



ST. MARK  
REFORMED CHURCH

*Morning Worship*  
*29 November 2020*  
*First Sunday of Advent*

## **GREETINGS TO OUR VISITORS!**

If you are visiting St. Mark today, we welcome you to our worship service and Christian community. We are delighted the Lord has brought you to worship with us and look forward to meeting you. If you are baptized in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, you are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper.

## **ABOUT US:**

St. Mark Reformed Church is a member church of the Communion of Reformed Evangelical Churches (CREC). Our congregation is centered on classical Christian worship that is robust, reverent, and joyful. We offer solid biblical preaching and teaching from a Reformed perspective. We are a family-friendly, welcoming congregation, desiring unity with all fellow believers. We believe and seek to embody the good news of the gospel—that salvation from sin is found in Christ alone, to be received by faith alone. We long to be a community that practices love, service, and mercy toward our community and the world.

## **CHURCH OFFICERS:**

TJ Draper, Deacon  
Abe Goolsby, Elder  
Brian McLain, Deacon  
Joe Thacker, Pastor

*For more information you may contact:*

Pastor Joe Thacker  
pastor@stmarkreformed.com  
(615) 438-3109

*Or view our website: [www.stmarkreformed.com](http://www.stmarkreformed.com)*

Meeting Address:  
810 Del Rio Pike  
Franklin, TN 37064

Mailing Address:  
563 Brewer Dr.  
Nashville, TN 37211

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (**Stand at the conclusion of the Prelude**)

## *The Lord Calls Us*

**Pastor:** Let us worship God! We are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**People: Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.**

Pastor: There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse;

**People: And a Branch shall grow out of its roots.**

Pastor: Arise; shine, for your light has come!

**People: And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Psalm 118:19-24

Pastor: Amen!

**People: Amen!**

Hymn of Procession

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

p. 4

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the  
 2. A help - er just he comes to thee, his char - iot  
 3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the  
 4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is  
 Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.  
 hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!  
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide  
 my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!  
 Let me thy inner presence feel;  
 thy grace and love in me reveal.

6. So come, my Sovereign, enter in!  
 Let new and nobler life begin!  
 Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,  
 until the glorious crown be won.

Based on Psalm 24  
 Georg Weissel, 1642  
 Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855; alt.

TRURO L.M.  
 Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

**Congregation: AMEN!**

Pastor: I rejoiced when they said unto me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!"

**People: Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!**

(Psalm 122:1-2)

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord!

**People: The Maker of heaven and earth!**

(Psalm 124:8)

Pastor: Let us pray . . .

# The Lord Cleanses Us

THE PURIFICATION OFFERING

Pastor: Let us call upon God's mercy.

Hymn of Confession

*Kyrie Eleison*



Pastor: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him. Let us humbly kneel and confess our sins together . . . (Kneeling if able)

Almighty and all Holy Father,

**We confess ourselves unworthy of Your unspeakable Gift. We have not loved You as we ought; nor have we always been loving to one another; kindhearted, forgiving one another; even as You, for Christ's sake, have forgiven us. We have lived in selfishness and worldly pride; and the good gifts You have bestowed upon us; we have not used to relieve the burdens of others. Pardon and blot out our offenses, we beseech You.**

**O merciful Father, who in compassion for Your sinful children did send Your Son Jesus Christ to be the Savior of the world: Grant us grace to feel and lament our share in the evil which made it needful for Him to suffer and to die for our salvation. Help us by self-denial, prayer, and meditation to prepare our hearts for deeper penitence and a better life. And give us a true longing to be free from sin, through the deliverance wrought by Jesus Christ our only Redeemer. Amen.**

Pastor: Arise and hear the good news of God's forgiveness!

## DECLARATION OF ABSOLUTION

Pastor: God says, "Comfort, yes, comfort my people! Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned." Your Heavenly Father sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem you from the curse of sin. Receive his promise of forgiveness by faith and rejoice in the assurance of God's favor. Amen!

**People: Amen!**

# The Lord Consecrates Us

THE ASCENSION OFFERING

Hymn of Ascent

*Comfort, Comfort These My People*

Johann Olearius, 1611-84

1. "Com - fort, com - fort these my peo - ple, Speak of peace!" so says our God.  
2. Yes, our sins the Lord will par - don, Blot - ting out each dark mis - deed.  
3. Now the her - ald's voice is cry - ing In the des - ert far and near,  
4. Straight must be what long was crook - ed; Make the rough - est plac - es plain!

Com - fort these who sit in dark - ness Groan - ing un - der sin's dread rod.  
All that well de - served his an - ger He no more will see nor heed.  
Call - ing us to true re - pent - ance, For the king - dom now is here!  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, Read - y for his ho - ly reign!

"To my peo - ple I pro - claim Par - don now in Je - sus' name.  
We who lan - guished man - y a day Un - der guilt now washed a - way,  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey, Oh, pre - pare for God a - way,  
Here the glo - ry of the Lord Stands so gra - cious - ly re - vealed

Tell them that their sins I cov - er, That their war - fare now is o - ver!  
We ex - change our pin - ing sad - ness For his com - fort, peace, and glad - ness.  
Let the val - leys rise to meet him, Let the hills bow down to greet him!  
That all peo - ple see the to - ken That God's Word is nev - er bro - ken!

**Congregation: AMEN!**

THE SURSUM CORDA

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to the Lord!**

Pastor: O Lord, open our lips!

**People: And our mouths will declare your praise!**

*The Doxology* (with hands upraised - 1 Timothy 2:8)

OLD HUNDREDTH (L.M.)  
*Genevan Psalter*, 1551  
Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

Thomas Ken, 1709

Praise God from Whom all bless - ings flow;

Praise Him, all crea - tures here be - low;

Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;

Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

(The congregation may be seated)

Pastor: The law of the LORD is perfect,

**People: reviving the soul;**

Pastor: the testimony of the LORD is sure,

**People: making wise the simple;**

Pastor: the precepts of the LORD are right,

**People: rejoicing the heart;**

Pastor: the commandment of the LORD is pure,

**People: enlightening the eyes.**

(Psalm 19:7-8)

THE LESSON:  
Lector: The Word of the Lord!  
**People: Thanks be to God!**

Isaiah 64:1-9

THE PSALM:

*Psalm 80:1-7*



- [1] Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph | like a flock.  
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, | shine forth.
- [2] Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Ma- | nasseh,  
stir up your might and come to | save us!
- [3] Restore us, | O God;  
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!
- [4] O LORD | God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry with your | people's prayers?
- [5] You have fed them with the | bread of tears  
and given them tears to drink in full | measure.
- [6] You make us an object of contention for our | neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh a- | mong themselves.
- [7] Restore us, O | God of hosts;  
let your face shine, that we | may be saved!

**Congregation: AMEN!**



THE EPISTLE

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Lector: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

(Please stand)

THE GOSPEL

Mark 11:1-10

Pastor: The Gospel of Christ!

People: Praise be to Christ!

*Gloria Patri* (with hands upraised - 1 Timothy 2:8)

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in

the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er

shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

*Nicene Creed*

Pastor: Let us confess our faith together. Christian, in whom do you believe?

*Unison: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,*

*Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.*

*And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds;*

*God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God;*

*begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.*

*Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven,*

*and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man;*

*and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;*

*He suffered and was buried;*

*and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures;*

*and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father;*

*and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead;*

*whose kingdom shall have no end.*

*And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life;*

*who proceeds from the Father and the Son;*

*who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;*

*who spoke by the prophets.*

*And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church.*

*I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;*

*and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

(The congregation may be seated)

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Numbers 11

Pastor: The Word of the Lord!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE SERMON

“For What Do You Toil?”

Brian McLain, Deacon

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

# The Lord Collects Our Gifts

THE TRIBUTE OFFERING

COLLECTION OF GOD'S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

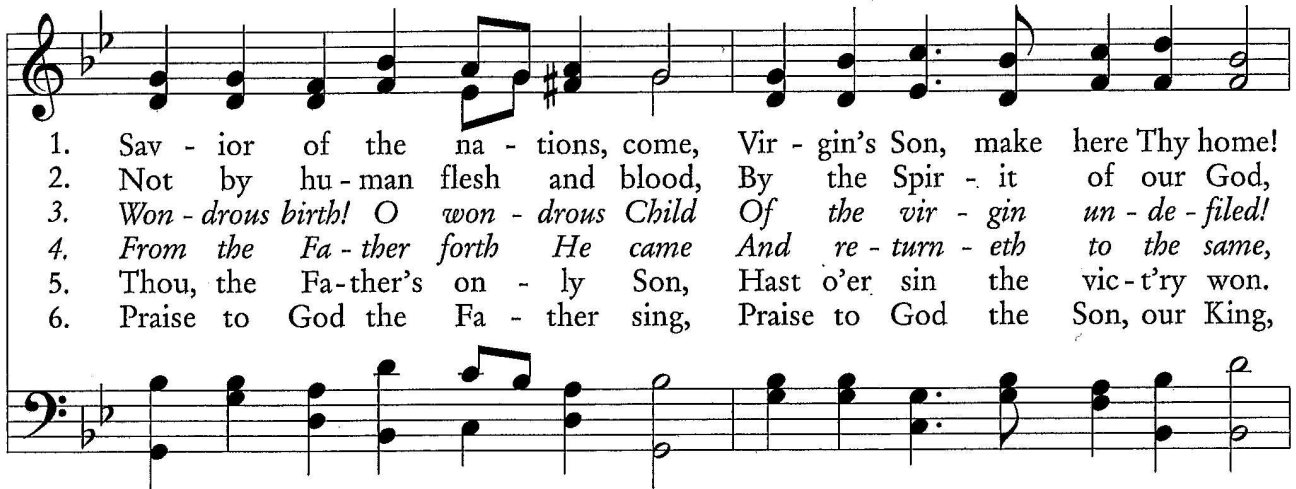
(Please stand.)

Offertory Hymn

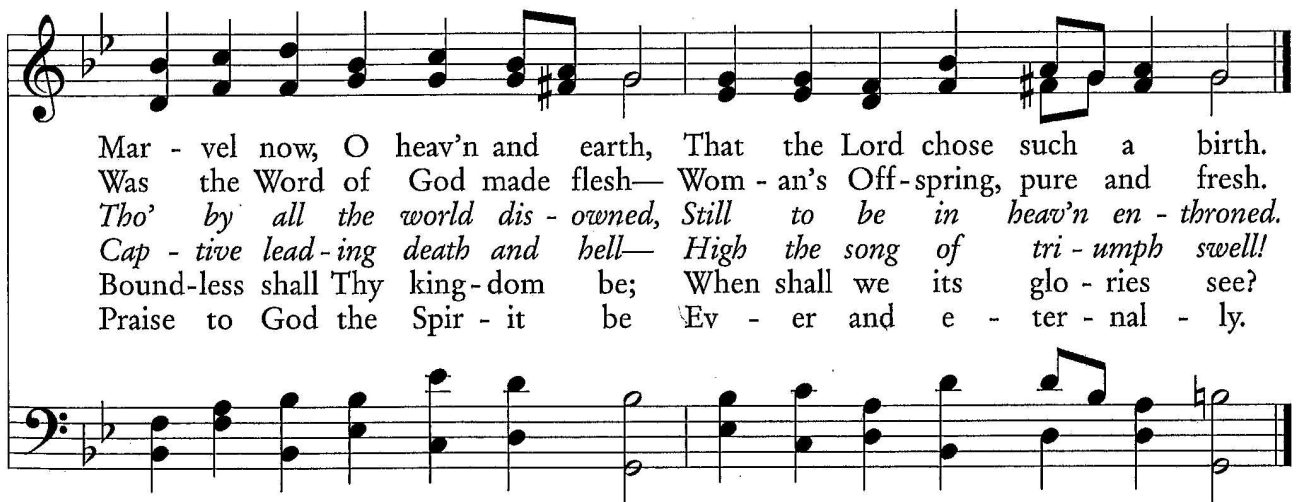
*Savior of the Nations Come*

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (7 7. 7 7)  
Johann Walter, *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, 1524

St. Ambrose, 397  
German version, Martin Luther, 1524  
tr. William M. Reynolds, 1860; alt.



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make here Thy home!  
2. Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it of our God,  
3. Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the vir - gin un - de - filed!  
4. From the Fa - ther forth He came And re - turn - eth to the same,  
5. Thou, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son, Hast o'er sin the vic - t'ry won.  
6. Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to God the Son, our King,



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.  
Was the Word of God made flesh— Wom - an's Off - spring, pure and fresh.  
Tho' by all the world dis - owned, Still to be in heav'n en - throned.  
Cap - tive lead - ing death and hell— High the song of tri - umph swell!  
Bound - less shall Thy king - dom be; When shall we its glo - ries see?  
Praise to God the Spir - it be Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

Congregation: AMEN!

Pastor: What gifts have you brought for your Lord?

People: We give only what the Lord has first given to us. We offer ourselves in Christ through confession, praise and thanksgiving; we give our prayers and alms for the sake of the world; and we participate in the Lord's Supper as a memorial of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen!

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: Father, receive now these gifts offered to you in and through the Lord Jesus Christ, as we return to you a portion of that which you have freely given us. Use these tithes and offerings to support the work of the church, to care for the poor and needy, to promote the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth, and to build up your kingdom. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

People: Amen.

## The Lord Communes with Us

THE PEACE OFFERING

*Agnus Dei*

JOHN MERBECKE, 1549

*In unison*

O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world,  
have mer-cy up-on us. O Lamb of God, that ta-kest a-way the  
sins of the world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Lamb of God,  
that ta-kest a-way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Pastor: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give You praise and thanks for all Your goodness and tender mercies. We bless You for the love that created us, and that sustains us day by day. We praise You for the gift of Your Son, our Savior, through whom You have made known Your will and favor. We thank You for the Holy Spirit, our Comforter; for the holy Church, for the means of grace, for the lives of the faithful and godly people, and for the hope of the life to come. Help us to treasure in our hearts all that our Lord has done for us, and enable us to show our thankfulness by lives that are given wholly to Your service. Father, hear our prayer!

**People: For You are gracious.**

Pastor: Save and defend Your Church universal, purchased with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Give to her pastors and ministers endowed with your Holy Spirit, and strengthen her through the Word and the holy sacraments. Make her perfect in love and in all good works, and establish her in the faith delivered to the saints. Sanctify and unite Your people in all the world, that one holy, catholic, and apostolic church may bear witness to You, the God and Father of all. Father, hear our prayer!

**People: For You are gracious.**

Pastor: We humbly entreat You for all sorts and conditions of men, that You would be pleased to make Your ways known to them, Your salvation to all nations. Send forth Your light and Your truth into all the earth. Raise up, we pray, faithful servants to labor in the gospel at home and in distant lands. Lord, hear our prayer!

**People: For You are gracious.**

Pastor: Preserve our nation in righteousness and true honor, and grant Your blessings to us as a people, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. Grant health and favor to all who bear office in our land, and cause them to acknowledge and obey Your holy will. King Jesus, hear our prayer!

**People: For You are gracious.**

Pastor: God of all comfort and protection, we bring before You all who are in any wise afflicted, all persons oppressed with poverty, sickness, unemployment, or other trouble of body or mind, especially those whom we name now in our hearts before You. . . . Grant them the consolations of which they have need, and overrule their present sufferings to their eternal good. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy upon those to whom death draws near. Bring consolation to those in sorrow or mourning. And to all grant a measure of Your love, taking them into your tender care. O Holy Spirit, hear our prayer!

**People: For You are gracious.**

Pastor: We rejoice with thanksgiving in all those who have loved and served You in Your Church on earth, and who now rest from their labors. Keep us in fellowship with all Your people, and bring us at length to the joy of Your everlasting kingdom. O Holy Spirit, hear our prayer!

**People: For You are gracious.**

Pastor: All these things, and whatever else You see that we need, grant us, O Father, for the sake of Jesus Christ Your Son, who died and rose again and now lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, age after age.

And now we pray as Your Son has taught us.

Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-low-ed be Thy Name, Thy King - dom come,

Thy will be done on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our dai-ly bread,

and for - give us our debts, as we for - give our debt - ors,

and lead us not in-to temp-ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil.

For Thine is the king-dom, and the pow-er and the glo-ry For - ev-er! A-men.

PREFACE AND SANCTUS

Pastor: The love of God the Father, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Holy things for holy people!

**People: The gifts of God for the people of God!**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you!

**People: And also with you!**

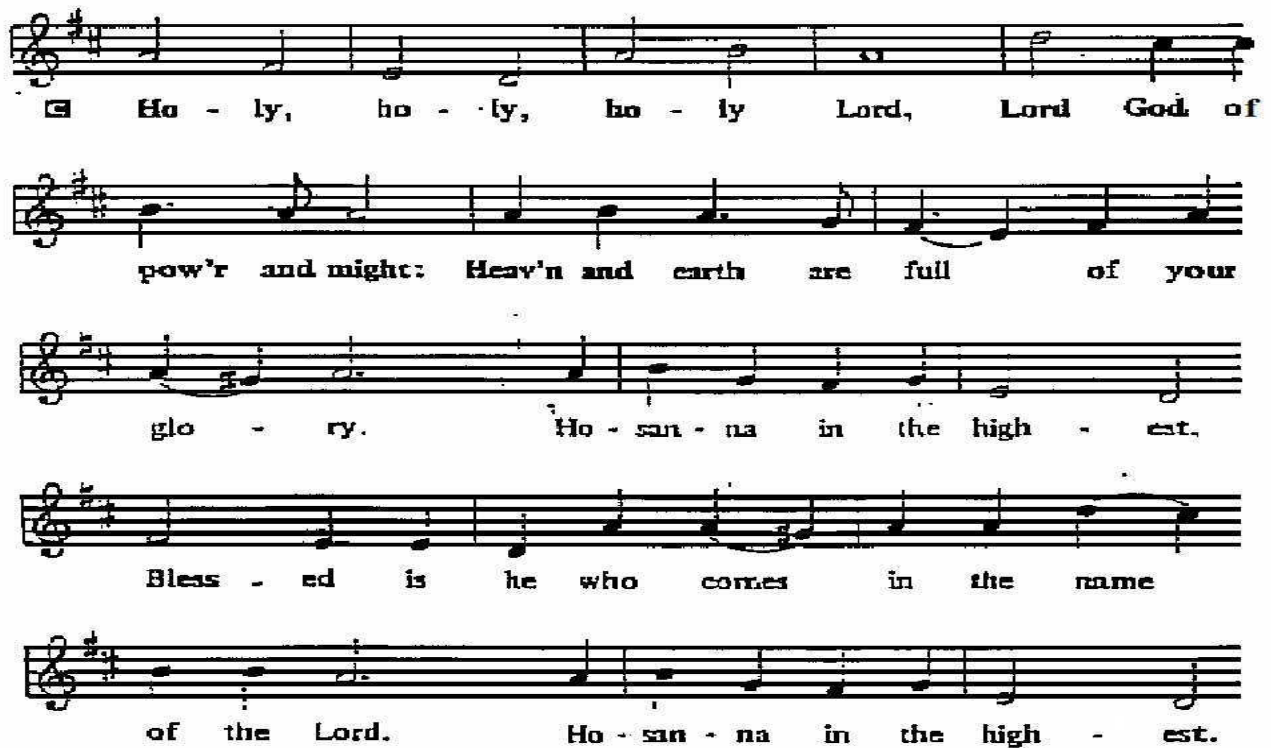
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**People: It is good and right to do so!**

Pastor: It is very good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, by proclaiming him to be the Messiah, the very Lamb of God, and by calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

*The Sanctus*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of  
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est,  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name  
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

(The congregation may be seated).

[Note to Visitors: If you are baptized in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit you are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper.]

## THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE BREAD: Prayer of thanksgiving, breaking the bread, distribution, eating together.

THE WINE: Prayer of thanksgiving, distribution, drink after you have taken your cup.

### Hymn of Distribution

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

p. 17

\* We will sing vv. 1-2 during the distribution of the bread, and vv. 3-5 during the distribution of the wine.



VENI EMMANUEL (8 8. 8 8. 8 8)  
 13th century plainsong  
 arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856

Latin antiphon, 12th century  
 tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
 2. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on  
 3. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se, free Thine own from Sa - tan's  
 4. O come, Thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by Thine  
 5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here Un -  
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the law In  
 tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell Thy peo - ple save, And  
 ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And  
 heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And

til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -  
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 close the path to mis - er - y.

man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Congregation: AMEN!

Pastor: The body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you all steadfast in the true faith and in unity unto life everlasting, in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: Amen! (Please stand)

# The Lord Commissions Us

Hymn of Dismissal

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;  
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;  
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!  
by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend,  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:  
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
"Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."  
this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

St. 1, 4, Charles Wesley, 1744  
St. 2-3, Mark E. Hunt, 1978

HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.  
Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855

**Congregation: AMEN!**

Pastor: And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20

Pastor: And now look up to receive the Lord's blessing ...

THE BENEDICTION

THREEFOLD AMEN

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'A - men.' are written below the treble staff. The first two measures of the treble staff contain the notes G4, A4, B4, and C5. The third measure contains the notes D5, C5, B4, and A4. The fourth measure contains the notes G4, F#4, and E4. The bass line consists of a series of chords: G2-B2-D3, A2-C3-E3, B2-D3-F#3, and G2-B2-D3. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

POSTLUDE

