

**Welcome!** We are happy to share God's peace with everyone. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have any questions, the ushers are ready to help. Feel free to visit after the service.

- Aids to assist with hearing (Williams Sound System) are available from the ushers.
- Large Print Hymnal Binders are available on the tract desk for those with vision difficulties.
- Personal prayers for use before church or during the week are printed on p. 255-258 in the hymnal.

**Please note: the Sunday service is being recorded and streamed on YouTube.**

**[www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar](http://www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar)**

**Service of Evening Prayer: pg. 215**

**310 Arise, O Christian People**

**310**

1 Arise, O Christian people!  
Prepare yourselves today;  
prepare to greet the Savior,  
who takes your sins away.  
To us by grace alone  
the truth and light were given;

the promised Lord from heaven  
to all the world is shown.

2 Prepare the way before him,  
prepare for him the best;  
cast out what would offend him,  
this great, this heav'nly guest.  
Make straight, make plain the way:  
the lowly valleys raising,  
the heights of pride abasing,  
his path all even lay.

3 The humble heart and lowly  
God raises up on high;  
beneath his feet in terror  
the haughty soul shall lie.  
The heart sincere and right,  
that heeds God's invitation  
and makes true preparation—  
it is the Lord's delight.

*Please stand for the final stanza*

4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;  
turn not from me aside,  
and help me to receive you  
this blessèd Advent-tide.  
From stall and manger low  
come now to dwell within me;

I'll sing your praises gladly  
and forth your glory show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662; (sts. 1–3): tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–1874, alt.; (st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Opening Sentences

CW 215

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,  
**the light no darkness can overcome.**

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,  
**and the day is almost over.**

Be our light and scatter the darkness,  
**and hear our evening prayer and praise.**

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## Hymn of Light

CW 216

- 1 Gladd'ning light of purest glory,  
shining down from heav'n on high,  
from the everliving Father—  
hail, most blessed Jesus Christ!
- 2 In the fading light of evening,  
as the setting sun departs,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—  
we adore you, Lord our God.
- 3 For your gift of life unending,  
joyful voices ever sing  
hymns of praise that rightly honor,  
Son of God, your saving name.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, for you are merciful and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

## **Psalm 141**

CW 217

Let my prayer rise before you as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

O Lord, I call to you; come to me quickly;  
hear my voice when I cry to you.

Let my prayer rise before you as incense,  
the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord,  
and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing  
your praises with the Church on earth and forever in  
heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## 89 Forever I Will Sing

Psalm 89

### *Refrain*

**Forever I will sing the goodness of the LORD, the  
goodness of the LORD.**

I will sing of the LORD's great love for- / ever;

with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known  
through all gener- / ations.

I will declare that your love stands firm for- / ever,

that you have established your faithfulness in / heav'n  
itself.

The heavens praise your / wonders, LORD,

your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the / holy  
ones. *Refrain*

Who is like you, LORD God Al- / mighty?

You, LORD, are mighty, and your faithfulness sur- /  
rounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to ac- / claim you,  
who walk in the light of your / presence, LORD.

They rejoice in your name / all day long;

they celebrate your / righteousness.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son**

**and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

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***(The following prayer is said:)***

Lord God, grant us your Holy Spirit that we may hear and believe your Word. Cleanse our minds and renew our hearts that we may live for you here and hereafter; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Reading**

*Isaiah 7:10–14*

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, <sup>11</sup>“Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above.”

<sup>12</sup>But Ahaz responded, “I will not ask. I will not test the LORD.”

<sup>13</sup>So Isaiah said:

Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reading**

*Romans 1:1–7*

<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 in advance through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. <sup>3</sup>This gospel is about his Son, who in the flesh was born a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup>who in the spirit of holiness was declared to be God's powerful Son by his resurrection from the dead—Jesus Christ, our Lord. <sup>5</sup>Through him we received grace and the call to be an apostle on behalf of his name, to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, <sup>6</sup>including you, who were called by Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>To all those loved by God who are in Rome, called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Reading**

*Matthew 1:18–25*

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. <sup>20</sup>But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of

David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup>All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.”

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but he was not intimate with her until she gave birth to her firstborn son. And he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

**327 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**      *CW 327 sts. 1, Ref, 2–4*

1      O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear. (Refrain)

**Ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel!**



- 2 O come, O Root of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. (Refrain)
- 3 O come, O Dayspring from on high,  
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)
- 4 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery. (Refrain)

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## Sermon

Isaiah 7:10-14

Immanuel Is Coming!

I. The LORD promised (10-11)

II. Don't reject that promise (12-13)

III. God is with us (14)

*(Stand)*

## Song of Mary

CW 220

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations  
will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him  
in ev'ry generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our fathers, to Abraham,  
and to his children forever. Amen.

*(Be seated)*

**Offering**  
*(Stand)*

## **Lord, Have Mercy**

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For . . . [*additional bids for prayer may be inserted here*] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*Silence for individual prayer may follow.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord:

**to you, O Lord.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

## **Benedicamus**

Let us praise the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Blessing**

The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

## **314 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide**

CW 314

- 1 O Savior, rend the heavens wide;  
come down, come down with mighty stride.  
Unlock the gates, the doors break down;  
unbar the way to heaven's crown.
- 2 O Morning Star, O radiant Dawn,  
when will we sing your morning song?  
Come, Son of God! Without your light  
we grope in dread and gloom of night.
- 3 Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies;  
grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
Come lead us with your mighty hand  
from exile to our promised land.
- 4 There shall we all our praises bring  
and sing to you, our Savior-King;

# there shall we laud you and adore forever and forevermore.

Text: Friedrich von Spee, 1591–1635, abr.; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909–1967, alt.

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#### Acknowledgments

Evening Prayer from Christian Worship

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