

**The Season** Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation. The Church looks for the coming of her Savior in this threefold advent: his coming in the flesh; his return in judgment; his daily coming in Word and Sacrament. A single word that defines Advent worship: "Come!" Throughout the prayers, verses, and lessons that single word is our invitation, our anticipation, our sure and certain hope. Come, Lord Jesus!

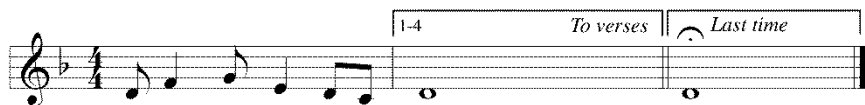
**The Sunday** Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near! The Forerunner prepares for the coming Christ by preaching repentance that brings renewal of life. The Root of Jesse will come in swift judgment on the unrepentant but in mercy and grace for God's people. His coming will end the wickedness of the world and usher in a new age restored to the perfection with which God made it.

**Opening Hymn**

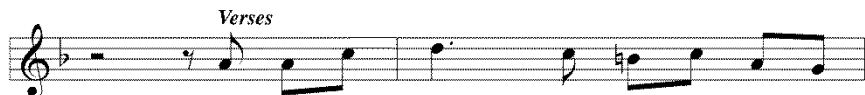
*My Soul in Stillness Waits* CWS 703



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits,



tru-ly my hope is in you. you.



- Verses*
- 1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of
  - 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up - on our
  - 3 O Root of Life, im - plant your seed with -
  - 4 O Key of Know - ledge, guide us in our



glo - ry, Your ra-diance shines in all who look to  
 spir - its. Our thirs - ty hearts are yearn - ing for your  
 in us, And in your ad - vent draw us all to  
 pil-grim-age, We ev - er seek, yet un - ful - filled re -



*To Refrain*

you. Come, light the hearts of all in dark and sha-dow.  
 Word. Come, make us whole, be com-fort to our hearts.  
 you, Our hope re - born in dy - ing and in ris - ing.  
 main. O - pen to us the path-way of your peace.

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 Tune: MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS (11 10 11 and Refrain) Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**Morrison Zion  
 Evangelical  
 Lutheran Church**

Wisconsin Evangelical  
 Lutheran Synod



Our mission is to  
**Glorify God**  
 as we  
**Gather**  
 around the Gospel  
 to help people  
**Grow**  
 in the Gospel  
 and  
**Go**  
 with the Gospel

**Welcome!** We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

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GATHERING RITE

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M: We wait in hope for the LORD ; he is our help and our shield.

**C: In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.**

M: May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you (Ps 33:20-23)

**C: (sung ) For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.**

M: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

**C: according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions**

M: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.(Ps 51:1-2; 32:1)

**C: (sung ) For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.**

M: If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

**C: But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.**

M: I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. (Ps 130:3-5)

**C: (sung ) For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.**

M: I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

**C: Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.**

M: He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins. (Ps 130:6-8)

**C: (sung ) For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.**

M: My heart is not proud, LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me

**C: But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content.**

M: Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore. (Ps 131)

**C: (sung ) For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, truly my hope is in you.**

## Prayer of the Day

**M:** Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*Be Seated*

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## THE WORD

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**Choir**

*Emmanuel (8:00)*

### First Lesson

**Daniel 4:19-37**

God had used Nebuchadnezzar as his ax to chop down the unrepentant tree of David. But the king of Babylon failed to heed Daniel's warning that the ax now sat at the root of his own tree. The prophet told him to repent, for God's coming judgment was near. Nebuchadnezzar failed to acknowledge God's sovereign power; he failed to repent and live in newness of life. So God fulfilled the dream: the tree of Nebuchadnezzar's reign was chopped down. God struck his glory and power and left him with neither civility nor sanity. How true it is: God is able to humble those who walk in pride. The world's greatest sovereign became like an animal. Yet look at the mercy of God! When Nebuchadnezzar repented and acknowledged and glorified God, the Lord forgave him, renewed him, and restored him.

<sup>19</sup> Then Daniel (also called Belteshazzar) was greatly perplexed for a time, and his thoughts terrified him. So the king said, "Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you."

Belteshazzar answered, "My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries! <sup>20</sup> The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth, <sup>21</sup> with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the wild animals, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds— <sup>22</sup> Your Majesty, you are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth.

<sup>23</sup> "Your Majesty saw a holy one, a messenger, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump, bound with iron and bronze, in the grass of the field, while its roots remain in the ground. Let him be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live with the wild animals, until seven times pass by for him.'

<sup>24</sup> "This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: <sup>25</sup> You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the

Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes. <sup>26</sup> The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules. <sup>27</sup> Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.”

<sup>28</sup> All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>29</sup> Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, <sup>30</sup> he said, “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”

<sup>31</sup> Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, “This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. <sup>32</sup> You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes.”

<sup>33</sup> Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

<sup>34</sup> At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

His dominion is an eternal dominion;  
his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

<sup>35</sup> All the peoples of the earth  
are regarded as nothing.

He does as he pleases  
with the powers of heaven  
and the peoples of the earth.

No one can hold back his hand  
or say to him: “What have you done?”

<sup>36</sup> At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. <sup>37</sup> Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble. (NIV)

## Psalm of the Day

## Psalm 14 CWS

### *Refrain*



Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord Je - sus,



come. Re - store your peo-ple and bless them.

### *Psalm Tone*



The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men  
to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt;  
there is no one who does good, not even one.

### *Refrain*

Will evildoers never learn—  
those who devour my people and do not call on the LORD?

You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,  
but the LORD is their refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!  
When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,  
let Israel rejoice and be glad!

**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.**

### *Refrain*

## Second Lesson

Acts 3:19-26

God used the miracle of the beggar's healing to capture the attention of the crowd so that Peter and John could preach a message of repentance to the people. They preached the harsh accusations of the law: "You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead," to prepare the hearts of the people to repent. Then they offered the sweetest gospel message that repentance brings renewal by wiping away sins and bringing God's refreshment through Christ.

<sup>19</sup> Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, <sup>20</sup> and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. <sup>21</sup> Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. <sup>22</sup> For Moses said, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you.

<sup>23</sup> Anyone who does not listen to him will be completely cut off from their people."<sup>[Dt 18:15,18,19]</sup>

<sup>24</sup> "Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days. <sup>25</sup> And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, "Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed."<sup>[Gn 22:18]</sup> <sup>26</sup> When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways." (NIV)

## Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. All mankind will see God's salvation. Alleluia. (Luke 3:4,6)

*Stand*

## Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

A voice in the desert cried out, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near!" A fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, John dressed like the first Elijah (2 Kings 1:8) and fulfilled the role of the second Elijah (Malachi 4:5-6) as foretold by Gabriel (Luke 1:17). Many people responded to John's preaching with repentance, baptism, and spiritual renewal. Others neither repented nor produced the fruits of a life renewed by the Spirit. John warned them that God's ax chops down unfruitful trees and leaves only stumps as witness to his judgment. John told both groups that the Messiah was near: near to the people to save them; near to the religious leaders to judge them. Harvest time had come, and God's winnowing fork was in his hand to separate the wheat from the chaff.

**3** In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea <sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,  
make straight paths for him.'"<sup>[Is 40:3]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?" <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup> And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be Seated*

## Hymn of the Day

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* CW 16



1 On    Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc -  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin And fur -  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref -  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, And lift  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, Whose ad -



es that the Lord is nigh; Come, then, and lis - ten,  
nished for a guest with - in, And let us all our  
uge and our great re - ward. With - out your grace we  
us up to fall no more. Oh, make your face on  
vent has our free - dom won, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Good news a - bout 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.  
us to 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. John Chandler, 1806–76, st. 1-3, alt.; composite, st. 4-5.  
Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

Sermon

Repent! God Will Humble The Proud

Daniel 4:19-37

*Stand*

### Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
I believe 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 is  
seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**



## Offering

### Prayer of the Church

M: Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**C: We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

M: As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**C: Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

M: You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**C: Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

M: Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**C: Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus! 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.**

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### **Benediction**

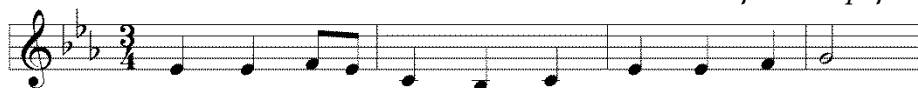
M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

*Be Seated*

# Hymn

## Lord of All Hopefulness CWS 769



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
 2 Lord of all eag - er - ness, Lord of all faith,  
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



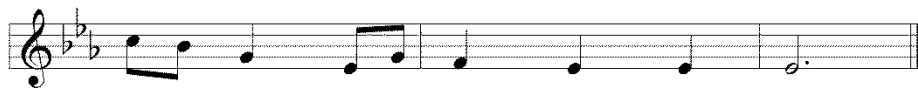
Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de -  
 Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the  
 Your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em -  
 Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is



stroy, Be there at our wak - ing and  
 lath, Be there at our la - bors and  
 brace, Be there at our hom - ing and  
 balm, Be there at our sleep - ing and



give us, we pray, Your bliss in our  
 give us, we pray, Your strength in our  
 give us, we pray, Your love in our  
 give us, we pray, Your peace in our



hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
 hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953 © 1931 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Tune: SLANE (Irregular) Irish folk song