

MIDWEEK OF ADVENT 3

ABSALOM

AS WE GATHER

Who is the son of David? Just like Adam and Eve and Abram and Sarai, so also David received a promise from God. The Lord's promise for King David was that his house and kingdom would be established forever. But this promise seems to be in jeopardy when David's son Absalom rebels against his own father. In the end, however, this disobedient prince dies, hanging from a tree. Yes, God would indeed establish David's reign, but it would be through Jesus, the greater Son, who is obedient to the will of His Father in heaven. This Prince of Peace dies by hanging nailed to the tree of the cross so we can be restored as sons and daughters of the King of kings.

HYMN

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *sts. 1, ref, 4-6*



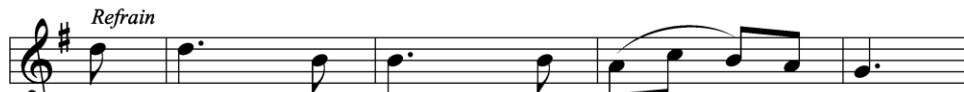
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.



Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 146:3–5

P Put not your trust in princes,

C **in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.**

P When his breath departs

C **he returns to the earth;**

P on that very day

C **his plans perish.**

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C **whose hope is in the LORD his God.**

SERVICE OF LIGHT

P The Sprit and the Church cry out:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P All those who await His appearance pray:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P The whole creation pleads:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Awaiting the Son of Man and the Son of God, we implore:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

HYMN OF LIGHT

400 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning *sts. 1, 4–5*



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;
Vain - ly with gifts would His fa - vor se - cure.
Dawn on our dark - ness and lend us thine aid;

Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
 Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion;
 Star of the East, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,

Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 Dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.
 Guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
 Tune: James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who allowed Your only begotten Son to die on the tree of the cross that we might be redeemed and adopted sons and daughters of the King of kings. 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 and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

PSALM 141

LSB, p. 245

- C** **Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
 the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**
- P** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly;
 hear my voice when I cry to You.
- C** **Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
 the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.**
- P** Set a watch before my mouth, O Lord,
 and guard the door of my lips.
- C** **Let not my heart incline to any evil thing;
 let me not be occupied in wickedness with evildoers.**
- P** But my eyes are turned to You, O God;
 in You I take refuge.
 Strip me not of my life.
- C** **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.

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

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 18:24–33

P A reading from Second Samuel, the eighteenth chapter.

²⁴Now David was sitting between the two gates, and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he lifted up his eyes and looked, he saw a man running alone. ²⁵The watchman called out and told the king. And the king said, “If he is alone, there is news in his mouth.” And he drew nearer and nearer. ²⁶The watchman saw another man running. And the watchman called to the gate and said, “See, another man running alone!” The king said, “He also brings news.” ²⁷The watchman said, “I think the running of the first is like the running of Ahimaaz the son of Zadok.” And the king said, “He is a good man and comes with good news.”

²⁸Then Ahimaaz cried out to the king, “All is well.” And he bowed before the king with his face to the earth and said, “Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king.” ²⁹And the king said, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” Ahimaaz answered, “When Joab sent the king’s servant, your servant, I saw a great commotion, but I do not know what it was.” ³⁰And the king said, “Turn aside and stand here.” So he turned aside and stood still.

³¹And behold, the Cushite came, and the Cushite said, “Good news for my lord the king! For the LORD has delivered you this day from the hand of all who rose up against you.” ³²The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Absalom?” And the Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up against you for evil be like that young man.” ³³And the king was deeply moved and went up to the chamber over the gate and wept. And as he went, he said, “O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died instead of you, O Absalom, my son, my son!”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:1–10

P A reading from Ephesians, the fifth chapter.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. ⁵For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. ⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were

darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THIRD READING

Matthew 22:41–46

P A reading from Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

⁴¹Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, ⁴²saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is He?” They said to Him, “The son of David.” ⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls Him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴“ ‘The Lord said to my Lord,
Sit at My right hand,
until I put Your enemies under Your feet’?”

⁴⁵If then David calls Him Lord, how is He his son?” ⁴⁶And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask Him any more questions.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

READINGS RESPONSE

P In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

HYMN

“In This Precious Baby Boy” (*See insert; Tune: LSB 436*)

In This Precious Baby Boy *Tune: LSB #436*

In this precious baby boy,
We are given peace and joy.
By the Spirit, hope is won—
Mary bore the Father’s Son.
Son of God and Son of Man:
He fulfills the holy plan.

God's own children, we have strayed,
Constantly have disobeyed
In the garden, in the sand,
Through the river, in the Land.
But the Child who takes our place
Bears the cross to earn us grace.

Through this baby in the hay,
God has given us the Way
To inherit life above,
Rescued by His perfect love.
In this Child, we all may be
Children of eternity.

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SERMON

OFFERING

LITANY

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P 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:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For [*names of synodical and district presidents*], for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For [*name of president or monarch*], for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C To You, O Lord.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C 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.

BENEDICTION

Psalm 146:5

P Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C whose hope is in the LORD his God.

P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the T Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C Amen.

HYMN

376 *Once in Royal David's City*

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 feels for all our sad-ness, And He shares in all our glad-ness.
 leads His chil-dren on To the place where He is gone.
 stars His chil-dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–95, alt.

Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–76

Text and tune: Public domain