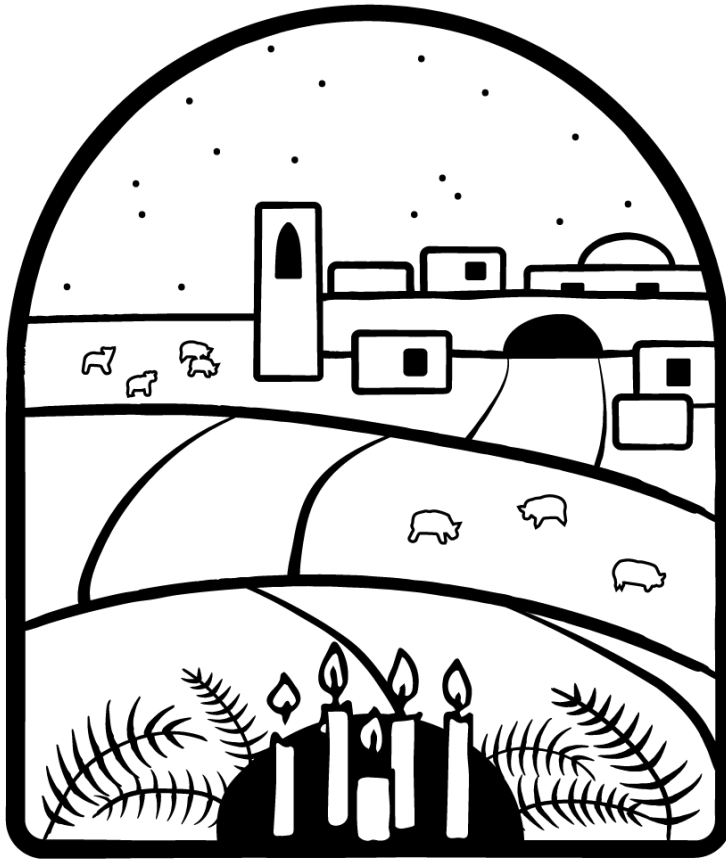


# Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 21 and 22, 2025



**ADVENT**  
**IMMINENT ARRIVAL**

Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel



198 Westridge Avenue, Burlington, Wisconsin  
262-763-8229 | stjohnsburlington.org  
Pastor Kirk Lahmann | Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

## **Welcome to Worship**

Thank you for joining us for worship today! We are honored that you are with us. We pray that the Word of God you hear will strengthen your faith and increase your love for the Lord! Please fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in an offering plate, located near the sanctuary doors, as you leave worship. If you are a guest, know that we are thankful you have joined us and hope that you will join us again soon.

## **Prepare for Worship**

To prepare for worship, read through the service focus and the Scripture readings. Ponder the words of the Psalm of the Day. Spend time in prayer, using the prayers on the inside cover of the hymnal or on pages 255-258. For those intending to receive the Lord's Supper, read through the "Christian Questions" on pages 295-296. Consider reading through portions of the Small Catechism on pages 286-293.

## **Today's Focus for Worship – Imminent Arrival of Emmanuel**

"Emmanuel" means "God with us." It was a special name given to Jesus already 700 years before he was born. Who is with us when Jesus is with us? God himself. God became a human being in a special way, becoming truly human but remaining God. God is still with us. We encounter him in a special way when we gather with two or three others in worship. He is so near to us that the thrill of anticipation is almost unbearable. Let it wash over you as you celebrate Christmas this week.

## **Serving at Worship**

Presiding Minister: Pastor Kirk Lahmann

Preacher: Pastor Kenneth Rodrigue

Accompanist: Stephen Radsek

## **Acknowledgments**

Today's service is adapted from *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*, © 1993 Northwestern Publishing House, p. 26 – "Service of the Word." Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. The Prayer of the Church is reprinted from *Praying with the Readings...* © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission. The Closing Collect is reprinted from *Now and Forever: Contemporary Collects...*, © Paul C. Stratman. Used with permission.

# Service of the Word

## *Christian Worship 1993*



### Opening Hymn

Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth  
*Please stand to sing the final stanza.*

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1 Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth<br/>And manifest Thy virgin birth.<br/>Let ev'ry age adoring fall;<br/>Such birth befits the God of all.</b></p> <p><b>2 Begotten of no human will,<br/>But of the Spirit, Thou art still<br/>The Word of God in flesh arrayed,<br/>The promised Fruit to man displayed.</b></p> <p><b>3 The virgin womb that burden gained<br/>With virgin honor all unstained.<br/>The banners there of virtue glow;<br/>God in His temple dwells below.</b></p> | <p><b>4 From God the Father He proceeds;<br/>To God the Father back He speeds,<br/>Runs out His course to death and hell,<br/>Returns on God's high throne to dwell.</b></p> <p><b>5 O equal to the Father, Thou!<br/>Gird on Thy fleshly mantle now;<br/>The weakness of our mortal state<br/>With deathless might invigorate.</b></p> <p><b>6 All laud, eternal Son, to Thee,<br/>Whose Advent sets Thy people free,<br/>Whom with the Father we adore,<br/>And Holy Ghost, forevermore. Amen.</b></p> |
|---|--|

### Invocation

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you.

**And also with you.**

### Confession and Absolution

*Ephesians 2:3; Psalm 51:1-2; Ephesians 5:1-2*

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you the strength to live according to his will.

**Amen.**

## **Advent Candles**

We light four Advent candles, remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

**We remember Jesus whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

**We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

## **Advent Verse**

To You I Lift My Soul | Psalm 25-C

*During the season of Advent, we replace the jubilant “Gloria in Excelsis” with a more reflective Advent verse, as we light the candles of the Advent wreath.*

*Four Advent candles are lit. After the introduction, the congregation sings the Advent Verse three times.*





## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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.



*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.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day

Forever I Will Sing | 89-A

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:

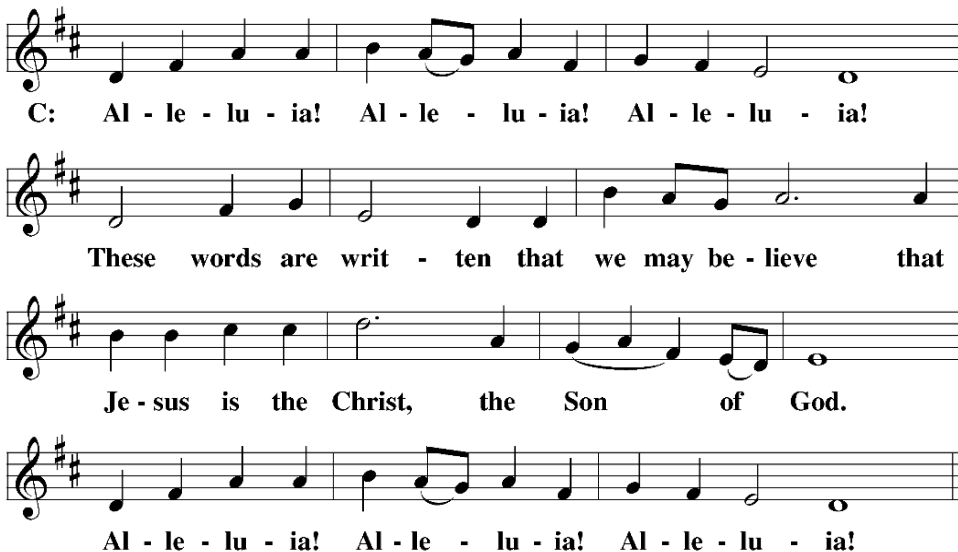
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### Gospel Acclamation



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

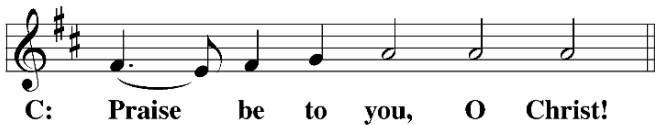
<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose 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.



*Be seated*

## Hymn of the Day

God's Own Son Most Holy | 321

## Sermon

Matthew 1:23b

They Will Call Him Immanuel

*Stand*

**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*

## **Prayer of the Church**

*Psalm 89:17-18*

Jesus, you are Immanuel, God with us. Drive away our doubts and fears with your gospel that tells us you became flesh, dwelled among us, and that you know our needs and our weakness.

**You are our glory and strength. You are the Holy One of Israel.**

Your gospel was promised beforehand through the prophets in the Holy Scripture. Let this same Word call the nations near and far to your obedience that comes from faith, that people everywhere might believe in you, the Word made flesh.

**You are our glory and strength. You are the Holy One of Israel.**

Just as Gabriel was sent to announce your coming birth to Joseph, you also send your messengers to us with your Word. Bless all pastors and teachers, and those who are preparing for the public ministry in your church. Keep your Word in their hearts and on their lips.

**You are our glory and strength. You are the Holy One of Israel.**

When we are afraid, lead us to trust that nothing is impossible with you. We pray for all who deal with hardships, illnesses and losses. Show them your favor. Uphold them in all their troubles, supply what they need for wholeness or healing, and strengthen their faith in your goodness with your Word of peace.

**You are our glory and strength. You are the Holy One of Israel.**

O Lord, stir up your power and come. Mercifully fulfill all you have promised your Church to the end of the world; you live and reign, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Offering

2 Corinthians 9:7

*Offerings given in thanks to the Lord are brought to the Lord's altar. We ask all worshipers to fill out a "Welcome to Worship" card (found in the hymnal racks) and place it in the offering plates at the sanctuary doors following the service.*

## The Great O Antiphons of Advent

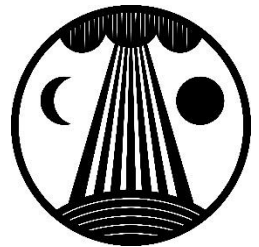
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | 327

*For at least 1300 years Christian worshippers have sung "The Great O Antiphons of Advent." Each antiphon sings of an Old Testament title of the Messiah and calls on Christ to fulfill his work.*

*The seven antiphons are: O Sapientia (Wisdom), O Adonai (Lord), O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse), O Clavis David (Key of David), O Oriens (Dayspring), O Rex Gentium (King of the nations), O Emmanuel (God-with-us). The first letter of each antiphon, read backwards, spells "Ero cras," which is Latin for "Tomorrow I will come."*

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.

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things 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!**



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.

**O come, O come, great Lord of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the Law  
in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!**



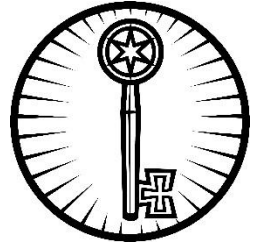
O Root of Jesse, standing as a banner before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage, come quickly to deliver us.

**O come, O Root of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!**



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 in the shadow of death.

**O 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!**



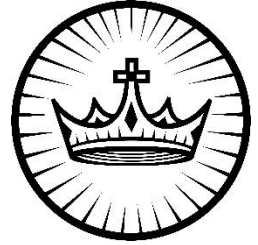
O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

**O 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!**



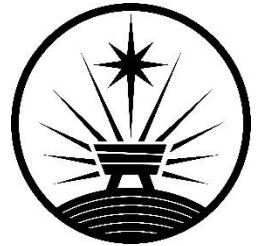
O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone for uniting all people, come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

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



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

**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!**



### Closing Collect

Lord, you promised in your Holy Scriptures to send your Son Jesus Christ as the Son of David, and your own Son. Reveal this saving promise also to us and move our hearts to faith and obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



### Lord's Prayer *Pater Noster*

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## Blessing *Aaronic Benediction*

*Numbers 6:24-26*

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.



*Be seated*

## Closing Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus  
*Sung to the tune of Jefferson*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
Text: Public domain