

# PEACE

What Child IS This?



*"The Silent Word"*

2nd Sunday of Advent

*December 7, 2025*



Ascension Lutheran Church  
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Ogden, UT 84404  
801.782.2810

## Welcome to Worship...

Welcome to all God's guests, especially those who are here for the first time or who call yourselves "visitors" among the people of this community. It is at God's invitation, through worship, the Holy Spirit calls each of us to come to a place of **community, communion** and **commitment**. Each of us brings a different lens to worship, and yet, in a worshiping community, these differences become celebrations of diversity.

**Children are always welcome in worship services;  
however please know the cry room at the back of the sanctuary is  
available for parents who need to tend to their little ones.**

*Like the iconic figures gathered around the Christ Child in our nativity scenes, we gather together because we want to know Jesus more as we seek to bring his Reign of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love on earth.*

*Welcome to Worship*

*Please silence your cellphones*

## *Peace*

**P** We continue our Advent series inspired by the dear carol, “What Child is This?” However, we are asking it this way: “What Child **IS** This?” We are going “Beyond the Lullaby” to ask many more questions of who this child was, especially in the time that he was born which was not really a peaceful time for all people, even though it was called the “Pax Romana.”

***All                    Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.***

### *Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

**WA** The poet of our theme carol, “What Child is This,” penned the phrase “the silent Word is pleading.” Our vision of the child in the manger may be the soothing lullaby and the silent night, but the reality of babies, and of that time in history, is that of a “crying out.” It was a time when many were silenced, and the need for prophesying justice in the midst of trauma was great. Zechariah does this when his silence is lifted. The Word became Flesh for such a time.

**R1** We light this candle of Peace for those who need it most.

**R2** For all who are being silenced.

**R1** For all who are afraid to speak out.

**R2** For all who know that peace comes with justice.

**R1** Our question for today at the scene of the nativity is this:  
“How will we cry out for true peace for ALL people?  
How will we soothe the trauma of the world in our time?”

**R2** What child **IS** this? This, this, is the Prince of Peace who invites us to proclaim his reign forever.

**All**      *This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

*Prayer for This Day*

**P** Let us pray:

Here, at the nativity of your birth, give us the courage to face this moment with new air in our lungs.

**All** Open us to new understandings of the unfolding story of your presence among us.

Show us the true meaning of peace on earth, good will for all.

We pray in the name of the Child,

the Prince of Peace in our hearts and lives.

**Amen.**

*Today we hear the story of Zechariah and Elizabeth. It was in this time of “peace with oppression” that religious leaders like Zechariah had to serve, making sure to walk the line of honor to God, but deference to Caesar and to Herod, the so-called “King of the Jews.”*

*A Reading from Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter*

In the days of the ruler Herod, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the priestly class of Abijah. His wife Elizabeth was a descendant of Aaron. Both were worthy in the sight of God and scrupulously observed all the commandments and observances of our God. They were childless—unable to conceive—and they were both advanced in years. Now it was the turn of Zechariah’s priestly class to serve. And as he was fulfilling his priestly office before God, it fell to him by lot, according to priestly usage, to enter the sanctuary of our God and offer incense. While the full assembly of people was praying outside at the time of day when the incense was offered, an angel of our God appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. Zechariah was deeply disturbed upon seeing the angel, and was overcome with fear.

The angel said to him, “Don’t be frightened, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son, whom you’ll name John. He will be your joy and delight and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of our God. He must never drink wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother’s womb. And he will bring many of the children of Israel back to their God Most High. He will go before God as a forerunner, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the rebellious to the wisdom of the just—to make ready a people prepared for our God.”

Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife too is advanced in age.” The angel replied, “I am Gabriel, who stands before God. I was sent to speak to you and bring you this good news. But because you have not trusted my words, you’ll be mute—unable to speak—until the day these things take place. They’ll all come true in due season.” Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondered about his delay in the sanctuary. When he finally came out he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision inside. But he could only make signs to them and remained mute. Then, when his time of priestly service was over, he went home.

Some time later, Elizabeth conceived. She went into seclusion for five months, saying, “Our God has done this for me. In these days, God has shown favor to us and taken away the disgrace of our having no children.”

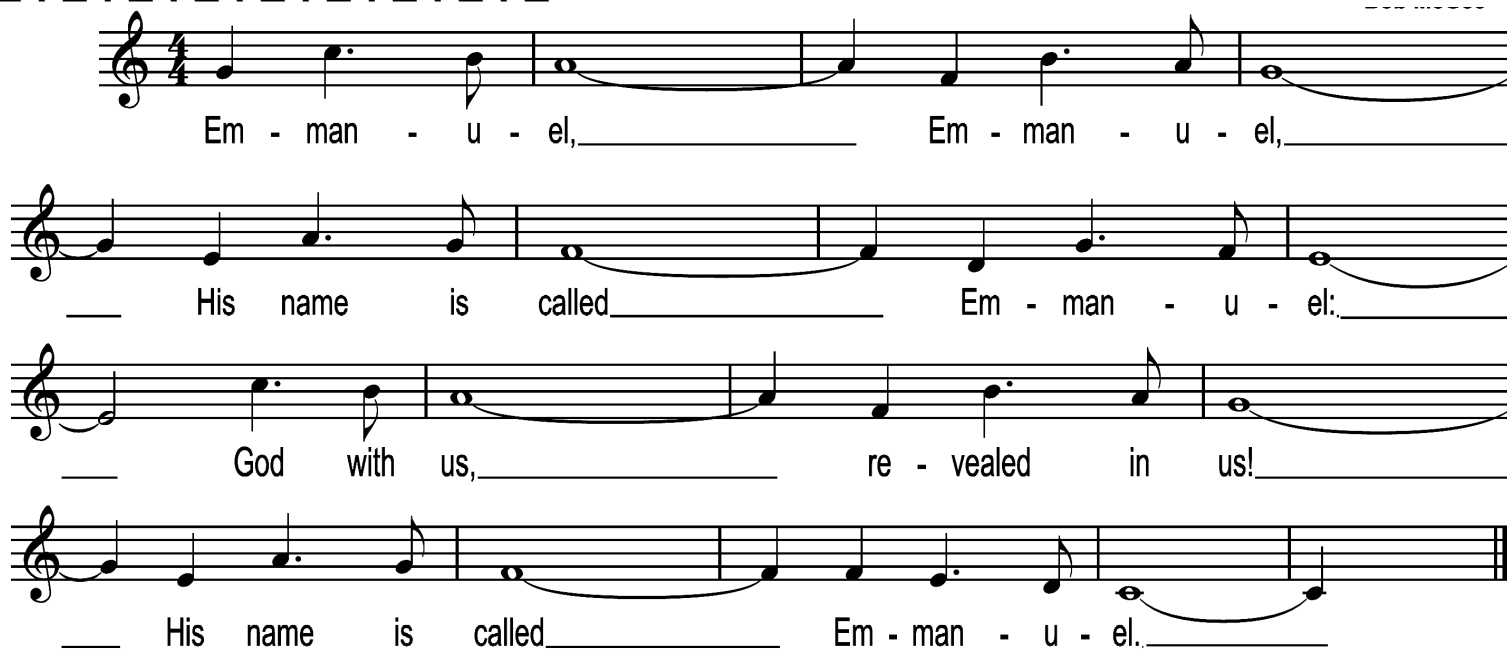
*L* Word of God, Word of **Peace**.

**All Thanks be to God!**



## Gospel Acclamation

Please stand in body or spirit.



## Gospel Reading

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**All** Glory to you, O Lord.

*The story of Zechariah continues after the birth of their son. As was promised, Zechariah was silent no longer. When he began to speak, it was a word of prophecy about his son John making the way for the Promised One and the way of true peace. Hear the story as it continues:*

When the time came for Elizabeth to deliver, she gave birth to a son. When her neighbors and relatives heard that God had been merciful to her, they shared her joy. When all had assembled for the circumcision on the eighth day, they intended to name the baby after his father Zechariah. But his mother spoke up, "No, he is to be called John."

They pointed out to her, "But no one in your family has this name." Then they made signs to the father to find out what he wanted the child to be named. The father asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." They were all astonished.

Immediately Zechariah's mouth was opened and his tongue was loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God. Their neighbors were all filled with awe, and throughout the hill country of Judea, people were talking about these

events. All who heard the news stored it in their hearts and said, “What will this child turn out to be?” For God’s hand was with him. Zechariah, John’s father, was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

“Blessed are you, the Most High God of Israel—  
for you have visited and redeemed your people.  
You have raised up a mighty savior for us of the house of David,  
as you promised through the mouths of your holy ones,  
the prophets of ancient times: salvation from our enemies  
and from the hands of all who hate us.

You have shown mercy to our ancestors  
by remembering the holy Covenant you made with them,  
the oath you swore to Sarah and Abraham, granting that we,  
delivered from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve you without fear, in holiness and justice,  
in your presence all our days.

And you, little child, you shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you’ll go before the Lord  
to prepare the way for the Promised One,  
giving the people the knowledge of salvation  
through forgiveness of their sins.

Such is the tender mercy of our God, who from on high  
will bring the Rising Sun to visit us, to give light to those who live  
in darkness and the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

In the meantime, the child grew up and became strong in spirit. He lived out  
in the desert until the day he appeared openly in Israel.

*Luke 1:57-80*

*P* The Gospel of our Lord.

**All Praise to you, O Christ.**

[You may be Seated](#)

# Children's Sermon & Noisy Offering

*Message*

**Pr. Debra Jimenez**

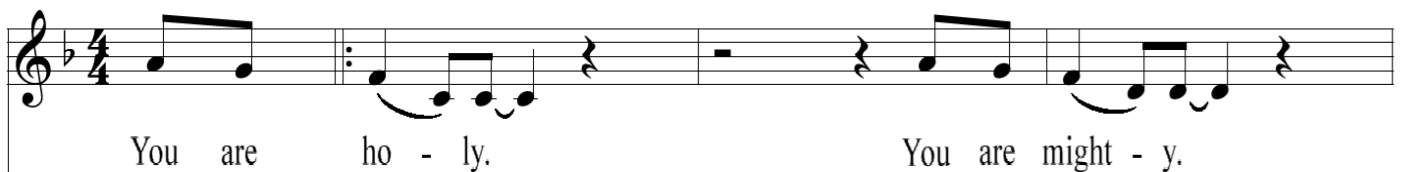
*Hymn of the Day*

Please stand in body or spirit.

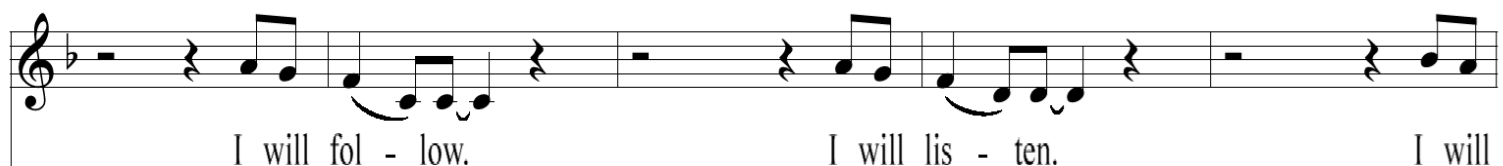
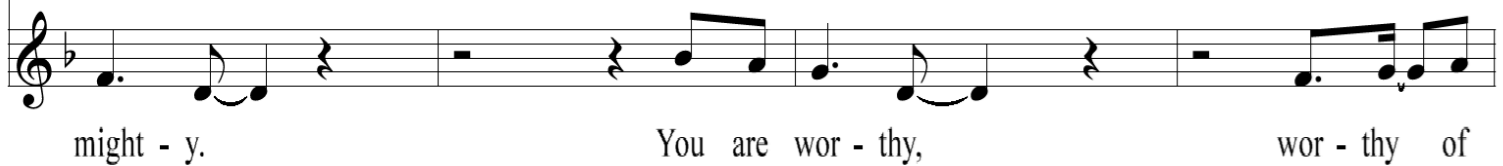
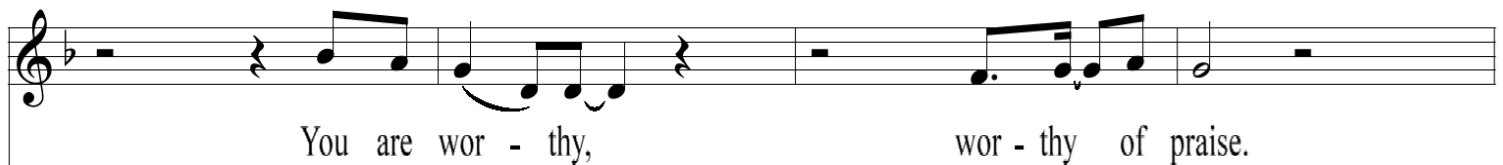
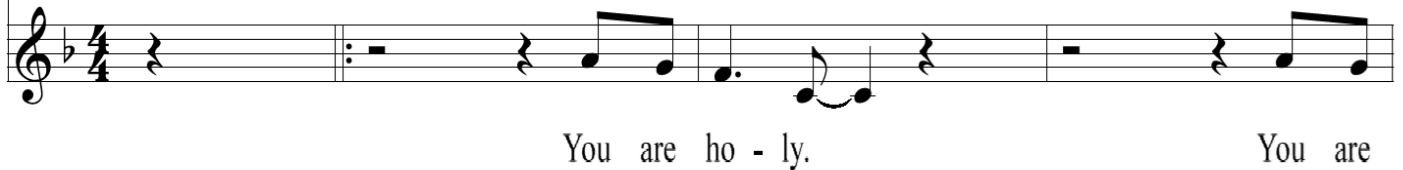
**You Are Holy (Prince Of Peace)**

*Words and Music by  
Marc Imboden and Tammi Rhoton*

*Men:*



*Women:*







love You, all of my days. I will

I will love You, all of my days. You are

**CHORUS 1 & 2 (sung together)**



sing to and wor - ship the King who is

Lord of lords, You are King of kings, You are might - y God, Lord of

wor - thy. And I will love and a - dore Him, and I will

ev - 'ry - thing. You're Em - man - u - el, You're the Great I Am, You're the

bow down be - fore Him. And I will sing to and

Prince of Peace who is the Lamb. You're the Liv - ing God, You're my

wor - ship the King who is wor - - thy. And I will

sav - ing grace. You will reign for - ev - er; You are An - cient of Days. You are

love and a - dore Him, And I will bow down be -  
Al - pha O - me - ga, Be - gin - ning and End. You're my Sav - ior; Mes - si - ah, Re -

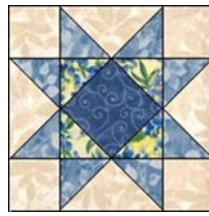
**INSTRUMENTAL**

*All:* 1  
fore Him. You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for You.  
deem - er and Friend. You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for You.

(1) *Men:* 2  
You are live my life for You.  
live my life for You.

*All:* **ENDING**  
You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for You.  
You're my Prince of Peace, and I will live my life for You.

## *Blessing of the Quilts*



*P* This morning, we celebrate the quilt ministry of this Congregation. We give thanks for the opportunity—out of love and concern for our brothers and sisters—to share these quilts, a tangible gift to those in need. May these quilts reflect God’s love and bring comfort to those who will receive them.

### **AFFIRMATION OF QUILT MINISTRY**

Without knowing who will receive it, each of these quilts were made specifically for the person who will receive it. This is one of the beautiful mysteries of God.

May each recipient see the intricate love and care stitched into their quilt, mirroring the intricate love and care that God bestows on all people.

May this quilt bring warmth to someone who feels a chill.

***All* May they feel the warm breath of the Holy Spirit as they wrap themselves with it.**

*P* This quilt was made to bring comfort to someone who feels alone.

***All* May they feel comfort in knowing that someone prayed for them as they pieced it together.**

*P* May the power of the Holy Spirit live and breathe within each one of us, through these quilts and through the lives they will touch.

***All* Amen.**



***THANK YOU TO EACH ONE WHO SHARED IN CREATING THESE BEAUTIFUL QUILTS.  
KNOW DEEP WITHIN YOUR SOUL THAT YOUR GIFTS OF  
MATERIAL, THREADS, STITCHING, LAUGHTER AND LOVE  
WILL BLESS SO MANY.***

## *Profession of Faith*

**P** Let us join together with the saints across the ages confessing our faith.

It is good, Holy One, to give thanks to you,  
always and everywhere.

You created us, you loved us into being,  
you delivered us, and you spoke to us through prophets.  
And then the time came for you to be with us, Emmanuel.

**All** In a time of trouble, poverty, and pain,  
Living was a struggle. Hoping was a strain.  
Fear and desperation robbed the world of joy.  
In a weary nation, Mary had a boy.

**P** Mary's boy became a man, compassionate and kind.  
He invited all to follow the way of the kin-dom,  
the commonwealth of God.  
Wherever he went, he tended to those who suffered.

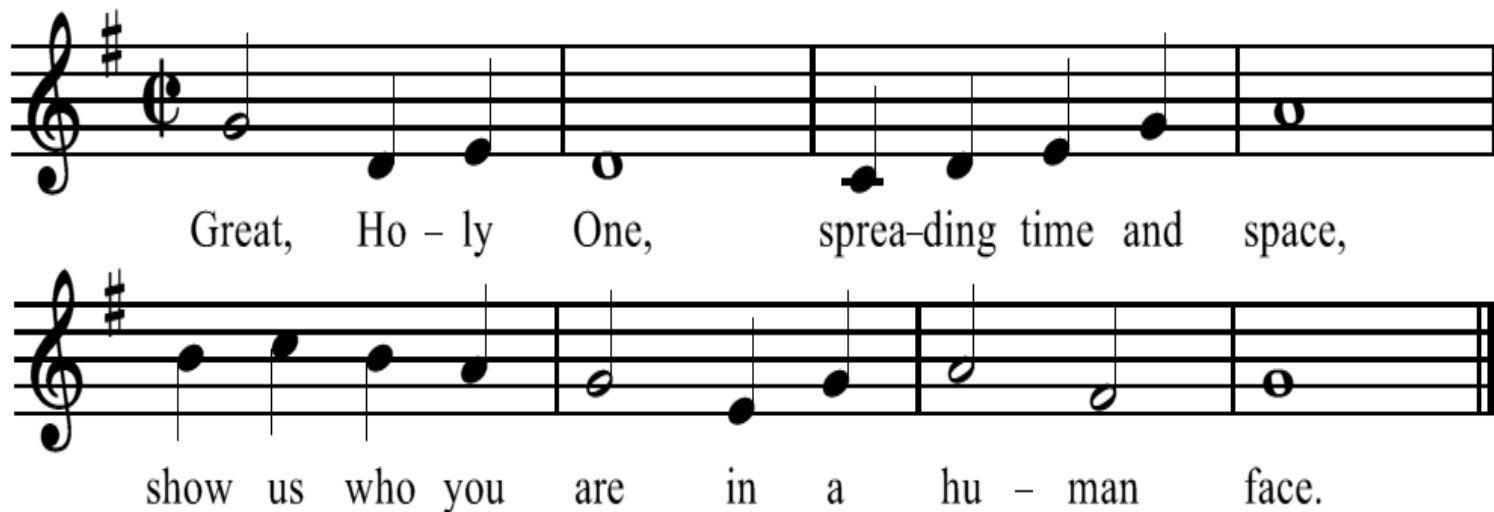
**All** Teaching, feeding, healing, Jesus showed the way,  
Sacred love revealing day by day by day,  
Practicing resistance, cultivating care,  
Centered in persistence, every act a prayer.

**P** His own suffering at the hands of the elite  
gave birth to a movement of your Spirit, O God,  
that would forge a new covenant of **hope**.  
Jesus promised to be with us always,  
in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

**All** Amen

## *Prayers of the People*

WA In this moment of silent contemplation, we lift up our hopes for the world, for its people, for the kind of kingdom embodied by the child who became the Prince of Peace.



*Cantors Seeking one, how will you meet us?  
“In the person who resists, hate and greed and then persists;  
When my people work together,  
Righting ancient wrongs, Singing peaceful songs.”*

**All** *Great, Holy One, spreading time and space,  
show us who You are in a human face.*

WA Holy Living One, Child of Peace, Spirit of Justice,  
we come to you today weary of ongoing unrest,  
weary of greedy forces claiming what’s “right” for the many  
based on what benefits the few.  
We know you are with us, for you came to our human story  
when we needed your message so much.  
We still do.

We ask, “what child is this that we follow,  
and who are we in the scene of this unfolding story?”

**All**            *Great, Holy One, spreading time and space,  
show us who You are in a human face.*

WA      As the manger waits for your arrival,  
            we again plead for your presence to break into our lives  
            and show us the light of peace.  
And we ask for the courage to step into the scene,  
            and raise our voices for those who cannot.

**All**            *Great, Holy One, spreading time and space,  
show us who You are in a human face.*

*Sharing the **Peace** of Christ*

*In our continued physical distancing out of love for the health of one another, we will share the peace of our risen Lord by “speaking” that peace through sign language.*

**P**      Christ become **Peace** with you.

**All**      And also with you.

*Offering*      [You may be Seated](#)

*Offering plates are available at the entrance to receive your offerings.  
We will lift them up in thanksgiving before the throne of grace.*

**All**            *So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
                    come peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
                    let loving hearts enthrone him.*



## *Offertory Prayer*

*P* What gifts are adequate for the Silent Word, the Prince of Peace?  
Whether what we have to give is simply the gift of our presence and gratitude, or if we are privileged with coffers of precious resources, we give what we can. In this way we “take ownership” of our role in the scene, in the unfolding story of Hope.

Let us pray:

Eternal God,  
you make the desert bloom  
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.

***All* Receive these simple gifts of time, talent, and treasure  
and make us messengers of your mercy and love  
for all in need of your healing and justice.  
We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## *Confession and Assurance*

*P* We are captive, exiled, O God because we have, each in our own way, chosen our own path, away from you.

***All* We are hungry for wisdom and knowledge, because we have,  
too often, substituted our judgement for yours.  
We are lost, in need of guidance.**

**Come, Lord Jesus; forgive us and restore us.  
Come, Lord Jesus; guide us and deliver us.  
Come, Lord Jesus; teach us and renew us.  
Come, Lord Jesus.**

*P* God, our kind and loving Savior God, has stepped in and saved us.

***All* God gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people,  
Washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit.  
Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously.**

*P* God's gift has restored our relationship with God  
and given us back our lives.  
And there's more life to come—an eternity of life!  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen**

*The Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution*

*P* The Lord be with you.

**All And also with you.**

*P* Lift up your hearts.

**All We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**All It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*P* On the night in which he gave himself up for us,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:  
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
“Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice,  
in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**All**      *♪ ♪ Christ came to uplift us, by his life we give. ♪ ♪  
Christ gave up his lifeblood, by his death we live.  
Christ comes to us now, still, as we gather here.  
Christ will come again, so, nothing shall we fear.*

**P** Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,  
so that we may be for the world the body of Christ,  
redeemed by his blood.  
  
By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other,  
and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory  
and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Amen.

**All**      *♪ ♪ So, my friends and neighbors, now it's up to us. ♪ ♪  
May we welcome strangers, building faith and trust.  
May we live like Jesus in our time and place  
'Til this weary nation knows amazing grace.*

### *The Lord's Prayer*

**P** Let us approach the throne of grace as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**All**      **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.**

### *The Invitation*

**P** In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.  
Come, take your place at the table.

Note: the communion cups on the periphery of the tray contain red wine while the cups in the center contain white grape juice.

*Gluten Free wafers available –ask the communion attendant*

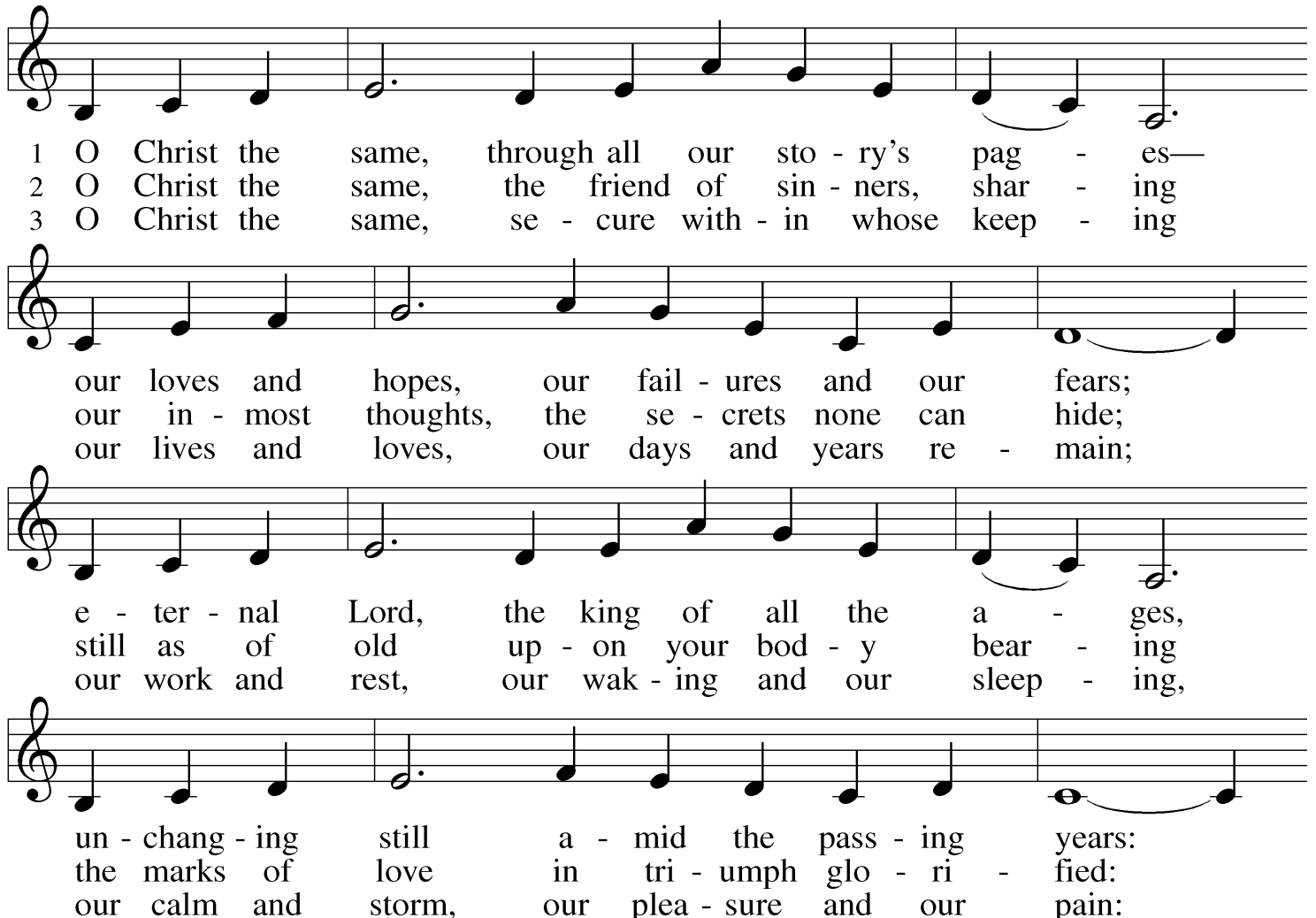
## Communion Songs

### ♪ O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ♪

**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.**

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

### O Christ the Same



1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—  
2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing  
3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;  
our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;  
our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,  
still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing  
our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:  
the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:  
our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:



O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,  
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—  
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;  
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;  
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,  
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:  
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.  
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.  
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

## Come And Behold Him

Words and Music by  
 John Chisum and George T. Searcy



1 Come and be - hold Him, come, see His glo - ry,  
 2 Come and be - hold Him, come, see His mer - cy,

come with an hon - est heart to see all He is;  
 come find His ten - der - ness\_ reach - ing to you;

We will dis - cov - er all of His beau - ty, His light will  
 Just as a mir - ror shows a re - flec - tion, His Word and

burn a - way all the dark - ness we've known. Come and be -  
 Spir - it come, now re - flect - ing His love. hold Him, come and be - hold Him, come with an  
 hon - est heart to see all He is; Come and be -  
 hold Him, wait now be - fore Him, come with an  
 hon - est heart to see all He is.

### *Post Communion Blessing and Prayer*

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
 and keep you in his grace.

**All** Amen

**P** Generous God,  
 in bread and cup you have revealed your glory  
 for all people to see together.

**All** Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim  
 your good news of liberation and release,  
 brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.  
 Amen.



# *Stewardship of Life and Ministry Announcements*

*We ask, We Answer*

[Please stand in body or spirit.](#)

WA                      As we prepare to go into the world,  
let us ask and answer the question we came with.

All                      **What child IS this?**

WA                      his is the one born in a time  
when too many were silenced.

All                      **What child IS this?**

WA                      This is the one whose voice would ring out,  
reminding all that peace does not come through violence.

All                      **What child IS this?**

WA                      This, this is the “Prince of Peace”  
who shows us the kingdom in which all have a voice,  
and no one is afraid.

## *Benediction & Sending*

*P* May the Voice of the Divine,  
the Child of Peace,  
the Spirit of Resistance to Injustice  
be with you now and as you go.

In the name of the Father,  
And of the Son,  
and of the ✝ Holy Spirit

**All Amen**

**All** *This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary!*

## *Dismissal*

*WA* Go in peace. The Prince of Peace is near.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## What Child IS This?

Readings for next Sunday,  
December 14<sup>th</sup>  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

**Gospel:**

Luke 1:26-56

### Revised Common Lectionary

**First Reading:**

Isaiah 35:1-10

**Psalm:**

Psalm 146:5-10

**Second Reading:**

James 5:7-10

**Gospel:**

Matthew 11:2-11

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