

## **Advent Candle Lighting**

### **Micah 5: 2-4**

#### **Leader:**

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans<sup>[b]</sup> of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

**People: O King of all nations, Jesus Christ,  
only joy of every human heart,  
O Keystone of the mighty arch of man,  
Come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust**

### **Advent Candle Lighting Music: Holy is your name (verse 5)**

In your love, you now fulfill what you promised to your people.  
I will praise you, Lord, my savior, everlasting is your mercy.

And holy is your name, through all generations!  
Everlasting is your mercy to the people you have chosen,  
And holy is your name.

## **Opening Hymn: Change My Heart, O God**

Change my heart, O God,  
make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God,  
may I be like You.

You are the potter; I am the clay.  
Mold me and make me;  
this is what I pray.

Change my heart, O God,  
make it ever true.  
Change my heart, O God,  
May I be like You.

## **A Voice Cries Out**

A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord!  
A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
Make straight a highway for God!

Ev'ry valley is made a plain,  
ev'ry mountain is leveled  
the glory of God shall then be revealed,  
and the nations will sing in praise.

A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord!  
A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
Make straight a highway for God!

A voice shouts: "Cry!" O what shall I cry?  
All flesh is like grass and its flowers:  
the grass may wither, the flower may fade,  
but the Word of the Lord is forever.

A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord!  
A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
Make straight a highway for God!

Zion, shout from the mountain top,  
lift up your voice O Jerusalem,  
and say to the people of God's own land,  
"Behold, behold your God!"

A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
Prepare a way for the Lord!  
A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
Make straight a highway for God!

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Collect for Purity**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open,  
All desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
By the inspiration of your holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify  
your holy name, through Christ our Lord,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Officiant:** God be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Officiant:** Let us pray

**Collect:** Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

## **Isaiah 11:1-10**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the  
ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire  
of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Lector:** The word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### **Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19**

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, \*  
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name forever! \*  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.

### **Romans 15:4-13**

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised, on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";  
and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him";  
and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Lector:** The word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Sequence: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v. 5)**

O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,  
unto your own and rescue them!  
From depths of hell your people save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.

*Refrain*

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.

**Matthew 3:1-12**

**Officiant:** The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**People:** **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to

him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

**Officiant:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to you, Lord Christ

**Sequence: O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.

**Sermon**

**The Nicene Creed**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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 the People**

#### *Intercessions and Thanksgivings Shared*

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord, remind us that you are always with us, that like Joseph we might always be eager to fulfill your will, and be eager to pray:

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign. We pray for the church, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations. We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear. We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind especially those we name now;

*Intercessions shared here*

We pray to you, mothering God, to heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.  
Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In your Kingdom, O Lord, even the wilderness and dry land are glad and rejoice. We give thanks for those who rejoice this week, especially for those joys we now name;

*Thanksgivings shared here*

Shield the joyous, Father, for your love's sake.  
Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

In the fullness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary. And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us. We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present with those whom we love but see no longer.  
Come Lord Jesus, **and hear our prayer.**

**Officiant**

O Christ, hear our prayers, restore us, and show us the glorious light of your countenance, that we might be saved. Come Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

**Confession:** *You are welcomed to stand or to kneel*

**Officiant:** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*a brief silence is observed*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**  
**Absolution**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## Peace

## Announcements

### Birthday Prayer

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant N. as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Anniversary Prayer

O God, be with N. and N., as they celebrate another year together. Deepen their love for each other, grant them joy, and make their life together a blessing to all, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### Offertory Hymn: On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a -
2. Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make straight the way for God with - in, and
3. Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us rise to fall no more; oh
4. All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent has our free - dom won, whom



wake and heark - en, for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
let us all our hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
let your face up - on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
with our God do we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er more.

## Communion Prayer

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts in prayer.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Let us pray:

**Blessed are you, Breath of peace, Giver of all life,**

**Source of love that knows no boundaries.**

Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began; throughout the ages, your song of liberation has impregnated us with your hope for a world where those considered last and least are first and most; violence is overcome by the power of your ancient love; and, all your children work together for peace.

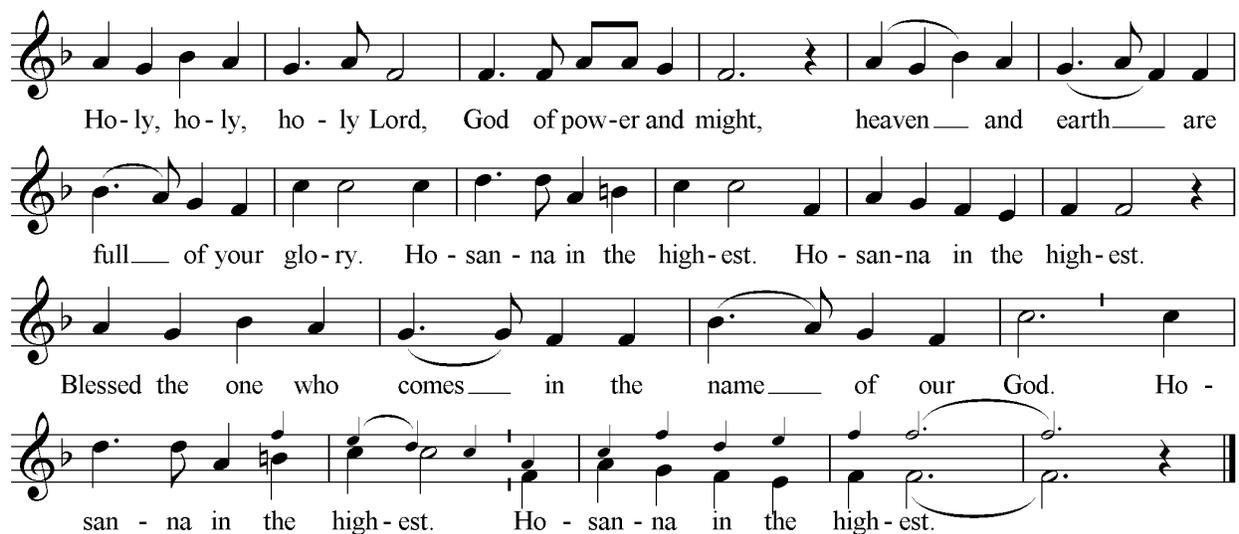
**You bring our longings to birth, and send prophets to awaken us to your approaching Advent among us.**

We thank you for those who, like Mary, have the strength and courage to give birth to your love in the world; for those who, like the shepherds, dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem; for those who, like the wise ones, actively challenge violent and oppressive powers.

We join in the Advent prayer of all your people,  
**“O come, Emmanuel.”**

And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us,  
we proclaim your goodness.

## Sanctus: Proulx



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heaven \_\_\_ and earth \_\_\_ are  
full \_\_\_ of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed the one who comes \_\_\_ in the name \_\_\_ of our God. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

God of hope, make this bread the means of our rebuilding,  
this wine the medium of our transformation,  
this table the foundation of our renewal,  
and this community the place of our rebirth. **Amen.**

At this time, we remember Jesus,  
Who on the night before he died,  
took a loaf of bread,  
gave you thanks, broke it, and said,  
“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”

**Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,  
“This is the new covenant; remember me.”**

Gracious God, Breath of peace,  
Source of love,  
we pray for your Spirit.

**Make us, while many, one.  
Make us, though broken, whole.  
Make us, despite death, alive.**

And so we pray:  
**Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

### **The Lord’s Prayer: Pulkingham**

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 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 forever.  
Amen. Amen.

### **Fraction**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefor let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

## **Invitation to Communion**

### **The Cup**

*The chalice with a ribbon is for those who wish to drink from the cup*

*The chalice without a ribbon is for dripping the host into the wine (intincture).  
Please hand the chalice bearer our host and they will dip the host in the chalice for you*

### **Healing Stations During Communion**

*There will be a healing station by the side of the Altar where a Pastoral Care Minister will be located for prayer and anointing during the Eucharist.*

## **Communion: Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming**

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As men of old have sung.  
It came, a flower bright,  
Amid the cold of winter  
When half-gone was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind:  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
She bore to men a Savior  
When half-gone was the night.

## **Post Communion Prayer**

### **Officiant and People:**

**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.**

**Blessing:**

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the darkness from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing God, Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer be with you  
this day and forever more. Amen

**Closing Hymn: My Lord, He is a Comin' soon****Chorus:**

*My Lord, He is a comin' soon,  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.  
Get everything ready for that day.  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.*

If you're asleep, it's time to wake up.  
Awake, O sleeper, arise.  
If you're in the dark, it's time to be lit.  
Awake, O sleeper, arise!

**Chorus:**

*My Lord, He is a comin' soon,  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.  
Get everything ready for that day.  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.*

Come, Lord Jesus, come into my heart!  
Prepare ye the way of the King.  
He is coming, He's coming soon  
Prepare the way of the King!

**Chorus:**

*My Lord, He is a comin' soon,  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.  
Get everything ready for that day.  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord.*

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**