

ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

Each Winter as the Year Grows Older ELW 252

Each Winter As the Year Grows Older



1 Each win - ter as the year grows old - er, we each grow old - er,
2 When race and class cry out for trea - son, when si - rens call for
3 Yet I be - lieve be - yond be - liev - ing that life can spring from
4 So e - ven as the sun is turn - ing to jour - ney to the
5 O Child of ec - sta - sy and sor - rows, O Prince of peace and



too. The chill sets in a lit - tle cold - er; the
war, they o - ver - shout the voice of rea - son and
death, that growth can flow - er from our griev - ing, that
north, the liv - ing flame, in se - cret burn - ing, can
pain, bright - en to - day's world by to - mor - row's, re -



ver - i - ties we knew seem shak - en and un - true.
scream till we ig - nore all we held dear be - fore.
we can catch our breath and turn trans - fixed by faith.
kin - dle on the earth and bring God's love to birth.
new our lives a - gain; Lord Je - sus, come and reign!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WEEK 1: HOPE

Leader 1: We gather in the season of Advent, waiting and watching for the One who comes not in splendor, but in humility. The God of the

universe has changed addresses—leaving heaven’s throne to dwell among us in a manger. This is grace: not earned, not expected, but freely given.

Leader 2: We light the candle of Hope, trusting that the God who moved into our neighborhood, who doesn’t pretend to be one of us, but really is one of us, brings light to our darkest places.

All: Emmanuel, God with us, you chose a manger over a palace. Let your presence fill our longing hearts with hope.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING SONG – HOPE *To the tune of “Away in a Manger”*

A candle is burning, its flickering light,
Proclaims that our Hope has pierced through the night.
The God of creation came close to our pain,
And dwells in the dust, where our sorrows remain.

PRAYER:

God of hope, dwell among us. Set us upon the foundations of your grace. Let your humble birth remind us that no place is too lowly for your love to enter. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Based on Matthew 24:26–44

People of God, Advent calls us to keep awake, to be ready, to lift our eyes for the coming of Christ. But we confess that our eyes are often heavy. Our hearts are distracted. Our faith grows weary.

Jesus tells us, *“Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”* Let us come before God in honesty and hope, confessing our sin and our need for grace.

(Silence for reflection)

Merciful God,

We confess that we have not stayed awake.

We confess that we have ignored your signs and warnings.

We confess that we have trusted in ourselves more than in your promises.

We have been consumed by worry, and we have missed the joy that is right before us.

We have let fear rule our decisions. We have allowed anger to divide us. We have grown tired of waiting for you.

Forgive us, Lord.

Break into our lives with your mercy.

Wake us up to your presence.

Set our feet on the ground floor of your grace.

For Christ comes not to the high and mighty, but to the humble and the waiting.

Christ comes down to meet us where we are.

People of God, hear the good news: You do not need to climb to heaven. You do not need to prove your worth. You do not need to find the right place or the right time. Grace has come down to you—to the ground floor of your daily life. To the place where you are most burdened, most weary, most in need. As a thief in the night surprises a household, so the Son of Man comes with mercy that cannot be stopped. In Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Your burdens are lifted. Your hope is renewed.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. You, O God, work through grace-filled beginnings. Open our eyes to your truth and lead us to your grace. In all things, help us to know that your grace is for us, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

READINGS

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come
the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 122

Theme of the Psalm: I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.” (Ps. 122:1)

- ¹ I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.”
- ² **Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**
- ³ Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;
- ⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord. R**
- ⁵ For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶ **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**
- ⁷ Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.
- ⁸ **For the sake of my kindred and companions,
I pray for your prosperity.**
- ⁹ Because of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek to do you good.” **R**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans.

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ’s coming in the future.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not

in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter.

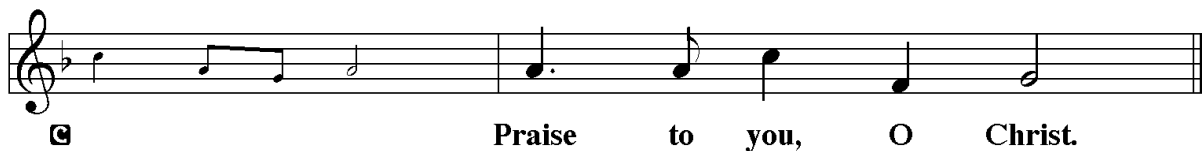


Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day

Noah entered the ark,³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man.⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left.⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into.⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord.



MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

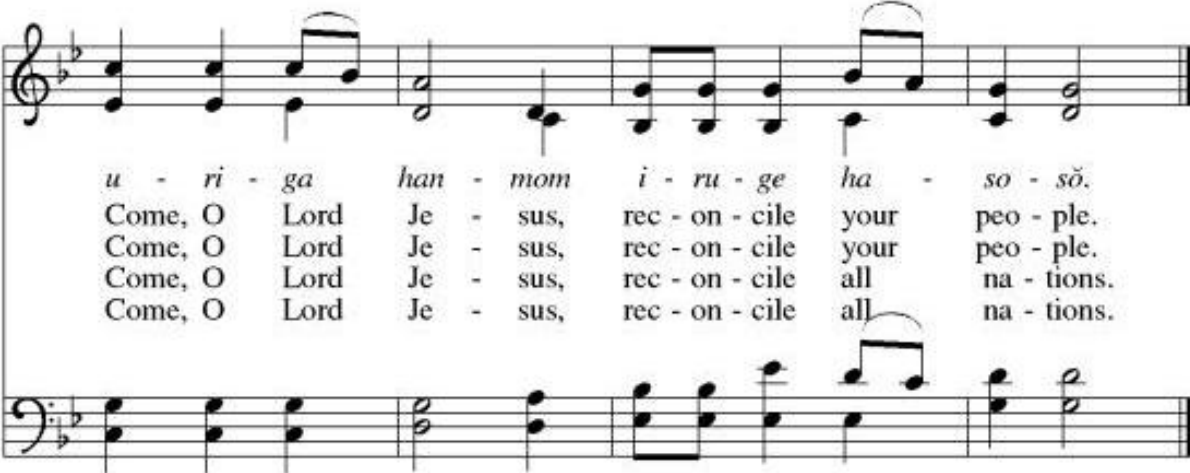
Come Now, O Prince of Peace ELW 247

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Ososŏ, ososŏ



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ūi - im - gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

NICENE CREED

Together, we profess our faith with the words of 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 INTERCESSION

Week 1 - Hope

As we wait for you, O loving God, we place before you our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

Silence for reflection.

Hope comes from you, O Lord. Reawaken the church for new possibilities even though we face trouble daily, God of hope
Receive our prayer.

Hope comes from you, O Lord. You are a God of justice and peace. Guide leaders of the nations to beat swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. God of hope,

Receive our prayer.

Hope comes from you, O Lord. Your goodness is revealed in mountains, valleys, and prairies. Provide favorable weather to sustain all of creation. God of hope,

Receive our prayer.

Hope comes from you, O Lord. You stand for the afflicted. Help us bring hope to those who feel hopeless: people gripped by addictions, those incarcerated, those on the margins, and those facing chronic and terminal illness. God of hope,

Receive our prayer.

Hope comes from you, O Lord. Overwhelm us with your hope. As we live out faith in our daily life, let those we encounter feel your love through us. When we are weary, wash us in grace. God of hope,

Receive our prayer.

Hope comes from you, O Lord. For those who paved the way to your kingdom through hope, we are grateful. Teach us through their example. God of hope,

Receive our prayer.

Placing our hope in you, we offer these prayers, trusting your pure goodness.

Amen.

PEACE

May the peace of God be with you and ignite in you the hope that Christ has come, is here, and will come again.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Love Came Down at Christmas

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God.... In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. 1 Jn. 4:7-11; Jn. 13:35

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in 4/4 time. The melody is in the soprano part, with the alto, tenor, and bass parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Love came down at Christ - mas, Love all love - ly, Love di - vine;
2. Wor - ship we the God - head, Love in - car - nate, Love di - vine;
3. Love shall be our to - ken, Love be yours and love be mine,

Love was born at Christ - mas, Star and an - gels gave the sign.
Wor - ship we our Je - sus: But where with for sa - cred sign?
Love to God and for all Love for plea and gift and sign.

WORDS: Christina G. Rossetti, *pub.* 1885. MUSIC: "Gartan"; Irish melody. Public Domain.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of the manger and the mud, We give thanks that you are not a god at a distance but God who came to live with us. You have never been far off—from creation's first breath to the cries in Bethlehem's stable, you've chosen the ground floor, the messy places, the ordinary lives, to reveal your extraordinary grace. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and trust. Take what we offer today— our coins, our commitments, our cracked hearts— and mold them with your holy hands. Infuse them with your mercy, multiply them with your love, and use them to build your kingdom right here, in the muck and miracle of everyday life. In Jesus' name, who meets us where we are,

Amen.

COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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.

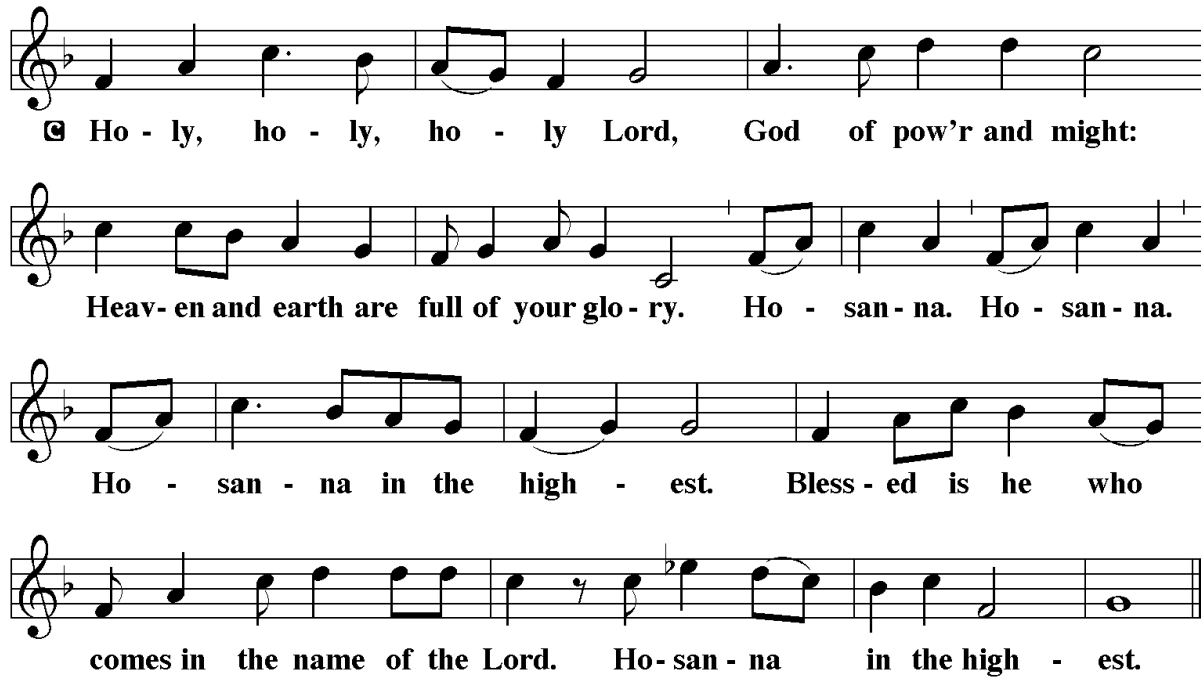
PREFACE

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the
world.

Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.

Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of
every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Each person responds

Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

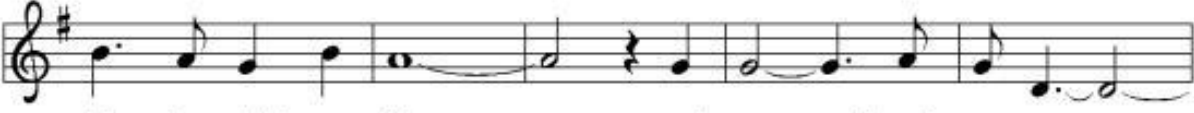
One Bread, One Body ELW 496

One Bread, One Body

Refrain



One bread, one bod - y, one Lord of all; one cup of



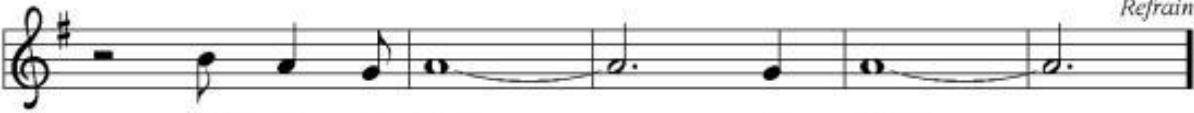
bles - sing which we bless, and we, though man - y



through - out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.



1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,



wom - an or man, no more.
one in the Lord of all.
gath - ered to one for all.

Refrain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy and gracious God, who shaped the stars and stooped to cradle dust, we give thanks that you meet us not in lofty heights, but on the ground floor—where life is raw, real, and aching for redemption. In this holy meal, You have fed us with mercy that took on flesh, with love that changed addresses and moved into a manger. You have entered our brokenness, not with distant judgment, but with hands dirtied by

creation, by carpentry, by cross-bearing grace. You meet us there—again and again—with bread, with wine, with grace. Send us now, nourished and renewed, to be your people: to serve, to love, to lift, to listen. Let our lives echo your humility, and let our hands bear your healing.

In the name of Jesus, who came down to raise us up.

Amen.

BLESSING

May God who comes down to meet us where we are,
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

All Earth is Hopeful ELW 266

All Earth Is Hopeful *Toda la tierra*



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

DISMISSAL

Go in joy. God's grace meets you where you are.
Thanks be to God.