

# Advent 4: Love

## *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.

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♩ *Stand*

## Invocation

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

**Amen.**

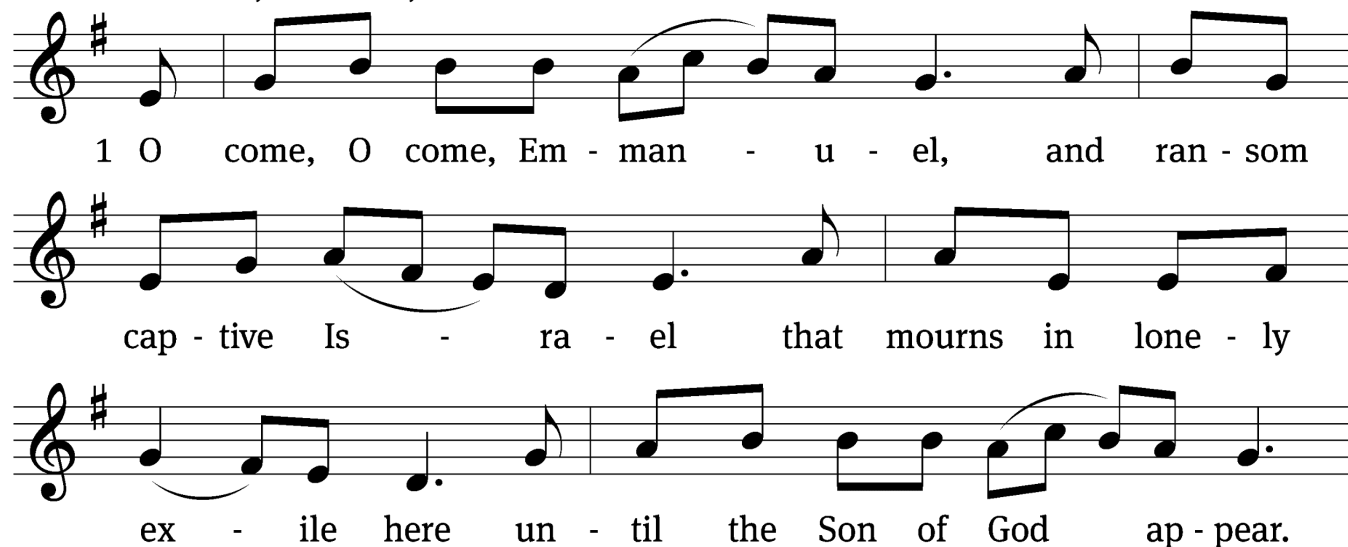
## Confession of Sins and Lighting Rite

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  
ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

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 love candle. This is how God showed his love among us; He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him (*1 John 4:9*).

**This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins** (*1 John 4:10*).

♩ *Four Advent candles are lit as we join to sing:*

O, come our Love who gives \_\_\_ to me Grace un - de-

served, un - en - ding free. Help me to share this

gift \_\_\_ most rare That all God's hope and peace \_\_\_ may share.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

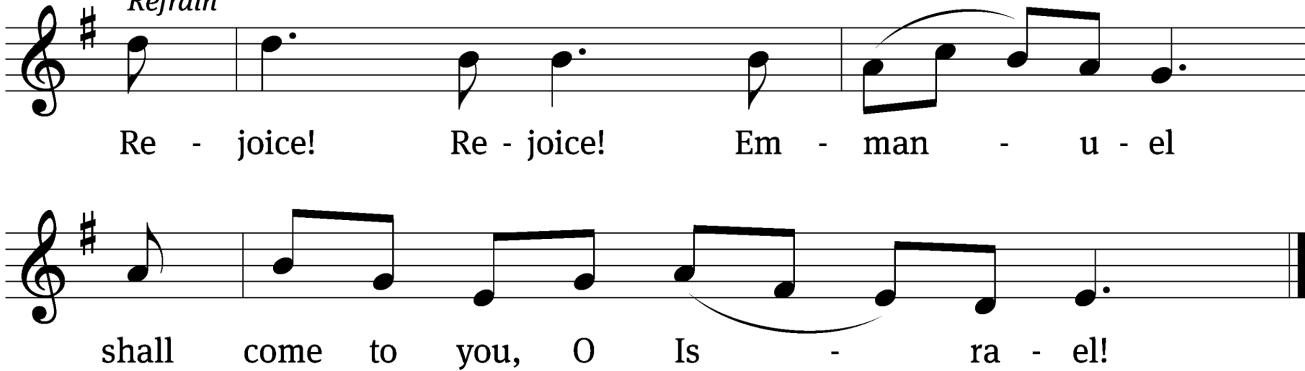
shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

In the peace 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 - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el  
shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

### Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

... one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

♩ *Be Seated*

### First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-14

<sup>10</sup>Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.” <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

### Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—<sup>2</sup> the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup> Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake. <sup>6</sup> And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

## Psalm 89

☞ *Stand*

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise be to you O Christ.**

☞ *Be seated*

### Children's Message

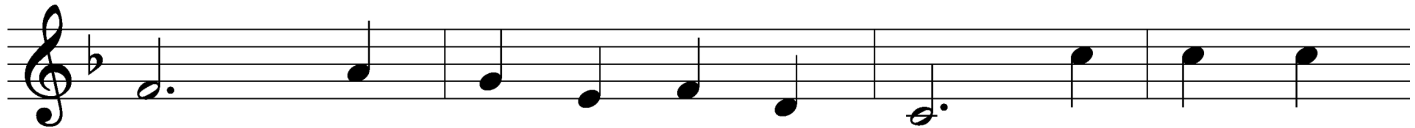
## 360 Behold a Branch is Growing



1 Be - hold, a branch is grow - ing of love - liest form and  
2 I - sa - iah had fore - told it in words of prom - ise  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



grace! As proph - ets sang, fore - know - ing, it springs from Jes - se's  
sure, and Mar - y's arms en - fold it, a vir - gin meek and  
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - 'ry -  
woes, O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry, who con - quered all our



race and now be - gins to flow'r in midst of  
pure. Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to  
where. True man, and yet true God, from sin and  
foes, bring us at last, we pray, to the bright



cold - est win - ter, at deep - est mid - night hour.  
her is giv - en at mid - night calm and still.  
death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

Text: German, 16th cent.; (sts. 1–3): tr. Harriet R. K. Spaeth, 1845–1925; (st. 4): John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, alt.

Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, Köln, 1599

Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

### 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

¶ *Be Seated*

**Offering**

# Lord Jesus Be Near Me Natalie Sleeth

$\text{♩} = 80$

Lord Je - sus, be near me by night and by  
Lord Je - sus, pre - pare me to serve Thee full

5

day; Thy spir - it sur - round me and light Thou my  
well; to all men Good News of Thy King - dom to

9

way; Lord Je - sus, re - store me, that filled with Thy  
tell; Lord Je - sus, in - spire me with oth - ers to

13

love, my heart may know clear - ly Thy Fa - ther a -  
share the joys of Thy mer - cy the depths of Thy

17

-bove. Lord Je - sus, for - give me if need - ful I  
care. Lord Je - sus, pro - tect me pre - serve me from

21

be, send com - fort to heal me, from sin set me  
harm, up - hold me with strength from Thine Al - might - ty

25

free. Lord Je - sus, re - new me that forth I may  
arm. Lord Je - sus, di - rect me that all of my

29

go, Thy boun - ti - ful good - ness and wis - dom to  
days Thy paths I may foll - ow in in - fin - ite

33

show. Thy paths I may fol - low for - ev - er  
praise,

37

in in - fin - ite praise.

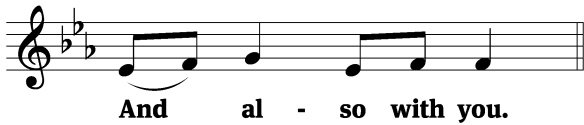
# Prayer of the Church

## 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.

## Preface

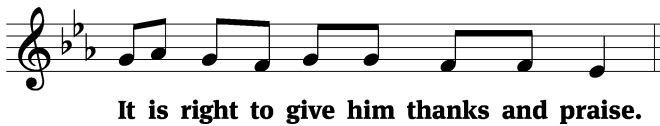
The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.




It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy





san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he,



bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Words of Institution**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God**

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
 have mer-cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
 you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
 O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;  
 grant us your peace. A - men.

**Distribution: 305** Lift up your Heads, You Mighty Gates

- 1 Lift up your heads, you might-y gates! Be-hold, the King of
- 2 The King is born in pov-er-ty, his char-iot is hu-
- 3 How blest the land, the cit-y blest, where Christ the rul-er
- 4 Fling wide the gates; pre-pare your heart to be a tem-ple
- 5 Re-deem-er, come! I o-pen wide my heart to you; here,

glo-ry waits. The King of kings is draw-ing near; the  
 mil-i-ty, his king-ly crown is ho-li-ness, his  
 is con-fessed! O peace-ful hearts and hap-py homes to  
 set a-part from earth-ly use for heav'n's em-ploy, a-  
 Lord, a-bide! O en-ter with your sav-ing grace; show



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion  
scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our  
whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of  
dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - 'reign  
me your kind and friend - ly face. Your Ho - ly Spir - it



he will bring; there - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To  
woe he brings; there - fore the earth is glad and sings. To  
joy is he who comes to set his peo - ple free. To  
en - ter in and new and no - bler life be - gin. To  
guide us on un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise your joy - ful songs of praise.  
Christ the Sav - ior raise your grate - ful hymns of praise.  
God the Spir - it raise your hap - py shouts of praise.  
God a - lone be praise for word and deed and grace!  
ter - nal praise and fame we of - fer to your name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

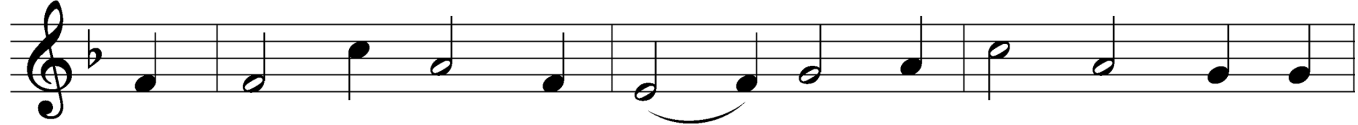
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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.**

## 310:1,4 Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -  
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; turn not from me a -



day;  
side, pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, who  
and help me to re - ceive you this



takes your sins a - way. To us by grace a -  
bless - ed Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger



lone the truth and light were giv - en; the prom - ised  
low come now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing your



Lord from heav - en to all the world is shown.  
prais - es glad - ly and forth your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662; (st. 1): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.

Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, Hamburg, 1598, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain