

Season of Advent 2024



“Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight his paths”
Luke

3:4

St. Patrick Church

Lake Forest, IL

Father Jerry Gunderson, Administrator

Penitential Rite

Refer to the prayer cards in the pews (Please Sing)

First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: 33:14-16

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah. In those days, in that time, I will raise up for David a just shoot; he shall do what is right and just in the land. In those days Judah shall be safe and Jerusalem shall dwell secure; this is what they shall call her: "The Lord our justice."

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm: #25 *To You, O Lord*

S. Pishner

"To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul."

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

Brothers and sisters: May the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we have for you, so as to strengthen your hearts, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones.

Amen. Finally, brothers and sisters, we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us how you should conduct yourselves to please God—and as you are conducting yourselves—you do so even more. For you know what instructions we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation: *Alleluia*

Gospel Reading: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves.

People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand. “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Penitential Rite

Refer to the prayer cards in the pews (Please Sing)

Second Sunday of Advent December 8, 2024

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor of glory from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship. Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm: #25 *To You O Lord*

S. Pishner

"To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul."

Second Reading: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. John went throughout the whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: *A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

Creed: Refer to the prayer cards in the pews for the Creed.

Prayer of the Faithful: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Penitential Rite

Refer to the prayer cards in the pews (Please Sing)

Third Sunday of Advent December 15, 2024

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel!
Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has removed the judgment against you he has turned
away your enemies; the King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst,
you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said
to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!
The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice
over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing
joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.
The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm: #25 To You O Lord **S. Pishner**
*"To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. To You, O Lord, I lift up my
soul."*

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it
again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all.
The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests
known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all
understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Creed: Refer to the prayer cards in the pews for the Creed.

Prayer of the Faithful: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Penitential Rite

Refer to the prayer cards in the pews (Please Sing)

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Micah 5:1- 4a

Thus says the Lord: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. Therefore, the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his kindred shall return to the children of Israel. He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord, in the majestic name of the Lord, his God; and they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Responsorial Psalm: #25 *To You O Lord*

S. Pishner

“To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.”

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Brothers and sisters: When Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; in holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight. Then I said, ‘As is written of me in the scroll, behold, I come to do your will, O God.’” First, he says, “Sacrifice and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in.” These are offered according to the law. Then he says, “Behold, I come to do your will.” He takes away the first to establish the second. By this “will,” we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-45

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said,

*"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.*

And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears,
the infant in my womb leaped for joy.

Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you
by the Lord would be fulfilled."

The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

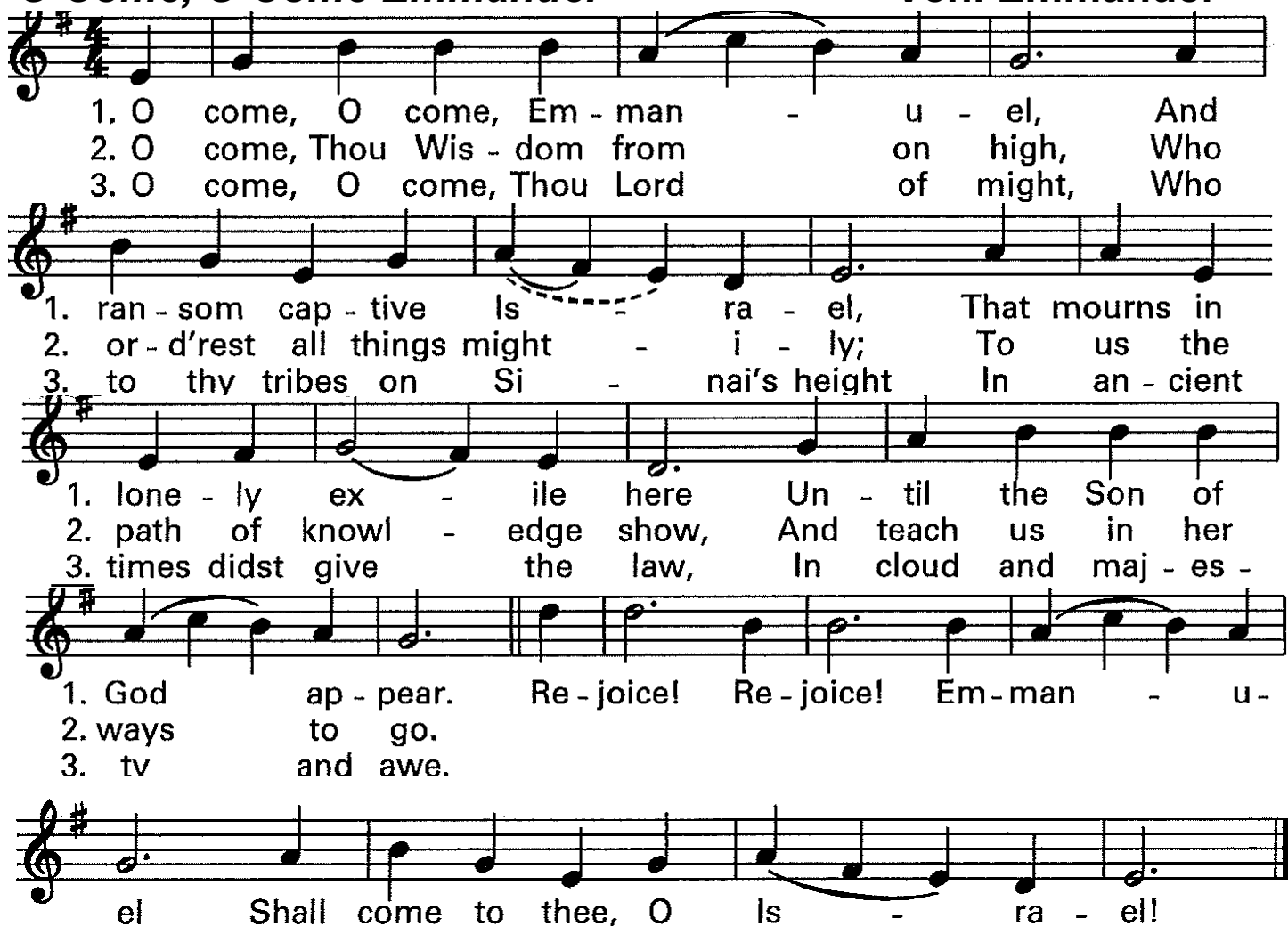
Creed: Refer to the prayer cards in the pews for the Creed.

Prayer of the Faithful: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Advent Hymns

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And
2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who
3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who

1. ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in
2. or - d'rest all things might - i - ly; To us the
3. to thy tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient

1. lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of
2. path of knowl - edge show, And teach us in her
3. times didst give the law, In cloud and maj - es -

1. God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
2. ways to go.
3. tv and awe.

el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: LM with refrain; Latin, 9th cent.; verses 1, 3-6, para. in *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*,
Cologne, 1710; tr. by John Mason Neale, 1818-1866; verses 2, 7 tr. fr. *The Hymnal 1940*, alt.
Music: *Processionale*, 15th cent. French; adapt. by Thomas Helmore, 1811-1890; Chant, Mode I.

Bread of Life

B. Farrell



Bread of life, hope of the world, Je-sus Christ, our broth - er:



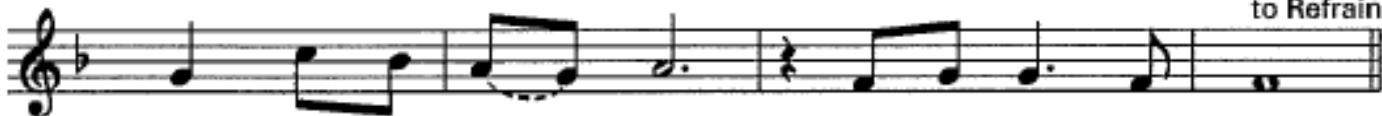
feed us now, give us life, lead us to one an - oth - er.



1. Be with your peo-ple, Lord, send us your sav-ing Word: Je - sus

2. Bring to our world of fear the truth we long to hear: Je - sus

to Refrain



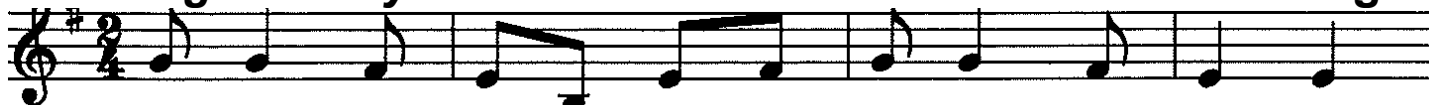
1. Christ, light of glad - ness, come a-mong us now.

2. Christ, hope of a - ges, come to save us now.

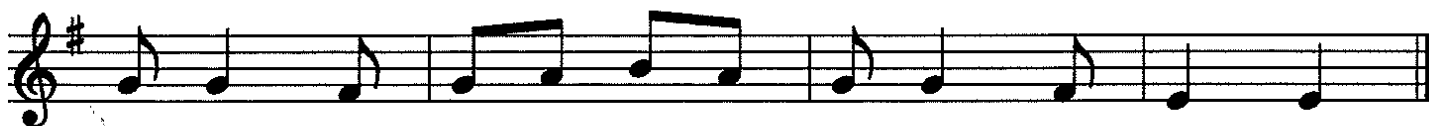
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The King of Glory

Israeli Folk Song



The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.



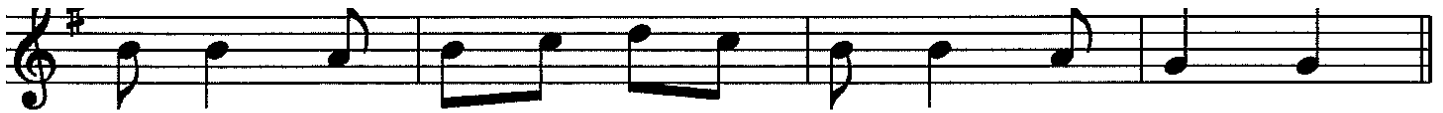
O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es.



1. Who is the King of glo - ry; how shall we call him?

2. In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,

3. Sing then of Da - vid's Son, our Sav - ior and broth - er;

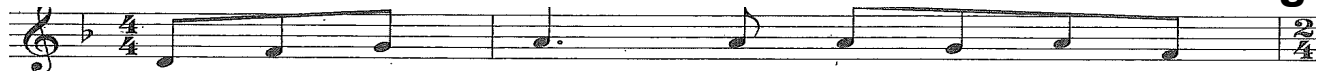


1. He is Em - man - u - el, the prom - ised of a - ges.
 2. He goes a - mong his peo - ple cur - ing their ill - ness.
 3. In all of Gal - i - lee was nev - er an - oth - er.

Text: 12 12 w/ref. Text © 1967. W.F. Jabusch Music: Trad. Israeli folk song. Admin. OCP. All rights reserved

My Soul in Stillness Waits

M. Haugen



For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness

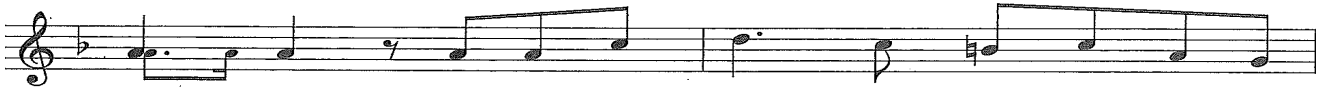


waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

Verses



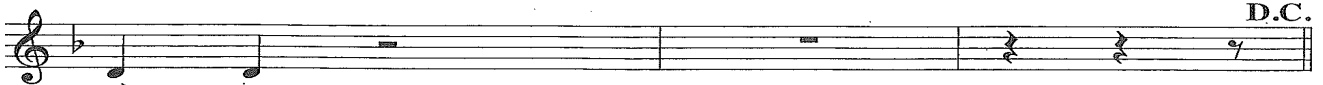
1. O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of
 2. O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our
 3. O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with -
 4. O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our
 5. Come, let us bow be - fore the God who
 6. Here we shall meet the Mak - er of the



glo - ry; your ra - diance shines in all who look to
 spir - its, our thirst - y hearts are yearn - ing for your
 in us, and in your ad - vent, draw us all to
 pil - grim - age, we ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re -
 made us, let ev - 'ry heart be o - pened to the
 heav - ens, Cre - a - tor of the moun - tains and the



you, come, light the hearts of all in dark and
 Word, come, make us whole, be com - fort to our
 you, our hope re - born in dy - ing and in
 main, o - pen to us the path - way of your
 Lord, for we are all the peo - ple of his
 seas, Lord of the stars, and pres - ent to us



shad - ow,
 hearts.
 ris - ing.
 peace.
 hand.
 now.

D.C.

Text: Psalm 95 and "O" Antiphons; Marty Haugen, b.1950
 Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
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On Jordan's Bank

Winchester New



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -
2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry soul from sin; Make
3. For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, Our
4. All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee Whose



1. nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark - en,
2. straight the way of God with - in, Pre - pare we in our
3. ref - uge and our sure re - ward; Shine forth, and let thy
4. ad - vent set thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



1. for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2. hearts a home, Where such a might - y guest may come.
3. light re - store Our souls to heav'n - ly grace once more.
4. we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: LM; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. by John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.

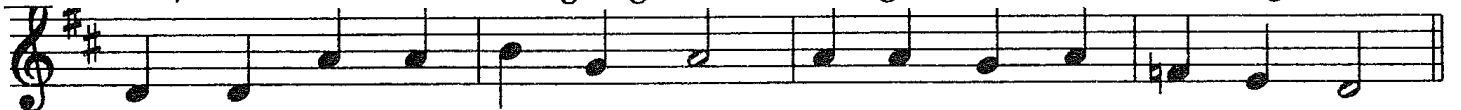
Music: *Musicalishes Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690; adapt. by William H. Havergal, 1793–1870.

Sing Out Earth and Skies

Haugen



1. Come, O God of all the earth: Come to us, O Righ-teous One;
2. Come, O God of wind and flame: Fill the earth with righ-teous-ness;
3. Come, O God of flash-ing light: Twink-ling star and burn-ing sun;



1. Come, and bring our love to birth: In the glo - ry of your Son.
2. Teach us all to sing your name: May our lives your love con-fess.
3. God of day and God of night: In your light we all are one.



Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you!



Raise your joy-ful cries! Dance to the life a-round you!

There is a Longing

A. Quigley



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re-



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our hearts for



love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Verses

1. For jus - tice,
2. For wis - dom,
3. For heal - ing,
4. Lord save us,



- | | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----|
| 1. for free - dom, | for mer - cy: | hear our prayer. | In |
| 2. for cour - age, | for com - fort: | hear our prayer. | In |
| 3. for whole - ness, | for new life: | hear our prayer. | In |
| 4. take pit - y, | light in our dark - ness. | | We |



to Refrain

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| 1. sor - row, | in grief: | } be near, hear our prayer, O God. |
| 2. weak - ness, | in fear: | |
| 3. sick - ness, | in death: | |
| 4. call you, | we wait: | |

Communion Hymn: A Voice Cries Out

M. Joncas



1. Con - sole my peo - ple, the ones dear to me; speak to the



1. heart of Je - ru - sa - lem: the time of your mourn - ing is



1. end - ed now, the Lord of life will come.



A voice cries out in the wil - der - ness: "Pre - pare a



way for the Lord!" A voice cries out in the wil - der -



ness: "Make straight a high - way for God!"



2. Ev - 'ry val - ley is made a plain, ev - 'ry moun - tain is
4. Zi - on, shout from the moun - tain top, lift up your voice, O Je -



2. lev - eled; the glo - ry of God shall then be re -
4. ru - sa - lem, and say to the peo - ple of God's own



2. vealed, and the na - tions will sing in praise.
4. land, "Be - hold, be - hold your God!"

to Refrain

A Voice Cries Out (Continued)

Verse 3



3. A voice shouts: "Cry!" O what shall I cry? All flesh is like
3. grass and its flow-ers: the grass may with-er, the
3. flow-ers may fade, but the Word of the Lord is for - ev - er. to Refrain

Verse 5



5. The Lord will ap - pear as a shep - herd, hold - ing his
5. lambs in his arms, keep - ing his flock so
5. close to his heart, lead - ing them all, old and young. to Refrain

Text based on Isaiah 40:1-11. Text and music © 1981, 1982, Jan Michael Joncas Trust.
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Ready the Way

Hurd

Verses



- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. "Read - y the way of the Lord! | Read - y the |
| 2. "Let ev - 'ry val - ley be filled. | Let ev - 'ry |
| 3. Des - ert and waste-land will bloom. | Des - ert and |
| 4. Those who are blind will then see. | Those who are |
| 5. Strength-en the ones who are weak. | Strength-en the |



- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. way of the Lord!" | A voice — cries out in the wil - der - |
| 2. val - ley be filled. | Let ev - 'ry moun-tain be hum - |
| 3. waste-land will bloom. | ‡ Glo - ry and splen-dor will fill the |
| 4. deaf will then hear. | ‡ Those who are lame will then leap for |
| 5. ones who are weak. | ‡ Say to the fright-ened: "Have cour - |



- | | |
|---|--------------|
| 1. ness: "Read - y the way of the Lord!" | (to Verse 2) |
| 2. bled; let ev - 'ry val - ley be filled." | (to Refrain) |
| 3. land. Des - ert and waste-land will bloom. | (to Verse 4) |
| 4. joy. Those who are mute will then sing. | (to Refrain) |
| 5. age." Strength-en the ones who are weak. | (to Refrain) |

Refrain



Here is your God, com-ing with your vin-di - ca - tion.



Look and be-hold the sav - ing pow - er of God.



The sav - ing pow - er of God.

Text based on Isaiah 35:1-6; 40:1-5, 9-11; Ezekiel 11:19-20. Text and music © 1986, Bob Hurd. Published by OCP
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People Look East

Trad. French Carol

1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near Of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad, though earth is bare. One more

1. crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
2. seed is plant - ed there; Give up your strength the seed to

1. a - ble. Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
2. nour - ish, That in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look

1. East, and sing to - day: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
2. East, and sing to - day: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Text: 87 98 87; *The Oxford Book of Carols*, 1928, © 1957, Eleanor Farjeon. All rights reserved.
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Sing Out, Earth and Skies

Haugen

1. Come, O God of all the earth: Come to us, O Right-teous One;
2. Come, O God of wind and flame: Fill the earth with righ-teous-ness;
3. Come, O God of flash-ing light: Twink-ling star and burn-ing sun;

1. Come, and bring our love to birth: In the glo - ry of your Son.
2. Teach us all to sing your name: May our lives your love con-fess.
3. God of day and God of night: In your light we all are one.

Sing out, earth and skies! Sing of the God who loves you!

Raise your joy-ful cries! Dance to the life a - round you!

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Lo, How A Rose

Es Ist Ein Ros' Enstrungen



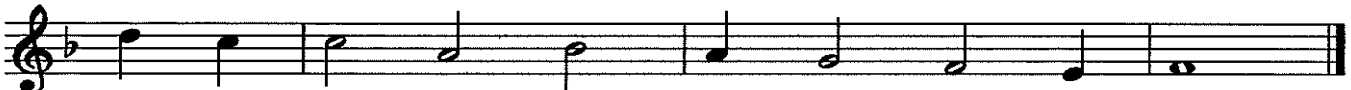
1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten - der stem hath sprung!
2. I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, This Rose I have in mind,
3. O Flow'r, whose fra-grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the air,



1. Of Jes-se's lin - eage com - ing, As those of old have sung.
2. With Ma - ry we be - hold it, The Vir - gin Moth - er kind.
3. Dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor The dark-ness ev - 'ry - where;



1. It came, a flow - er bright, A - mid the
2. To show God's love a - right, She bore to
3. True man, yet ver - y God, From sin and



1. cold of win - ter, When half spent was the night.
2. us a Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.
3. death now save us, And share our ev - 'ry load.

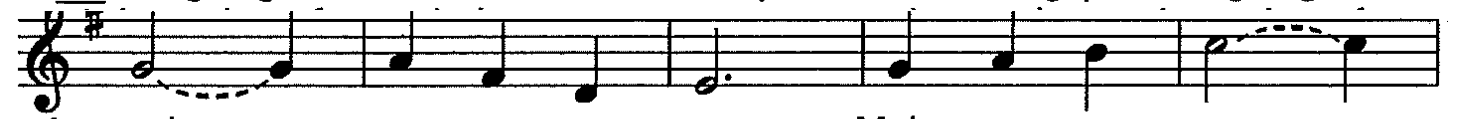
Music: *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Cologne, 1599.

Christ Be Our Light

Farrell



1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou - bled. Long-ing for
3. Long-ing for food, — man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for



1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
2. hope, — man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone —
3. wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread, —



1. your ho - ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
3. bro - ken for oth-ers, shared un - til all are fed.

Refrain: Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your gathered today.

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Hail Mary, Gentle Woman C. Landry

Gen-tle wom-an, qui-et light, morn-ing
 star, so strong and bright, gen-tle
 Moth-er, peace-ful dove, teach us
 wis-dom; teach us love.

Verses: All

1. You were cho - sen by the Fa-ther;
 2. Bless-ed are you a-mong wom-en,
 1. you were cho - sen for the Son. You were
 2. blest in turn all wom-en, too. Bless-ed
 1. cho - sen from all wom-en and for
 2. they with peace - ful spir-its. Bless-ed
 to Refrain
 1. wom-an, shin-ing one.
 2. they with gen - tle hearts.

Text based on Luke 1:28. Text and music © 1975, 1978, Carey Landry and NALR. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

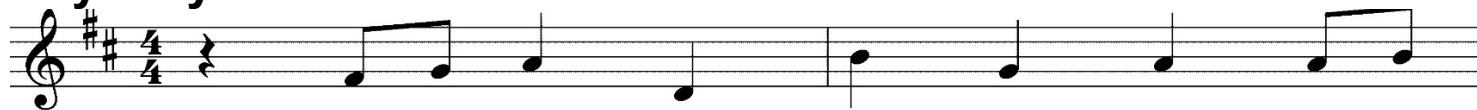
Mass of Age to Age:

De Silva

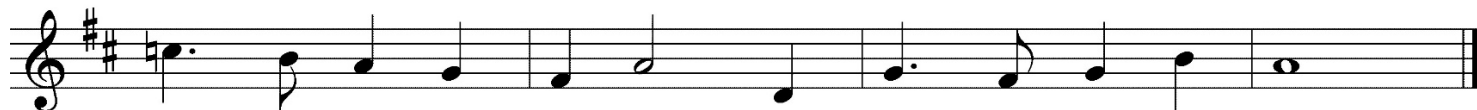
Music: *Mass from Age to Age*, Chris de Silva, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Lord God of
hosts. Heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. 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, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, ho -
san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Mystery of Faith



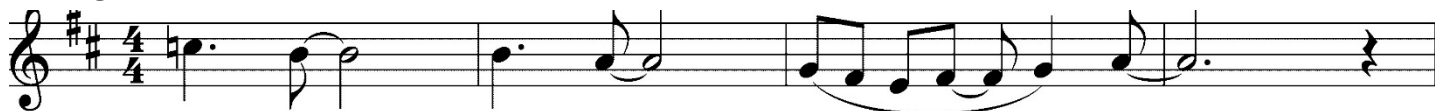
We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-



fess your Res - ur - rec - tion un - til you come a - gain.

21

Amen



A - men, a - men, a - men.

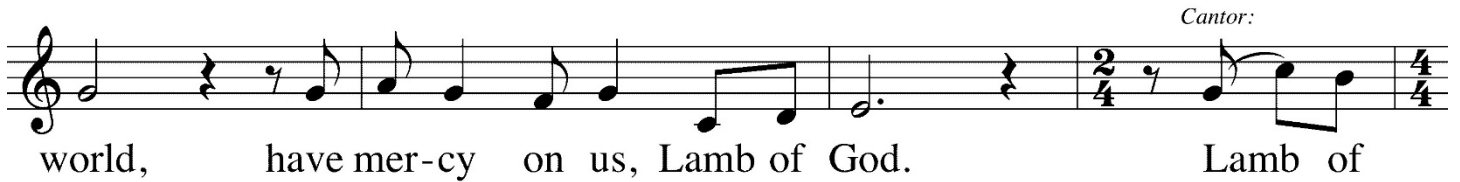


A - men, a - men, a - men.

Lamb of God



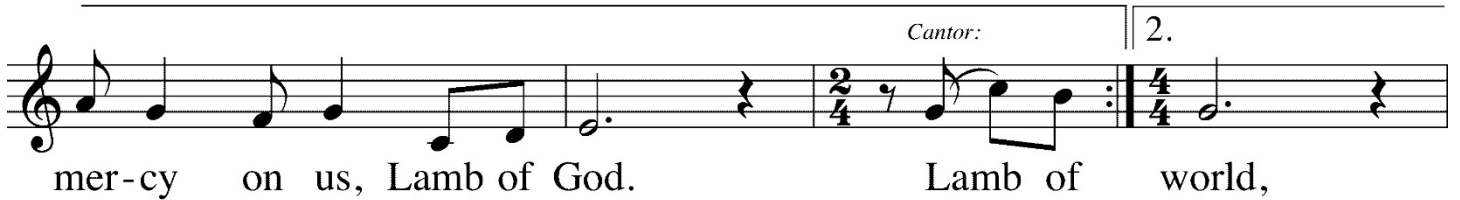
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the



world, have mer-cy on us, Lamb of God. Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have



mer-cy on us, Lamb of God. Lamb of world,



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Mass from Age to Age*, Chris de Silva, © 2010, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Wait

Gifts are wrapped and stockings are stuffed. Lights twinkle on the tree and candles flicker in homes and churches services across the country. It's Christmas – one of my favorite times of the year. I love seeing little ones giddy with excitement. They've been waiting since before Thanksgiving when store shelves abruptly traded turkeys and leaves for Santa and snowflakes, and hope the wait will be worth it.

As children of God, we're waiting too. Every one of us.

It's why we celebrate Advent through the Christmas season.

Since the fall of man, the faithful in the Old Testament waited for the promised Messiah. They were waiting for a King. Their savior. Because many had their own ideas and assumptions of who He would be and what He would do, they missed the blessing. They failed to see Jesus as the Savior of the world and are still waiting for His first appearance.

Now, as Christ-believers, we wait for our Savior to return and make all things new – forever bridging the gap between our sin and the glory of the Father.

Oh, what a day that will be!

Because we live in a broken world until Christ's second coming, we wait for earthly dreams or needs to be fulfilled as well.

As you read this, you're likely waiting for something.

Waiting to feel known. Waiting for a wayward child. Waiting to experience love. Waiting to be forgiven. Waiting for healing. Waiting for the fulfillment of a promise. Waiting to be understood.

The list is endless. And exhausting.

Waiting tries my patience and throws me into dependence. I can't control the outcome in a waiting season and, to be completely honest, that's the part I like least. My fleshly desire is to meddle – to open closed doors and close the open ones. I rush through the wait to find answers and create quick solutions.

But what if we entered our time of waiting with a sense of eagerness instead of animosity? What if we leaned in with anticipation rather than anxiety? What if we waited with hope instead of despair? What if we changed our perspective entirely, and began to see the wait as part of the promise instead of a means to the end? What if we believed that God was up to something and that the result would be as good as He is?

If we trust that God is sovereign, we need to trust that the wait fulfills a purpose. It may not look the way we wanted or prayed for, but the process

itself can draw us into a deeper relationship with Christ, grow our faith, and refine us into something more beautiful than we imagined.

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