

# HOLY EUCHARIST

## *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | DECEMBER 21, 2025 – 9:00AM & 11:00AM

---

### PRELUDE

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 659 – J.S. Bach (1685 - 1750)*

*Please stand as the bell sounds.*



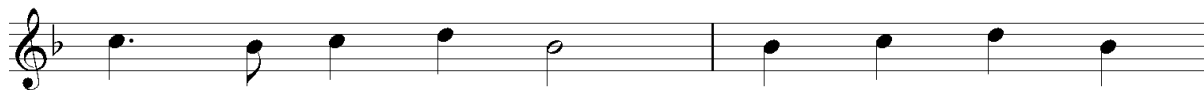
*Singing the "O Antiphons" during the weeks of Advent is a tradition that dates back to the fifth century. Each of the seven antiphons was sung each day of the week before Christmas, and contains a name for the Messiah given by the prophet Isaiah: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Morning Star, O King of the Nations, O Emmanuel (meaning God with us). We will sing one of these O Antiphons before the Gospel reading each Sunday.*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

Hymn 54



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's  
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the  
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing  
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both  
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and  
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and  
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.  
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

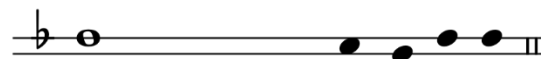
Words: Martin Luther (1483–1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340–397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812–1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)  
 Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpus (1560?–1616)

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The Celebrant intones*

O Come, Emmanuel, God with us in our waiting and in our wonder:

*The People respond*



Glory to God fore-ver and ev-er.

## THE TRISAGION

*sung once by the Choir or Cantor, and then twice by all*

The musical score for 'The Trisagion' is written for a two-part setting (Soprano and Bass) in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The first system contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,'. The second system contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.' The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass line.

Setting: Ver. Hymnal 1982, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924)

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*The Celebrant intones*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in the words of the prophets your promise is spoken. At last, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, your word takes flesh. Teach us to so welcome Jesus, the promised Emmanuel, and to preach the good news of his coming, that every age may know him as the source of redemption and grace. Grant this through the one whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your son, our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18*

*At 9:00am the Psalm is sung reflectively, with a slight pause at the asterisk.*

*At 11:00am, the Psalm is sung by the Cantor*



Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the | cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come | to help us.

Restore us, O | God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

O | God of hosts, \*  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers | of your people?

You have fed them with the | bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

You have made us the derision | of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.

Restore us, O | God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand, \*  
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.

And so will we never turn a-|way from you, \*  
give us life, that we may call u-|pon your Name.

Restore us, O | God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

Setting: plainsong tone II

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ANTIPHON *standing; all turn toward the Gospel as the Choir or Cantor sings*

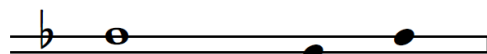
*O Emmanuel,  
Rex et legifer noster,  
expectatio gentium,  
et Salvator earum:  
veni ad salvandum nos,  
Domine, Deus noster.*

O Emmanuel,  
the one awaited by the gentiles,  
and their Savior:  
come to save us,  
Lord our God.

THE GOSPEL *The Deacon or Priest intones*

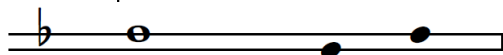
*Matthew 1:18-25*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

  
Glory to you, O Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

  
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*The Rev. Paul Carling  
Priest Associate*

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*During the season of Advent we will use the Affirmation of Faith (Creed) from one of our companion churches in the Anglican Communion, the Church of New Zealand. The prayers of this branch of the church are beloved throughout the Communion for their simple, direct, and creation-centered language in liturgy.*

**You O God, are supreme and holy.  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.  
You have revealed and proved your love to us in Jesus Christ,  
who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.**

**You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the world.  
You reconcile and heal.  
You overcome death.  
You are our God.  
We worship you.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the stillness of this season, we lift our hearts to the One who comes.

*(Silence)*

Come, Lord Jesus and awaken your Church to watch and pray. Kindle in us the light of your appearing.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Guide the nations in your wisdom, O Christ; teach us your ways of justice and peace.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Bless this community gathered in hope. Make us bearers of your light, and stewards of your promise.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Draw near to all who wait in darkness — the anxious, the weary, the forgotten. Let your dawn break upon them with healing.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Please speak aloud or offer in silence the names of those for whom you are praying.*

We remember before you those who have died and those who mourn. Gather them into your eternal dawn, where sorrow and sighing are no more.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

*Please speak aloud or offer in silence the names of those for whom you are praying.*

*We pray together*

**Come among us, O Christ, and make all things new.  
In your mercy, bring near the day  
when your justice and peace shall fill the earth,  
and all creation shall sing your praise. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of peace with those around you.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *seated*

---

### Supporting the Ministry of St. Paul's

St. Paul's is fully supported by the contributions of its members and friends.  
Visit the address below or click on the QR code to learn more about  
the opportunities to give and to make a one-time or sustaining gift  
to ensure the enduring and vibrant ministry of this place:



*[stpaulsnorwalk.org/support](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/support)*

**Thank You!**

---

## MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY *sung by the Cantor*

### **“He shall feed his flock”**

*G.F. Handel (1685 – 1759)*

“He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall  
gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them  
in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that  
are with young.”

Isaiah 40:11

“Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy  
laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke  
upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and  
lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your  
souls.”

Matthew 11:28–29

1 How bright ap - pears the Morn - ing Star, with mer - cy beam - ing  
2 Though cir - cled by the hosts on high, he deigned to cast a  
3 Re - joice, ye heavens; thou earth, re - ply; with praise, ye sin - ners,

from a - far; the host of heaven re - joic - es;  
pit - ying eye up - on his help - less crea - ture;  
fill the sky, for this his In - car - na - tion.

O right - eous Branch, O Jes - se's Rod! Thou Son of Man and  
the whole cre - a - tion's Head and Lord, by high - est ser - a -  
In - car - nate God, put forth thy power, ride on, ride on, great

Son of God! We, too, will lift our voic - es:  
phim a - dored, as - sumed our ve - ry na - ture;  
Con - quer - or, till all know thy sal - va - tion.



Je - sus, Je - sus! Ho - ly, ho - ly, yet most low - ly,  
 Je - sus, grant us, through thy mer - it, to in - her - it  
 A - men, a - men! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

draw thou near us; great Em - man - uel, come and hear us.  
 thy sal - va - tion; hear, O hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.  
 Praise be giv - en ev - er - more, by earth and hea - ven.

Words: William Mercer (1811–1873); after Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608)

Music: *Wie schön leuchtet*, melody att. Philipp Nicolai (1556–1608) arr. and harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy and eternal God, who comes to your people in every age. You spoke through the prophets, kindling hope in a weary world; you promise light to those who dwell in darkness, and peace to those who long for your reign. And so, watching and waiting, we join our voices with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - - - - ly, God of pow-er and  
might: Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo -  
ry be to you, O God most high. Bles - sed is he that comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san na in the high - est.

Setting: Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan (1880–1968)

*The Celebrant continues*

Blessed are you, gracious God, for your Word, coming into the world, the One who was, and is, and is to come. In Jesus, born of Mary, you drew near to us in vulnerability and love. He came to set us free, to turn our hearts to your coming kingdom.

On the night before he suffered and died, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

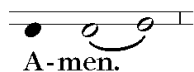
**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, O God, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ. Kindle your Spirit in our hearts, that we may be light for the world you love, until the dawning of your new day, when all creation shall be gathered to you, and every heart shall know your peace.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

*People*



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

*chanted by all on one note; the Choir will add harmonies*

**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 for ever. Amen.**

*Harmony: Society of St. John the Evangelist*

## THE COMMUNION

*The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying*

Come, Lord Jesus;  
fill us with your presence.

**Make us light for your coming kingdom of peace.**

*Everyone is welcome, without exception, to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free bread is available upon request; grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups at the side altars. (For the health of all, we are no longer dipping the bread into the chalice wine by hand.)*

**Receiving Communion in a new way:** If you are currently not drinking from the common cup, the chalice-bearer will still say “The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation” when they come to you in line. Try this: reach out a hand and touch the base of the chalice while the words are being said. That may feel like a more open and connecting gesture than crossing the arms over the chest. Either way is fine, but this is another way we can participate in the “one bread and one cup” image of the Life of Christ in us.

*Healing prayer is available in the side aisles for those wishing to pray with someone for any need in their lives.*

*All sing as the distribution of Communion begins:*

Organ

O Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. O Lamb of  
God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sins of the world,  
grant us your peace.

Setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880–1968)

MUSIC AT COMMUNION      *sung by the Choir at 11:00am*

**Ave Maria**

*Franz Schubert (1797 – 1828)*

*Ave Maria, gratia plena  
Dominus tecum;  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.  
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,  
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,  
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.  
Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with thee;  
Blessed art thou amongst women,  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners,  
Now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION      *standing*

God of abundance,  
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

## SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

*When Lay Eucharistic Visitors are sent out to bring the Sacrament to the sick or homebound, the following charge is given.*

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that *those* to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's body and blood.

*The People respond*

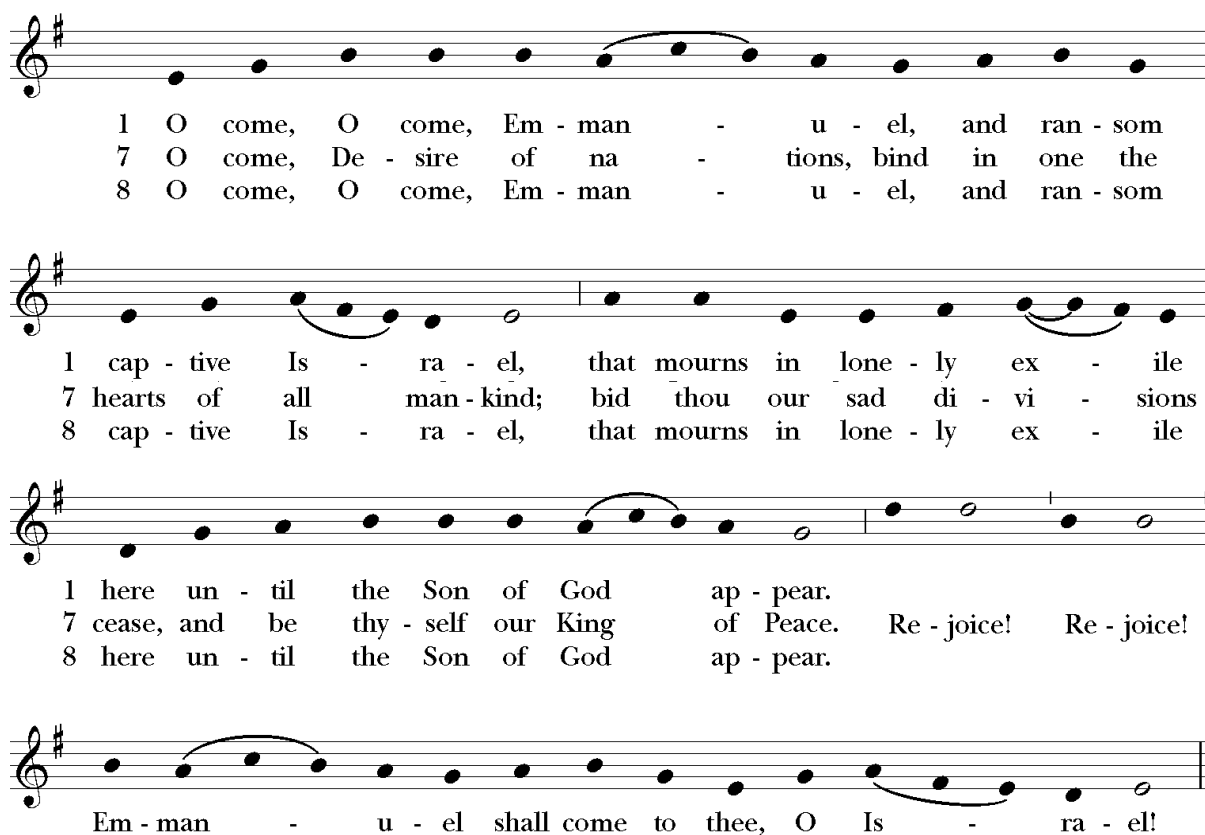
**We, who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup.**

## THE BLESSING

*The Priest blesses a seasonal blessing, concluding with*

– and the blessing of God Almighty: Source of all Being, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Spirit,  
be upon you, now and forever.

**Amen.**



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the  
 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions  
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Music: Stuttgart, melody from *Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793–1870), alt.

## THE DISMISSAL

*The Deacon sends the People in service to the world, and the People respond*

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Toccata on ‘Veni Emmanuel’ – Andrew Carter*

---

ST PAUL'S ON THE GREEN – 60 EAST AVE., NORWALK, CT 06851

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 [info@stpaulsnorwalk.org](mailto:info@stpaulsnorwalk.org)

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Rector*

The Rev. Paul Carling *Priest Associate*

Savannah Curro *Seminarian*

Joshua Ehlebracht *Director of Music*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*

*All music in this leaflet is printed with permission from OneLicense.net, License #A-709109*  
*Psalms: © Order of Saint Helena, used by permission*