

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025
*“A Light Shines in the
Darkness”*



INTRODUCTORY RITES

Gathering Song:

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

VENI, VENI, EMMANUEL

Verses

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
4. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se's stem, From
5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And
6. O come, Thou Day-spring from on high And
7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In

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
4. ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them That trust thy
5. o - pen wide our heav - 'nly home; Make safe the
6. cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the
7. one the hearts of all hu - man - kind; Bid thou our

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 -
4. might - y pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry
5. way that leads on high, And close the path to
6. gloom - y clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ow
7. sad di - vi - sions cease, And be thy - self our

Refrain

1. God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
2. ways to go.
3. ty and awe.
4. o'er the grave.
5. mis - er - y.
6. put to flight.
7. Prince of Peace.

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.

Sign of the Cross

Greeting

Act of Penitence

Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading 1

Isaiah 7:10-14

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying:

Ask for a sign from the LORD, your God;

let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!

But Ahaz answered,

"I will not ask! I will not tempt the LORD!"

Then Isaiah said:

Listen, O house of David!

Is it not enough for you to weary people,

must you also weary my God?

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:

the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,

and shall name him Emmanuel.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm:



Refrain, Lectionary for Mass, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL
Music: ©2012 Wm. Glenn Osborne. All rights reserved.

Reading 2 [Romans 1:1-7](#)

Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus,

called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God,

which he promised previously through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,

the gospel about his Son, descended from David according to the flesh,

but established as Son of God in power

according to the Spirit of holiness
through resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him we have received the grace of apostleship,
to bring about the obedience of faith,
for the sake of his name, among all the Gentiles,
among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ;
to all the beloved of God in Rome, called to be holy.
Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord

Gospel Acclamation

Advent Alleluia

Refrain

Cantor, then all (first time only):



Verses

1. Lord, show us your mercy and love,
and grant us your salvation.
2. Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
all people shall see the salvation of God.
3. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
he sent me to bring good news to the poor.
4. A virgin will give birth to a Son; a virgin will give birth to a Son;
his name will be Emmanuel: God is with us.
5. I am the servant of the Lord:
may his will for me be done.

Gospel

Priest or Deacon: The Lord be with you

All Respond: And with your spirit

Priest or Deacon: A reading from the Holy Gospel According to: Matthew

All Respond: (signing the cross on their forehead, lips and heart) Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel [Matthew 1:18-24](#)

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about.
When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,
but before they lived together,
she was found with child through the Holy Spirit.
Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man,
yet unwilling to expose her to shame,
decided to divorce her quietly.
Such was his intention when, behold,
the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said,
"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins."
All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:
*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,*
which means "God is with us."
When Joseph awoke,
he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him
and took his wife into his home.

The Gospel of the Lord

Homily

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day 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.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

Please respond: Lord, Hear Our Prayer

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation Song:

HAIL MARY, GENTLE WOMAN

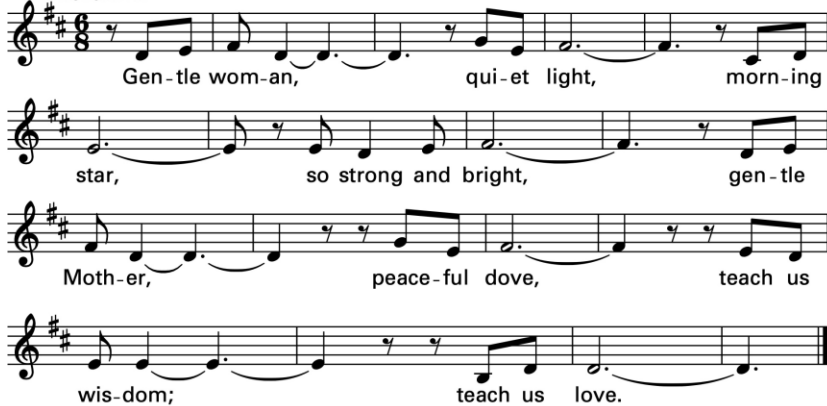
Carey Landry

Intro: Cantor

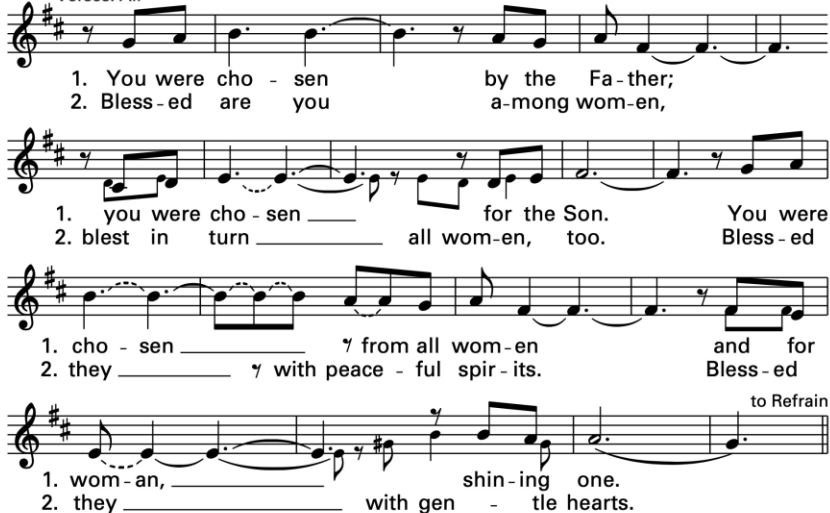
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women and
blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of death. Amen.

Refrain: All



Verses: All



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

Invitation to Pray

Pray my brothers and sisters ...

*Response: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name, for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.*

Preface Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

Response: And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

Response: We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Response: It is right and just.

Eucharistic Acclamations: Mass for Our Lady



Text © 2010, ICEL

Steven C. Warner and Karen Schneider Kirner
Music © 2011, WLP

Memorial Acclamation

Priest: Let us proclaim the Mystery of Faith:

All Sing:



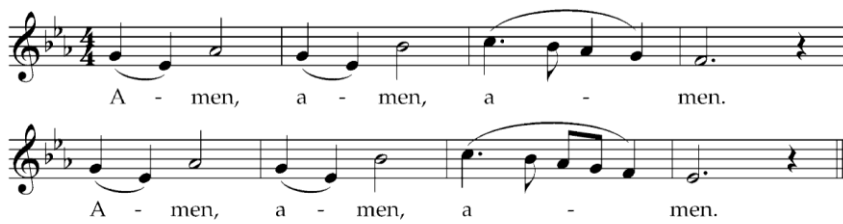
Text © 2010, ICEL

Steven C. Warner and Karen Schneider Kirner
Music © 2011, WLP

Doxology

Priest: Through him, with him and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever.

All Sing:



Steven C. Warner and Karen Schneider Kirner
Music © 2011, WLP

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Response: And with your Spirit

Fraction Rite



Steven C. Warner and Karen Schneider Kirner
Music © 2011, WLP

Invitation to Communion

Behold the Lamb of God, Behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

*Response: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.*

Communion Song:

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

Bernadette Farrell

Verses



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
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for
5. Man - y the gifts, — man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



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, —
4. warmth, — man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
5. hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



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.
4. shel - ter - ing oth-ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
5. to one an - oth - er, mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

© 1993, Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Post Communion Prayer

CONCLUDING RITES

Announcements

Final Blessing

Dismissal

Sending Song:

Sending Song: Soon and Very Soon

Soon and very soon we are going to see the King, soon and very soon we are going to see the king, soon and very soon, we are going to see the King. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're going to see the king.

No more crying there....

No more dying there....

Text & Tune Andrae Crouch ©1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music/ASCAP

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-700431. All rights reserved."

Scripture reprinted with permission of Confraternity of Christian Doctrine of the USCCB. Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States, second typical edition, Copyright © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; Psalm refrain © 1968, 1981, 1997, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved. Neither this work nor any part of it may be reproduced, distributed, performed or displayed in any medium, including electronic or digital, without permission in writing from the copyright owner.