

## **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

December 20/21, 2025

5:00 PM, 8:00/10:30 AM

### **Welcome to Our Guests**

Thank you for joining us in worshiping the Savior at Zion this day. We pray that your time here serves to build your faith and equip you for the week ahead. Please come again.

If you desire to find out more about becoming part of the Zion family, please contact Vickie Adams, [vadams@zionharvester.org](mailto:vadams@zionharvester.org), in the church office. Our family loves to grow and we'd love to have you join us!

### **Welcome Center**

The Welcome Center is a place for the Zion family and its guests to gather for fellowship with each other and where information about Zion is readily accessible. Every weekend opportunities to connect are highlighted and publications and ministry brochures are made available. Please visit the Welcome Center before or after worship to greet one another and to stay connected to God's mission through Zion.

### **Children's Messages**

Since children become members of the Christian Church through baptism, we desire to nurture their faith by engaging them in God's story of faith and in our corporate worship of Jesus. Resources to "build a worship bag" can be found just outside the Sanctuary doors. Please find items that will help engage your child in worship and return these after the service.

Children's Messages are designed for children between the ages of two through elementary school; however, all children are welcome. A team of members and staff who are gifted for this ministry invite you to accompany and assist your young child and join the children in the chancel.

### **Nursery and Cry Room**

During all Worship Services, a Cry Room is available in the back of church for you to calm your child or change a diaper. During the Education Hour on Sundays, childcare for infants and toddlers is offered in the Nursery located on the lower level opposite the Fellowship Hall.

### **Worship Decorum**

Please silence your cell phones during Worship Services.



# Prayer and Preaching

LSB p. 260

## Prelude

5:00, *Come O Precious Ransom, Come* – settings by Michael Burkhardt & Kevin Hildebrand  
8:00/10:30, *Ancient Carol* – arr. Paul Jennings

## Ringing of the Bell

## Welcome

*Stand*

## Sharing of the Peace

*This ancient but significant gesture in worship is a tradition rooted in Scripture. It embodies our identity as peacemakers and trains our hearts, hands, and mouths in the ways of peace.*

*From the beginning Christians have exercised this practice. “Peace be with you” is a greeting that Jesus himself used with his disciples after He had risen from the dead (Luke 24:36). The apostle Paul opened each of his letters with the words “Grace and peace be with you” (Romans 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3, 2 Cor. 1:2).*

*When we share the peace, we leave the comfort of our seat, turn to our neighbors, grasp their hands, and speak the words, “The peace of the Lord be with you.” The gesture is simple, but the meaning is profound. When we extend our hand to another, we identify with Jesus, who extended his life to the point of death to make peace with humanity (Col. 1:20-21). What’s more, in the midst of divisions we symbolize our unity through handshakes and hugs (Eph. 2:14-21). Likewise, when we regularly pass the peace we practice God’s call to make every effort to maintain the bond of peace (Eph 4:3).*



## Opening Hymn: 350 - Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

1. Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for  
2. En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and  
3. My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -  
4. Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our  
sin - ful mor - - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!  
Lord most ho - - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,  
receive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,  
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,  
O - pen are to Thee all por - - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty  
Though I am but poor and low - - ly. Ah, what rich - es  
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I  
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - - tion, That for - ev - er  
let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.  
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!  
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - - it through Thy grace.  
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt

# Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Children may come forward for the Children's Message as soon as the leader appears in the chancel. If you have a young child that needs assistance, please accompany your child and join the children in the chancel*

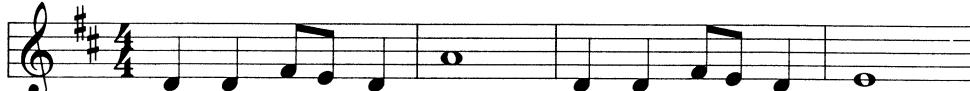
## Blessing at the Advent Wreath

*The leader and acolyte gather around the Advent Wreath.*

- L** We give praise to You, O God, for this advent wreath that helps us count the days of preparation for Christ's coming again. As we light the fourth candle, wake us from the sleep of our sinful nature, that we may be ready at all times to welcome our Lord when He comes again.
- C** **Give us the light of Your grace, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may prepare our hearts to welcome Him with love. We ask this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain. Amen.**

*Four Advent candles are lit as the Advent Wreath Hymn is sung.*

## Advent Wreath Hymn: Light One Candle



1. Light one can-dle for hope, one bright can-dle for hope,  
2. Light one can-dle for peace, one bright can-dle for peace,  
3. Light one can-dle for joy, one bright can-dle for joy.  
4. Light one can-dle for love, one bright can-dle for love.



He brings hope to ev - 'ry heart, He comes! He comes!  
He brings peace to ev - 'ry heart, He comes! He comes!  
He brings joy to ev - 'ry heart, He comes! He comes!  
He brings love to ev - 'ry heart, He comes! He comes!

*Text and tune: Natalie Sleeth, © 1976 Hinshaw Music, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense.net #A-705005.*

## Children's Message

## Opening Versicles for Advent

**L** This is the day which the Lord has made;  
**C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

*Psalm 118:24*

**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

*Psalm 113:3*

**L** Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.  
**C** **Our God shall come; He does not keep silence.**

*Psalm 50:2-3a*

**L** Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**C** **Make His paths straight.**

*Isaiah 40:3*

**L** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness.  
**C** **Let the earth open, that salvation may sprout forth.**

*Isaiah 45:8*

**L** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

*Psalm 113:3*

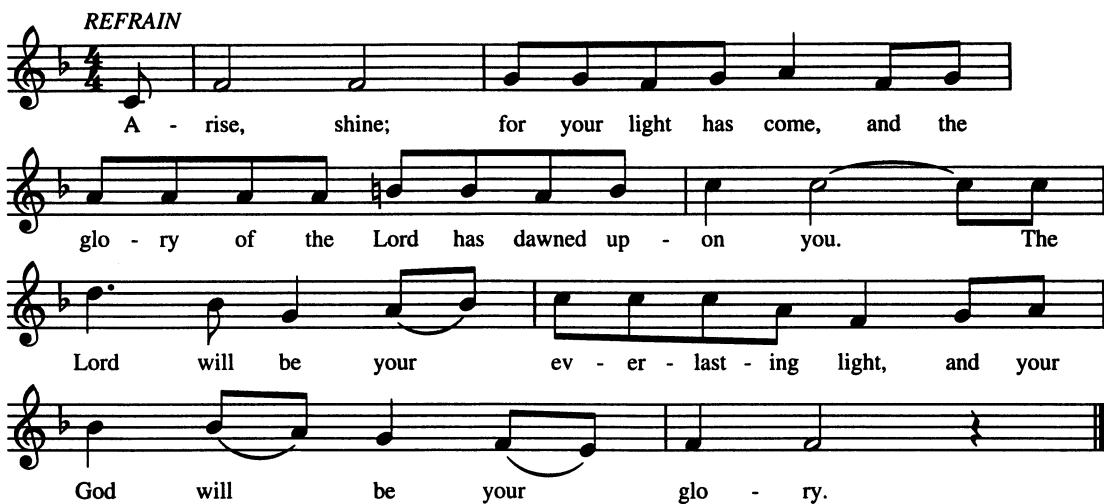
**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**  
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**



## Old Testament Canticle: The Third Song of Isaiah

*Isaiah 12:2b-6*

*REFRAIN*



A - rise, shine; for your light has come, and the glo - ry of the Lord has dawnd up - on you. The Lord will be your ev - er - last - ing light, and your God will be your glo - ry.

**A Refrain**  
**C Refrain**

**A** For behold, darkness covers the land, deep gloom enshrouds the peoples; But over you the Lord will arise, and His glory will appear upon you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning. Your gates will always be open; by day or night they never will be shut.

**C Refrain**  
**A** They will call you the City of the Lord, the Zion of the holy One of Israel. Violence will no more be heard in your land, ruin or destruction within your borders. You will call your walls Salvation, and all your portals Praise. The sun will no more be your light by day, by night you will not need the brightness of the moon.

**C Refrain**

*Text and music: Jack Noble White, © 1999 H.W. Gray Company. Used by permission: OneLicense.net #A-705005.*

*Sit*

### The Sign of Immanuel

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

### Psalm of the Day: Fling Wide the Gates

*Psalm 24, paraphrase*

*Refrain*



Fling wide the gates, o-pen the an- cient doors, and the great king will come in.

- A** Refrain
- C** Refrain
- A** Who is this great king? He is the Lord, strong and mighty.  
Who is this great king? The Lord, victorious in battle.  
Who is this great king?
- C** Refrain
- A** Who is this great king? The triumphant Lord--He is the great king!  
Who is this great king?
- C** Refrain

*Tune: Allan Mahnke*

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## Greeting

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,  
<sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

# Gospel

*Matthew 1:18-25*

## The Birth of Jesus Christ

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel!”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Responsory for Advent

*Jeremiah 23:5a, 6*

- L** Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.
- C** **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**
- L** In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.
- C** **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**
- L** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
- C** **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

## Apostles' Creed

- A** We confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**  
**From thence 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.**

## Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9–13*

- L** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- C** **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.**

*Sit*

## Hymn of the Day: 357 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

sts. 1-4



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y

ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el

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

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.  
Tune: French, 15th cent.

## Sermon

## Hymn of the Day: 357 - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

sts. ref. 5-7



5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen  
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us  
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In one the

wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that  
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y  
hearts of all man - kind; Bid Thou our sad di -

leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.  
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
vi - sions cease, And be Thy - self our King of Peace.

*Refrain*

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - - ra - el!

*Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.*  
*Tune: French, 15th cent.*

## Baptism

5:00, Henry David Strelow  
10:30, Romie Louella Bauer

## Offering

*Members and guests, please use this time to fill out an Attendance Card, located in the pew racks. At the end of the offering, the ushers will collect all Attendance Cards.*

### 5:00, An Advent Alleluia – Dana Mengel

Alleluia! The angels will sing.  
Alleluia! The heavens will ring.  
When the Lord will descend from the heavens above,  
And establish the Kingdom of God by His love.

Alleluia! We soon will be free,  
Alleluia! From captivity.  
When the Lord will descend from the heavens above,  
And establish the Kingdom of God by His love.

Refrain: Rejoice, the Lord is coming soon! Alleluia!  
Soon the darkness will turn to light,  
And ev'rywhere the people will shout a joyful Alleluia!

Alleluia! Our crying will cease,  
Alleluia! We'll soon live in peace.  
When the Lord will descend from the heavens above,  
And establish the Kingdom of God by His love.

Alleluia! We soon will be saved,  
Alleluia! From man's evil ways.  
When the Lord will descend from the heavens above,  
And establish the Kingdom of God by His love.

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### 8:00/10:30, Kings, Kings, Kings – arr. Anne McGinty

*Stand*

# Luther's Evening Prayer

Saturday

*Commissioned by Zion Lutheran Church and School of Harvester, Missouri in celebration of Reformation 500  
and in thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ His dear Son.*

I thank You, my heav'n - ly Fa - ther, through Je - sus Christ, Your dear  
Son, that You have kept me this day. I pray that You for -  
give me for all the wrong that I have done this day. For in - to Your hands I com -  
mend my - self; my bo - dy and soul and all things. Let Your ho - ly an - gel be  
with me, that the e - vil foe may have no pow - er ov - er me. I  
thank You, my heav'n - ly Fa - ther, through Je - sus Christ, Your dear Son, that  
You have kept me this day. I pray that You for - give me for  
all the wrong that I have done this day. Keep me this night. A - men.

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# Luther's Morning Prayer

Sunday

*Commissioned by Zion Lutheran Church and School of Harvester, Missouri in celebration of Reformation 500  
and in thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father through Jesus Christ His dear Son.*

I thank you, my heav'n - ly Fa - ther, through Je - sus Christ, Your dear  
Son, that You have kept me from all dan - ger. Keep me from sin and  
e - vil, that all I do in life may please You. For in - to Your hands I com -  
mend my - self; my bo - dy and soul and all things. Let Your ho - ly an - gel be  
with me, that the e - vil foe may have no pow - er ov - er me. I  
thank You, my heav'n - ly Fa - ther, through Je-sus Christ, Your dear Son, that  
You have kept me from all dan - ger. Keep me from sin and ev - il, that  
all I do in life may please You. A - men. A - men.

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## Prayer of the Church

- L** In peace let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** For . . . *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* . . . let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- L** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

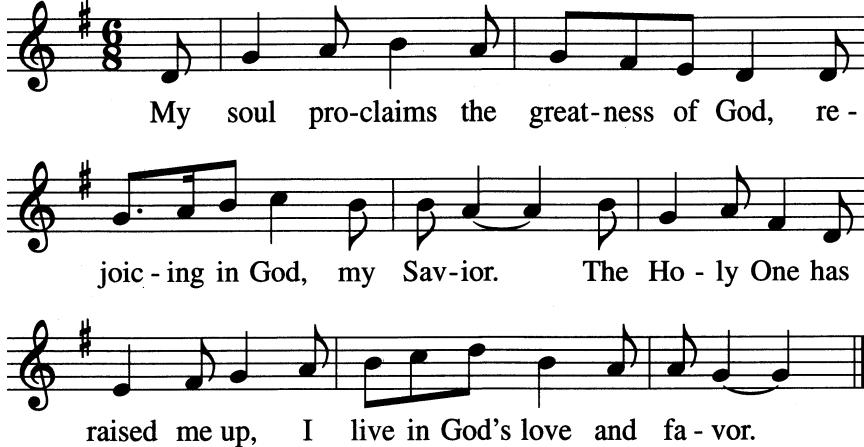
## Prayer of the Day

- L** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## New Testament Canticle: Magnificat

*1 Corinthians 15:20a; 5:7b; Romans 6:9-11*

*Refrain*



My soul pro-claims the great-ness of God, re -  
joic - ing in God, my Sav-ior. The Ho - ly One has  
raised me up, I live in God's love and fa - vor.

**C Refrain**

**A** The Mighty One works great things in me: My soul rejoices in God.  
All faithful servants God's mercy shall see: My soul rejoices, sings and rejoices, gladly rejoices in God.

**C Refrain**

**A** The arm of God is justice and might: My soul rejoices in God.  
God puts the proud and the scheming to flight: My soul rejoices, sings and rejoices, gladly rejoices in God.

**C Refrain**

**A** God topples every tyrant and crown: My soul rejoices in God.  
The lowly raised and the mighty brought down: My soul rejoices, sings and rejoices, gladly rejoices in God.

**C Refrain**

**A** With wondrous things, God's banquet is spread: My soul rejoices in God.  
The rich go hungry, the hungry are fed: My soul rejoices, sings and rejoices, gladly rejoices in God.

**C Refrain**

*Text and tune: Marty Haugen, © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense.net #A-705005.*

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the  Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C** Amen.

## Closing Hymn: 342 - What Hope! An Eden Prophesied



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;  
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da-vid's line,  
3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,  
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!  
A Prince of Peace in Beth-le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.  
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.  
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

*Text: Stephen P. Starke, © 1998 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense.net #A-705005.*

*Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth*

## Postlude

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* – arr. John A. Behnke

## Acknowledgments

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## Participants

Preacher:	Rev. Mike Fieberkorn	
Liturgist:	Rev. Mark Rouland	
Children's Message:	Vickie Adams, Operations Coordinator	
Organist:	Mark Thoelke	
Choir:	8:00	Adult Choir
Soloist:	8:00/10:30 Teresa and Daniel Thoelke	
Instruments:	8:00/10:30 Wind Ensemble	
Lay Readers:	5:00	Steve Grimes
	8:00	Sue Bredow
	10:30	Marc Debrick
Acolytes:	5:00	Lily Johnston, Ella Temm
	8:00	Jordan Schmidt, Rosie Coffman
	10:30	Gus Phipps, Hayden Holz
Elder:	5:00	Chris Bates
	8:00	Gary Adams
	10:30	Brian Moore
Ushers:	5:00	Ray Barker Team
	8:00	Kevin Bergfeld Team
	10:30	Gerry Krueger Team