

**Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 24, 2023**

332 Savior of the Nations, Come

sts. 1–2, 4, 6, 8

**1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.**

**2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.**

**4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.**

**6 For You are the Father’s Son
Who in flesh the vict’ry won.
By Your mighty pow’r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.**

**△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.**

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (sts. 4, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (st. 6): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006
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P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Introit

Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b

Show, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

In them he has set a tent for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,

and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,

and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

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.

Show, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

Kyrie

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

A 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.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Amen.

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

sts. 1, ref, 3, 5

**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 thee, O Israel!**

**3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain**

**5 O come, Thou 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, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
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Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle Reading

Romans 16:25–27

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26–38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

383 A Great and Mighty Wonder

1 A great and mighty wonder,

A full and holy cure:

The virgin bears the infant

With virgin honor pure! Refrain

ref Proclaim the Savior's birth:

"To God on high be glory

And peace to all the earth!"

2 The Word becomes incarnate

And yet remains on high,

And cherubim sing anthems

To shepherds from the sky. Refrain

3 While thus they sing your Monarch,

Those bright angelic bands,

Rejoice, O vales and mountains,

And oceans, clap your hands. Refrain

4 Since all He comes to ransom,

By all be He adored,

The infant born in Bethl'em,

The Savior and the Lord. Refrain

5 All idols then shall perish

And Satan's lying cease,

And Christ shall raise His scepter,

Decreeing endless peace. Refrain

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon: “The Beginning of Christmas” Luke 1:26-38

Apostles’ Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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 \dagger everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

P ...Lord, in your mercy:
C Hear our prayer.
P ...through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

Offering

Offertory

C What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Lord’s Prayer

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

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and \dagger give you peace.
C Amen.

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

- 1** The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.
- 2** Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.
- 3** Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.
- 4** Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.
- 5** The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.

Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book
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