

# SPIRIT OF GRACE

First Sunday in Advent with Celebration of Holy Communion

November 28, 2021

The congregation's parts are in **bold**.

## PRELUDE

## Seek Ye First

## WELCOME

## GATHERING SONG

## REJOICE, REJOICE BELIEVERS

ELW 244



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'ings 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

## **ADVENT LITANY**

By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.

**By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Instill in us a yearning to seek your presence in each other.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Quicken us to help all people feel welcomed and supported.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Rouse us to care for one another, friend and stranger alike.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Inspire us to be your handiwork in the world.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**Fill us with a holy hunger for a just world where all are fed.**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord.

**The days are surely coming, says the Lord.**

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your Son.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come!**

## **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

God be with you!

**And also with you!**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

**SONG DURING LIGHTING**

**HE CAME DOWN**

**ELW 253 V.1**

He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

### **SECOND READING**

**1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL

Open your hearts and your minds to the Good News as it is recorded in **Luke 21:25-36**.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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

## MESSAGE

*Pastor Peggy Rose*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## O COME, O COME EMMANUEL ELW 257

O come, O 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.*

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

## **NICENE CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to our leaders. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, life transitions and healing, especially bugs, Courtney, Janet, Leila and Wilma. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters and for the work of Episcopal and Lutheran Disaster and World Relief programs and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls instead of tables and have turned away the stranger.**

**We have sought glory for ourselves and have treasured that which does not satisfy.**

**Help us to love as you love, to welcome those you send,**

**and to treasure mercy and justice. Turn us from our ways to your ways,**

**and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

God, who makes all things new, forgives your sins for † Jesus' sake and remembers them no more. Lift up your heads and your hearts.

Yours is the kingdom of God. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER AND DEDICATION OF PLEDGES**

**God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives**

**to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us**

**as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our**

**peace. Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

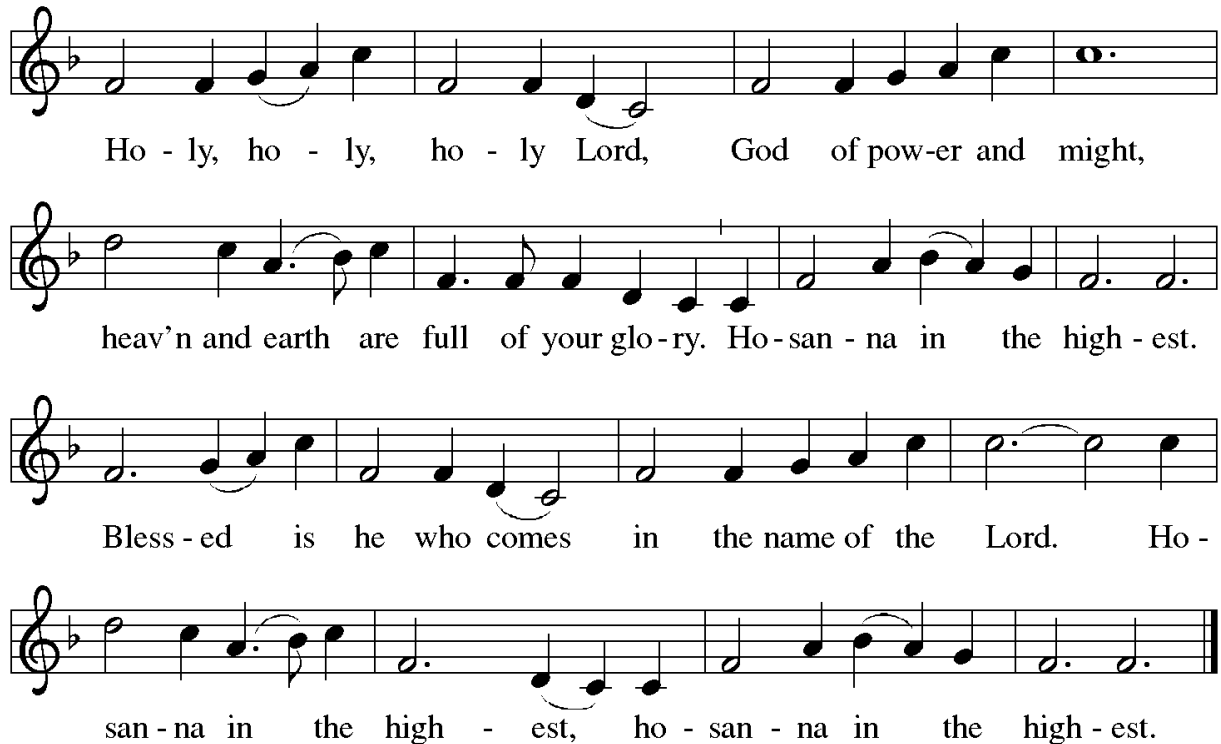
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n 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

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

*All are welcome at the table. It is God's Table and He gifts you with the finest He has. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Our communion elements are prepackaged grape juice and wafer packets for your safety. Please enjoy the communion music during this time and wear a mask if you choose to sing along.*

**COMMUNION SONGS**

**WONDERFUL MERCIFUL SAVIOR**

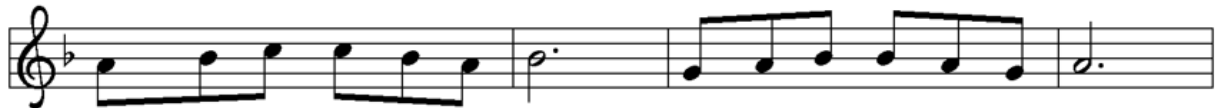
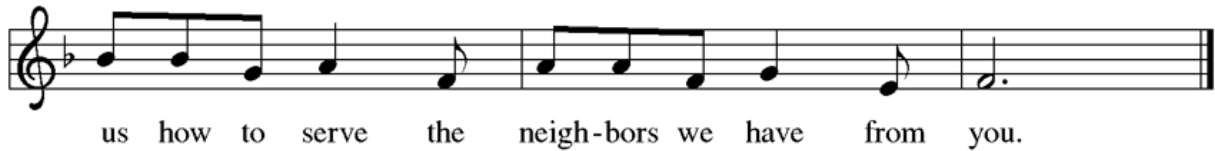
Wonderful merciful Savior  
Precious Redeemer and Friend  
Who would have thought that a Lamb  
Could rescue the souls of men  
Oh You rescue the souls of men

*You are the One that we praise  
You are the One we adore  
You give the healing and grace  
Our hearts always hunger for  
Oh our hearts always hunger for*

Counselor Comforter Keeper  
Spirit we long to embrace  
You offer hope when our hearts  
Have hopelessly lost the way  
Oh we hopelessly lost the way

Almighty infinite Father  
Faithfully loving Your own  
Here in our weakness You find us  
Falling before Your throne  
Oh we're falling before Your throne

## JESU, JESU, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE ELW 708



- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,  
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,  
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;  
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.  
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

**Amen.**

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

**Most High God, you have come among us at this table.**

**By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,  
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,  
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.**

### BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SENDING SONG

### COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

ELW 254



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

### I Could Sing of Your Love Forever