

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

P: Blessed Lord, who has caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may thus hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that by patience and comfort of your holy Word we may embrace, and ever hold fast, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - - - men.

THE BLESSING

P: 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 upon on you with favor and give you (+) peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

#274 "My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord"

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**"The Messiah's coming brings the joy
of the LORD's salvation"**



Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church

Advent 4

December 24, 2017

THE GATHERING OF GOD'S PEOPLE BEFORE HIM

OPENING HYMN "Jesus, Your Church with Longing Eyes" (CW #9)

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, pleading with Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: **And you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

P: Almighty God our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and action. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy on us and for His sake grant us forgiveness of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, for this purpose, that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those that believe on His name He gives power to become the sons of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this Lord to us all.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

C: **We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to the works of the devil.**

P: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

C: **Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

P: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

C: **Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

P: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child, but as the Lord of lords.

C: **Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: **Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

THE APOSTLES CREED

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.

Please be seated

HYMN

#23 “Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel”

SERMON

Luke 1:46,47

“Christ’s Coming Brings Joy”

- 1. This joy centers in Christ**
- 2. This joy magnifies Christ**

RESPONSE

#19 – “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” (vs. 3-4)

**Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,
Who mourn o’er joys departed and tremble at your doom.
Despair not; he is near you, he’s standing at the door
Who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more**

**Sin’s debt that fearful burden let not your souls distress;
Your guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace.
He comes for you procuring the peace of sin forgiv’n,
His children thus securing a heritage in heav’n.**

Please be seated

OFFERING

Please Stand

PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Sings “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord” CW #28 - vs. 1, 3-5

**Let the earth now praise the Lord who has truly kept his Word
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner’s help and friend.**

**What the fathers most desired, what the prophets’ heart inspired
What they longed for many a year stands fulfilled in glory here.**

**Welcome, O my Savior, now! Joyful, Lord, to you I bow.
Come into my heart I pray; oh, prepare yourself a way.**

**Crush for me the serpent’s head that, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to you in faith, safely kept through life and death.**

P: The LORD be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of your 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.



C: A - - - men.

Please be seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 12:1-6

In that day you will say, "I will give thanks to you, LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger has turned away, and you comfort me." 2 Surely God is my salvation. I will trust and will not be afraid; for the LORD Yahweh is my strength and song, and he has become my salvation." 3 Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. 4 In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the LORD! Proclaim his name Declare his deeds among the peoples. Proclaim that his name is exalted! 5 Sing to the LORD, for he has done amazing things! Let this be known in all the earth! 6 Shout aloud and sing for joy, daughter of Zion, for the Holy One of Israel is great among you!" (EHV)

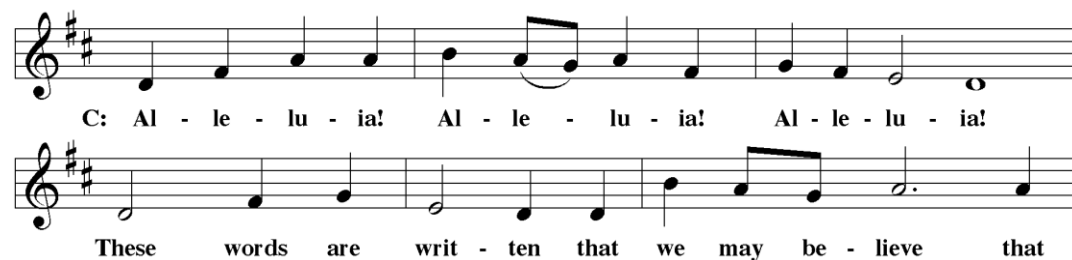
PSALM 92 (p.101 in front section of hymnal)

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-7

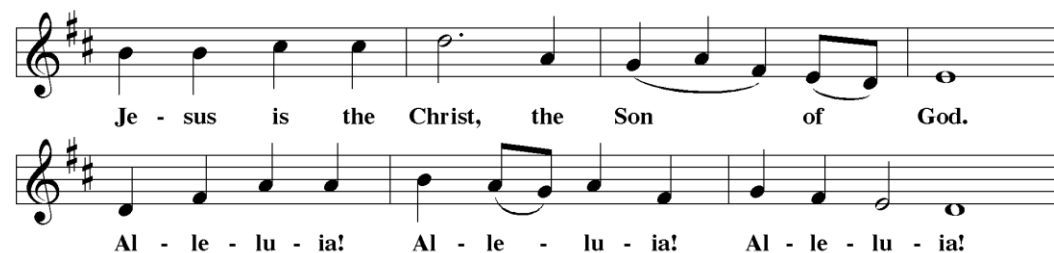
4 Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (ESV)

VERSE OF THE DAY



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!

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:46-55

46 Then Mary said, My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, 47 and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, 48 because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. 51 He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts. 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones. He has lifted up the lowly. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty. 54 He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, 55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever. (EHV)



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!