

Advent 3

The Season of Advent

Advent is Latin for "coming." It is a season of preparation and repentance where we focus on Christ's first coming as our Savior and his future coming as our Judge. Because of this penitential focus, the joyful Gloria in Excelsis is omitted until Christmas Eve.

The Gathering Rite

To begin our worship, we will use a special Advent Gathering Rite in place of the standard Confession of Sins, Kyrie, and Gloria. As we sing verses of "*Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel*" and light the candles of the Advent wreath, Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, we confess our sins and rejoice that the Light of the World has come to redeem us.

♯ *Stand*

Invocation

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

Amen.

Confession of Sins and Lighting Rite

When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image (*Genesis 1:26*). Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

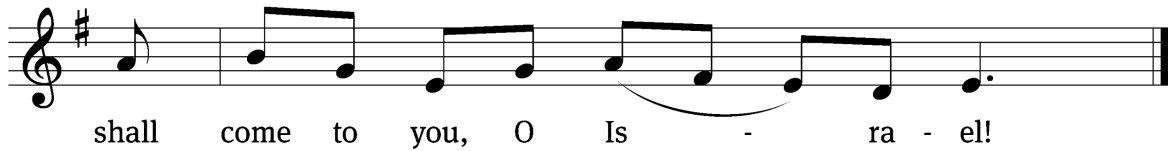
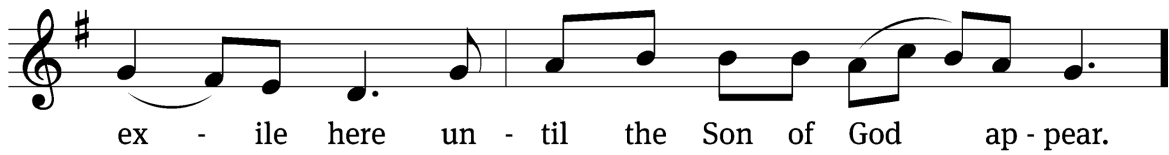
But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death (*Romans 6:23*). We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.

However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

327:1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly

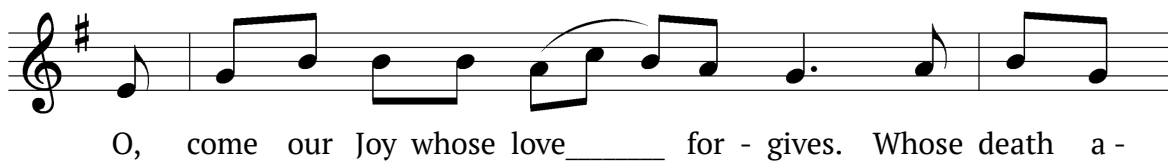
The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.



When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven (*Galatians 4:4,5*). In view of God's mercy, today we light the joy candle. Though we have not seen Jesus, we love him; and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him (*1 Peter 1:8*).

And we are filled with and inexpressible and glorious joy, for we are receiving the end result of our faith, the salvation of our souls (*1 Peter 1:8-9*).

♯ Three Advent candles are lit as the congregation joins to sing:



Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

In the joy of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (*2 Corinthians 5:16-18*).

God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God (*2 Corinthians 5:19-21*).

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el
shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

♯ *Be Seated*

The Word

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ²it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

³Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; ⁴say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." ⁵Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. ⁸And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it.

⁹No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 146A

Refrain

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.

Tone

I will praise the LORD / all my life;

I will sing praise to my God as long / as I live.

Do not put your trust in / princes,

in human beings, who / cannot save.

Blessed are those whose help is the God of / Jacob,

whose hope is in the / LORD their God. Refrain

He upholds the cause of / the oppressed

and gives food to the / hungry.

The LORD sets / pris'ners free,

the LORD gives sight / to the blind.

The LORD reigns for- / ever,

your God, O Zion, for all generations. / Praise the LORD.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain

Second Reading

James 5:7-11

⁷Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the

autumn and spring rains. ⁸You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

¹⁰Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✠ *Stand*

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2–11

²When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?"

⁴Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me."

⁷As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written: " 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise be to you O Christ.

✠ *Be seated*

324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,
4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;
5 He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.
your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.
a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace
De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,
who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!
who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.
his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.
send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there 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.**

☪ Be Seated

Offering

☪ Please stand and sing the offering hymn at the pastors direction

315:3,5 The Advent of Our King



3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
5 Crush for me the ser - pent's head that, set free from



Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—
doubt and dread, I may cling to you in faith,



tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
safe - ly kept through life and death,

Prayer of the Church

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.

358 Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word.
 and ex - tol our God and King.
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,
 Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Prayer

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

313 Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.