

# HOLY EUCHARIST

## *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | DECEMBER 24, 2023 - 9:00AM

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PRELUDE

No. 3: Andante tranquillo 'Veni Emmanuel' from *Three Short Preludes*  
Edward C. Bairstow (1874-1946)

*Please stand as the bell sounds.*



*Singing the "O Antiphons" during the weeks of Advent is a tradition that dates back to the fifth century. Each of the seven antiphons (Advent was longer then) contains a name for the messiah given by the prophet Isaiah: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Root of Jesse, O Key of David, O Morning Star, O King of the Nations, O Emmanuel (meaning God with us). We will sing one of these O Antiphons before the Gospel reading each Sunday.*

## HYMN IN PROCESSION

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:  
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn in procession. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, and the second system contains four lines of lyrics. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C).

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788)

Music: *Stuttgart*, melody from *Psalmody Sacra, oder Andächtige und Schöne Gesänge*, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793–1870), alt.

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The Celebrant intones*

Our God, Emmanuel, now draws near;

*The People respond*

O come, let us a-dore.

The image shows a musical notation for the opening acclamation. It consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation is a simple melody with four notes: a half note on B-flat, a quarter note on C, a quarter note on D, and a half note on E. The lyrics "O come, let us a-dore." are written below the staff.

## THE TRISAGION

*sung once by the Cantor, and then twice by all*

The musical score for 'The Trisagion' is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in a key of B-flat major (two flats). The melody is primarily in the Treble staff, with the Bass staff providing a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.' The score consists of two systems. The first system covers the first two lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the last two lines. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

Setting: Ver. Hymnal 1982, after Alexander Archangelsky (1846-1924)

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*The Celebrant intones*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Here in our midst, O God of mystery, you disclose the secret hidden for countless ages. For you we wait; for you we listen. Upon hearing your voice may we, like Mary, embrace your will and become a dwelling fit for your Word. Grant this through the one whose coming is certain, whose day draws near: your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

*On this Sunday, the Song of Mary (Magnificat) is sung in place of the Psalm.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm;  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat,  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.

Setting: plainsong

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ANTIPHON *standing; all turn toward the Gospel as the Cantor sings*

*O Emmanuel,  
Rex et legifer noster,  
exspectatio Gentium, et Salvator earum:  
veni ad salvandum nos, Domine, Deus noster.*

O Emmanuel,  
our king and lawgiver;  
the hope of the nations and their Savior,  
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

THE GOSPEL *The Deacon or Priest intones*

*Luke 1:26-38*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.



Glory to you, O Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

*The Rev. Paul Carling*

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

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, She\* is worshipped and glorified. She 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.

*\*Holy Spirit in biblical languages is a feminine-gendered word,  
and we use the feminine pronoun here to highlight that aspect of God's fullness.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. *(ISAIAH 9/2)*

You who dwell in darkness and light, in silence and sound, dwell in the hearts of your people. In hope, peace, and joy may we await with anticipation the coming of Christ the Morning Star.

Christ, be our light. **Shine in our hearts.**

You who delivered your people from the misery of bondage in slavery to the land of promise, set us free from enslavement to division, disunity, and distrust in our public life and labor. Illumine those in authority with the light of vision.

Christ, be our light. **Shine in our hearts.**

You who patterned the stars and called the sun and moon into being, pattern the hearts of people everywhere to see in each other the beauty of the universe and the splendor of creation, that divisions of race, class, gender, and ethnicity may be recreated into one common humanity.

Christ, be our light. **Shine in our hearts.**

You who shower comfort and hope to the lowest, the lost, and the least, shower the light of compassion on the sick, the sorrowful, and the suffering. Help us to be your compassion and hope in the world.

*(Please speak aloud or offer in silence the names of those for whom you are praying).*

Christ, be our light. **Shine in our hearts.**

You who welcome into the brilliant light of eternity those who have died, welcome those whose lives have been cut short by violence, warfare, and strife. Shine the light of hope.

*(Please speak aloud or offer in silence the names of those for whom you are praying).*

Christ, be our light. **Shine in our hearts.**

And for what else shall we pray? *(Please speak aloud your own prayers, or offer them silently.)*

Christ, be our light. **Shine in our hearts.**

**May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find us ever burning with the light of love, the spirit of truth, and the wellspring of hope. Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of peace with those around you.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS      *seated*

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**Thank You!**

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HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY *standing*



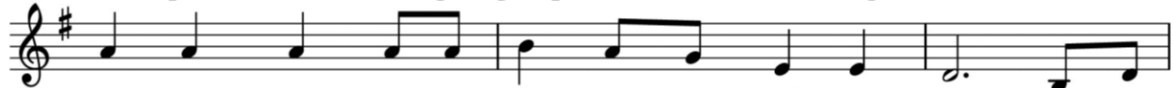
1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is  
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in  
3 From the halls of power to the for-tress tower, not a stone will be left on  
4 Though the na-tions rage from age to age, we re-mem-ber who holds us



great, and my spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you  
me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the  
stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - ery  
fast: God's mer - cy must de - liv - er us from the



bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your  
end of the age to be. Your ver - y name puts the  
ty - rant from his throne. The hun - gry poor shall  
con - quer-or's crush - ing grasp. This sav - ing word that our



ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not spurn, so from  
proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will  
weep no more, for the food they can nev - er earn; there are  
fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us bound, till the



east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
ta - bles spread; ev - ery mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turn-ing the world a - round.

*Refrain*



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe a -



way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Words: Rory Cooney

Music: *Star of the County Down*, Irish melody arr. Rory Cooney

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*This year, our Advent Eucharistic prayer changes weekly to draw from the themes and imagery found in each week's scripture texts.*

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe. Since the time when you brought your people Israel out of Egypt you have been our shepherd, leading us and traveling among us. Now, as you promised, you have established for us an eternal home. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing the glory of your name:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - - - - ly, God of pow-er and  
might: Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo -  
ry be to you, O God most high. Bles - sed is he that comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san na in the high - est.

Setting: Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan (1880–1968)

*The Celebrant continues*

You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Born in a humble home, to a virgin named Mary, Jesus came to rule over the house of Jacob forever— for with you, O God, nothing is impossible.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering your gracious acts in Jesus Christ, we take from your creation this bread and this wine and joyfully celebrate his dying and rising, as we await the day of his coming.

With thanksgiving, we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

By your Spirit, unite us with Christ and with your church in all the world. Strengthen us by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ so that we may be obedient to your commandments and proclaim the mystery of our faith to all the nations.

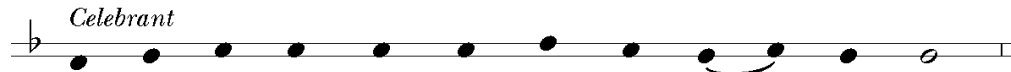
Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

*People*

● ————  
A-men.

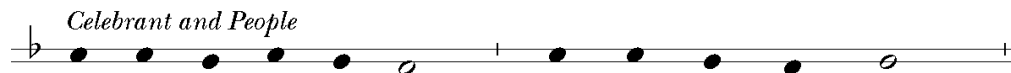
# THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant*

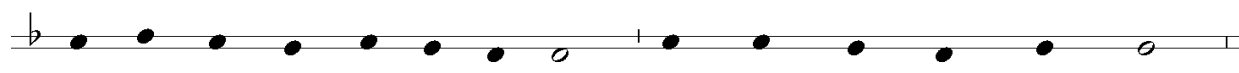


As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

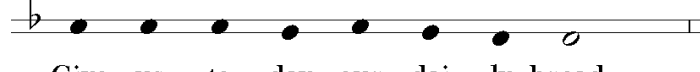
*Celebrant and People*



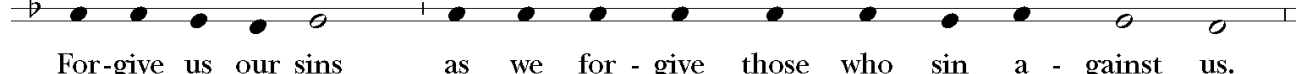
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



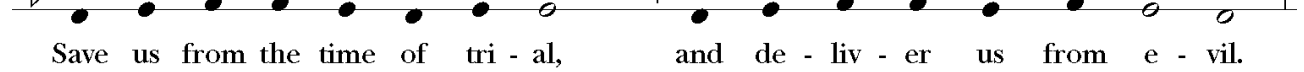
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.



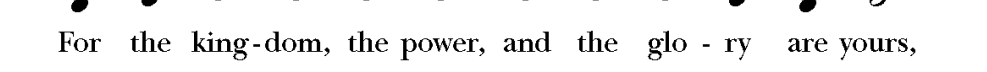
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.



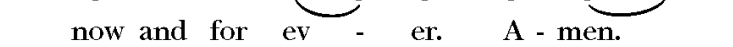
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.



Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,



now and for ev - er. A - men.

Setting: Ambrosian Chant, adapt. Mason Martens

## THE COMMUNION

*The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying*

God bids us now draw near;

**O Come, Emmanuel, and find us ready to receive you.**

*Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free bread is available upon request; grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups at the side altars. (For the health of all, we are no longer dipping the bread into the chalice wine by hand.)*

*Healing prayer is available in the side aisles for those wishing to pray with someone for any need in their lives.*

*All sing as the distribution of Communion begins:*

*Organ*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of 31 measures, with measure numbers 6, 10, 14, 18, 23, 27, and 31 marked at the beginning of their respective lines. The lyrics are: "O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, grant us your peace." The melody is simple and hymn-like, with long horizontal lines indicating sustained notes. The final measure (31) ends with a double bar line.

O Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sins of the world, have mer - cy up -  
on us. O Lamb of  
God, you take a - way the sins of the  
world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
O Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sins of the world,  
grant us your peace.

Setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880–1968)

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION      *standing*

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.

THE BLESSING

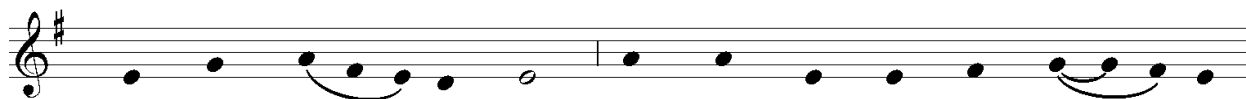
*The Celebrant blesses the People with these or other words of blessing*

The blessing of God Almighty: Eternal Majesty, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Presence, be upon you  
and remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

# HYMN IN PROCESSION



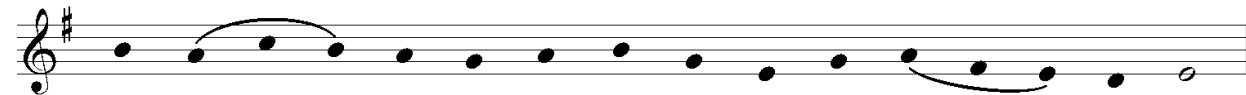
O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from  
 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to  
 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.  
 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. Hymnal 1940, alt.

Music: Veni, veni, Emmanuel, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811–1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

## THE DISMISSAL

Go with joy, to discover God's promise in the wilderness.

**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

## POSTLUDE

*Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel' - Andrew Carter*

## THE WORSHIP IS OVER – THE SERVICE BEGINS

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ST PAUL'S ON THE GREEN – 60 EAST AVE., NORWALK, CT 06851

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 [info@stpaulsnorwalk.org](mailto:info@stpaulsnorwalk.org)

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Rector*

The Rev. Paul Carling *Priest Associate*

Molly Cooke *Seminarian*

Will Doreza *Interim Director of Music*

Josh Ehlebracht *Interim Organist*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*

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