

***Welcome, visitors! Welcome members and friends of St. Matthew Ev. Lutheran Church.
Thank you for joining us in church and on our online service today.***

HOLY COMMUNION is celebrated in our service this morning. +Guests who are baptized Christians, who acknowledge and confess their sinfulness, who confess Jesus Christ as their Savior from sin, and who believe that He is really present in Holy Communion to bring us His forgiveness and life, are welcome to the Lord's Table.



2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
HOLY COMMUNION SETTING 3 pg. 138

December 8, 2024

Prelude

WELCOME

(Please rise)

GATHERING HYMN – ELW 266 ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL

At every beginning there is a yearning.

O Emmanuel, wake us up to your coming.

Awaken our hearts to expect the unexpected and imagine the unimaginable.

O Emmanuel, wake us up to your coming.

We welcome your presence now with the lighting of this candle whose flame brings warmth to winter and fills this place with the glow of hope.

Cong - Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING HYMN – ELW “Christ the Lord is Coming”

(Choir sings Advent 2, then Congregation joins at ALL)

Cantor/Choir:



Advent 1: Christ the Lord is com - ing, bring - ing hope and light,
Advent 2: Christ the Lord is com - ing to this wea - ry land!
Advent 3: Christ the Lord is com - ing, sent from God a - bove
Advent 4: Christ the Lord is com - ing! Sing this hap - py morn



Re - a - wake - ning hearts now bur - dened by the night.
Rise, re - pent, pro - claim the King - dom is at hand!
to re - veal God's mer - cy, jus - tice, truth, and love.
of the Word In - car - nate in whom we are re - born!

All:



"No - ël" sing with glad - ness, "No - ël" sing with cheer, put a -



way all fear and sad - ness, Christ the Son of God is near!



"No - ël" sing with glad - ness, "No - ël" sing with cheer, put a -



way all fear and sad - ness, Christ the Son of God is near!

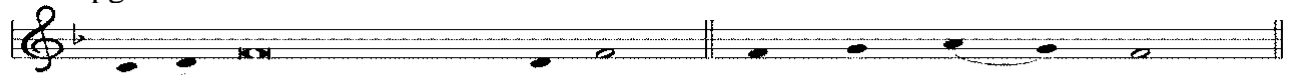
Text: Michael Burkhardt, and copyright © 2020 Birmamwood.
Tune: Traditional French carol (PD).

GREETING

Pastor – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Cong – And also with you.

KYRIE – pg. 138



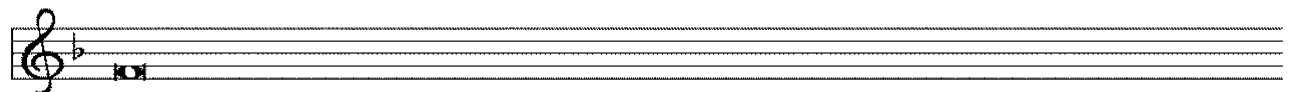
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



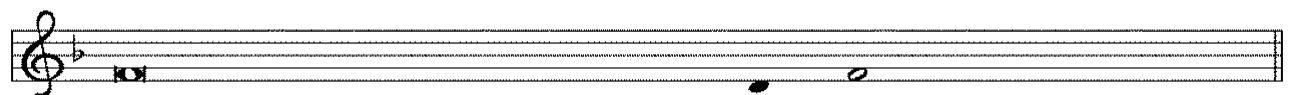
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

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HYMN OF PRAISE – pg. 139 “Glory to God...”

Assisting minister

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,

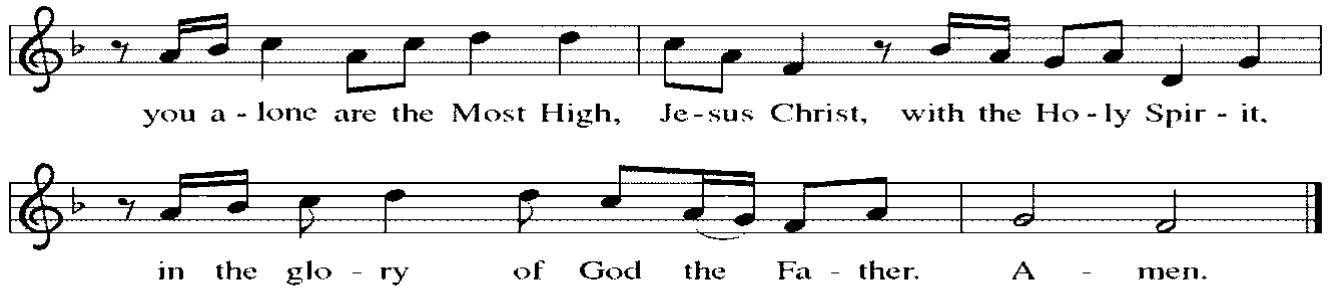
we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Cong – Amen.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

Bill Wise, Elder

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

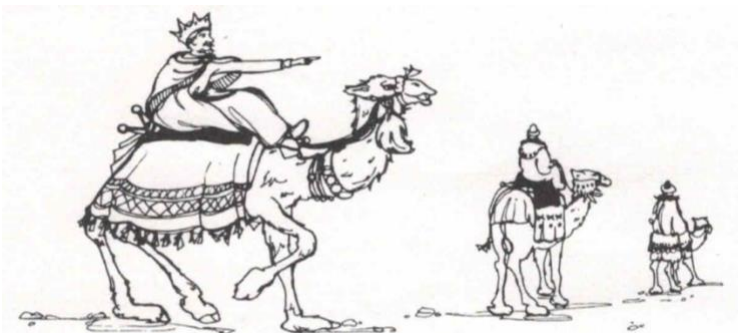
Leader – The Word of the Lord.

Cong – Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:68-79

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (Luke 1:78)

(Choir will sing the Psalm before and at the R)
(The Psalm will be sung responsively, beginning with Choir)



⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,
 you have come to your people and | set them free.
⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,**
born of the house of your | servant David. R
⁷⁰Through your holy prophets,
 you promised of old to save us | from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of | all who hate us,
⁷²**to show mercy | to our forebears,**
and to remember your | holy covenant.
⁷³This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:
⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,
free to worship you | without fear,
⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life. R**
⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,
 for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,
⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge | of salvation**
by the forgiveness | of their sins.
⁷⁸In the tender compassion | of our God
 the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,
⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shad- | ow of death,**
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace. R

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

Bill Wise, Elder

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Leader – The Word of the Lord.

Cong – Thanks be to God.

(Please rise)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – CHOIR

Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. *Alleluia.*
 (Luke 3:4, 6)

Pastor – The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

Cong – Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6**Pastor Kelly Reagan**

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Pastor – The Gospel of the Lord.

Cong – **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**SERMON**

(Please rise)

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 249 On Jordan's Bank The Baptist's Cry

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS

Pastor – Lord, in your mercy,

Cong – **Receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Cong - Amen.

May the Peace of the Lord be with you always!

Cong – **And also with you.**

PEACE

(Please be seated)

OFFERING

(Please rise)

OFFERTORY – “WE ARE AWAITING THE COMING”



1 We are a - wait - ing the com - ing of Je - sus,
2 We are the vine you have plant - ed and tend - ed;
3 We bring these signs of our lives whol - ly giv - en;

yearn - ing in dark - ness for light and for peace,
we are the wheat you have wa - tered and sown.
let them for us be Christ's wine and Christ's bread

long - ing at - last to re - joice on that
Take our first - fruits, take our bowed heads of
poured out in love for the heal - ing of

day when all peo - ple and join in this feast.
grain, in - crease them and make them your own.
all and bro - ken that all may be fed.

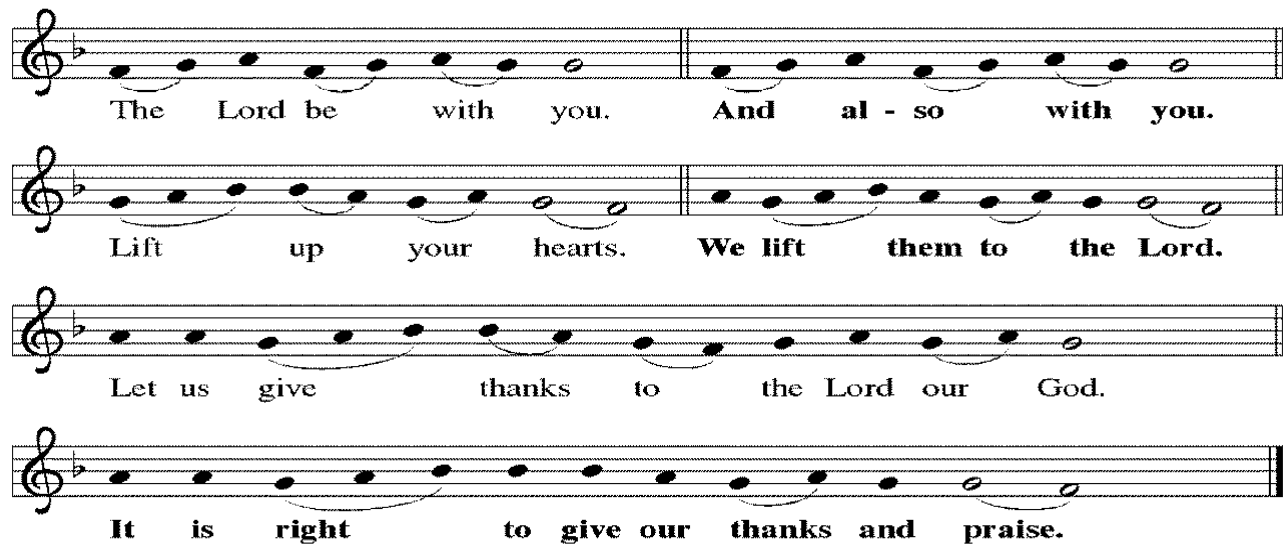
Text and music: Paul Friesen-Carper
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OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Cong – Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Preface Dialogue



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

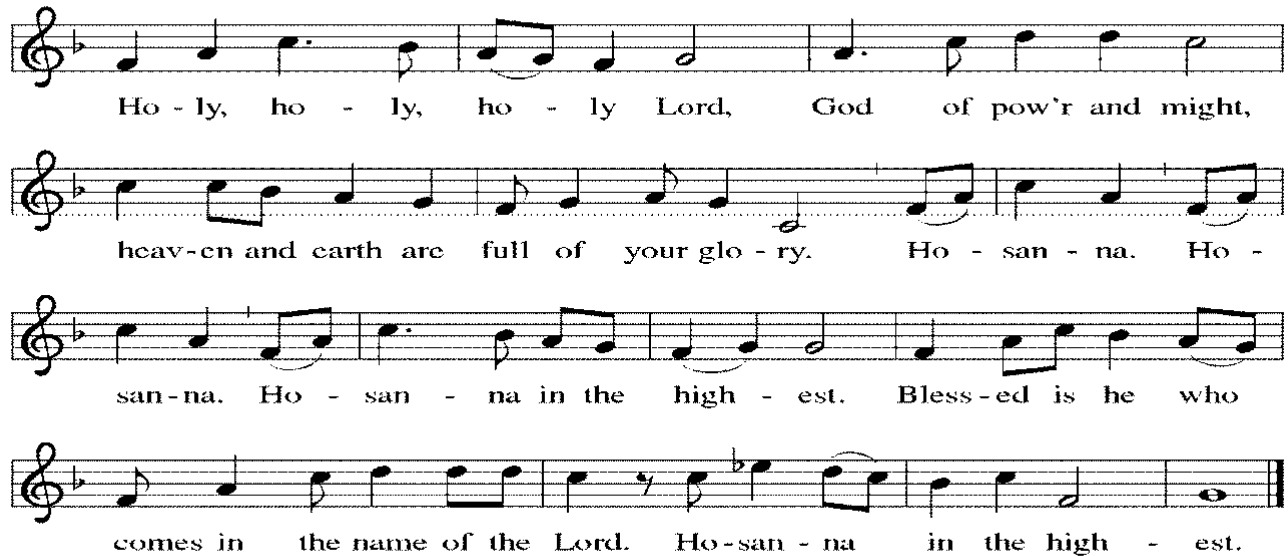
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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 in the high - est.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING III (ELW pg. 110)

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Cong – Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Cong – Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Cong – Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Cong – Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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COMMUNION HYMN - ELW 253 HE CAME DOWN

(Please rise)

POST-COMMUNION HYMN - (ELW 204)

Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Text and music © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

Cong– Amen.

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, + bless and keep you now and forever.

Cong – Amen.

SENDING HYMN – ELW 246 HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING

(Please be seated)

Postlude

Pastor - Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Cong - Thanks be to God.

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December 8 – (Sunday) – Annual Voter’s Assembly – 11:00 a.m.

December 11 – (Wednesday) – Supper – 6:00 p.m., then Worship – 6:30 p.m.
(Soup & Side Dish)

December 18 - (Wednesday) – Carols, Candles & Cookies – 7:00 p.m. in the Narthex.
(Bring cookies to share)

December 22 – (Sunday) - Children’s Christmas Service – 9:30 a.m.
Jesus’ Birthday Party – (after the Worship Service)

December 24 – (Tuesday) – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – 7:30 p.m.
(Bring cookies to share before and after the service)

December 25 – (Wednesday) - Merry Christmas!

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co_a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

2 *Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:*
"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"
será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,
con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.

3 *Montes y valles habrá que preparar;*
nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

4 *En una cueva Jesús apareció,*
pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

249

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite
 Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

PUER NOBIS
 LM

He Came Down



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
 he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
 he came down that we may have peace;
 he came down that we may have joy;



Text: Cameroon traditional
 Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949
 Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

HE CAME DOWN
 LM

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son



"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
 Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
 he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

