In what I have done and left undone, I have pursued my ways instead of your ways. I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.**

I am truly sorry for my sins.

I repent of them.

I beg for your mercy, O Lord.

Silence for personal confession

C: **He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. All this He did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Great O Antiphons of Advent

The Great O Antiphons of Advent have been cherished for centuries by Christian worshippers. Each one consists of a title given to Christ in the Old Testament and a petition asking him to come and fulfill the scriptural promise or prophecy.

The minister will speak the individual Antiphon and the congregation will respond by singing the corresponding hymn verse.

M: Let us pray.

O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed of the nations and their Savior, come and save us, O Lord our God.

C: **Oh, come, oh, come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily order all things; come and teach us the way of prudence.

C: **Oh, Come, our Wisdom from on high, who ordered all thing mightily; To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: Lord, nothing is impossible with You. You sent Your Son into the world to be the great physician of body and soul.
C: **Give to all who are ill comfort and healing, if it be Your will, and patience and trust that come what may, You are with them.**

M: Lord, while we await the coming of Your Son, we remember with thanksgiving those who were before us in the faith and are now with You.
C: **Keep and preserve us in the one true faith to life everlasting until You bring us together with them into Your eternal Kingdom.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.
Silent prayer

M: Into Your hands, we commend to You all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C: **To him be praise and honor and glory and power now and forever. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

M: O Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray...
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.**

HYMN: CW 8 **Come, O Precious Ransom, Come**

Confession of Faith

C: **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.**
M: What do you mean when you make this confession of your faith?
C: **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

M: Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.
C: **Cleanse me from my sins.
Release me from my guilt.
Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

WORD OF FORGIVENESS

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: With grateful hearts we pray to the Lord.
C: **Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

HYMN: CW 21 **Hosanna to the Coming Lord**

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON **2 Samuel 7:8-16**

M: The Word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 89

M: I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
C: **I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.**
M: I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
C: **That you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**

M: The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
C: **Your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.**

M: O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?
C: **You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.**

M: Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
C: **Who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.**

M: They rejoice in your name all day long;
C: **They exult in your righteousness.**

SECOND LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

M: The Word of the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

As the Acolyte comes forward to light the candle the congregation sings the following hymn verse to the tune of "Away In A Manger."

**The glory of Christmas With beauty sublime
Shines ever more brightly In fullness of time.
The promise of ages Has finally come,
The hope of our fathers Revealed in God's Son.**

M: We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.
C: **We remember Jesus whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.
C: **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
C: **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

M: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN: CW 2

Savior of the Nations, Come

SERMON

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord, the time of preparation is almost over and Your visitation is near; keep us focused on the Gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ.
C: **May it bring about the obedience of faith in us and all who hear Your Word this season.**

M: Lord, You continue to provide pastors for Your Church to proclaim the coming of Your Son. Be with all professional church workers as they work to serve Your people with the gifts of Word and Sacrament.
C: **Allow them to boldly speak the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed.**

M: Lord of the nations, look with mercy upon our president; our governor; and all those who make, administer and judge our laws.
C: **May they use their authority wisely and according to Your will.**

M: Lord, we thank You for those who look out for our well-being and protect us from harm. Give Your blessing to police, to firefighters, to medical workers, and to the members of our armed forces
C: **Protect all first responders whose vocations put them on the front lines of danger, trouble and disaster.**