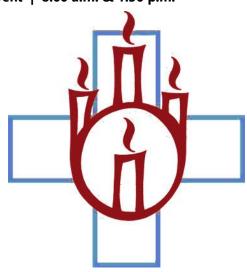


#### ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

A Caring Community, Confessing Christ by Reaching Families 6135 Rings Rd. | Dublin OH 43016 Office 614.889.2284 | Preschool 614.889.5893 stjohndublin.org

# December 20, 2020 | Fourth Sunday in Advent | 8:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.

We stand at the threshold not only of an old and familiar story but also that of an old yet familiar mystery, the greatest mystery ever told. It doesn't appear on any list of greatest novels or plays written by earthly authors. It is the mystery of God. More specifically, it is the mystery of His love for the salvation of the world. But as we prepare to review the mystery of God—the Son of God becoming incarnate in our human flesh and born of the Virgin Mary—the greater mystery is that He, Jesus, looks over your shoulder now in the retelling and hearing of Christmas. The greater mystery is that you not only know the old, familiar story but also that you believe it. And believing brings about the best mystery of all—that your sins are forgiven, that you have a new, eternal life, that you are forever a child, a son, a daughter born of God. The Gospel—the wisdom and mystery of God—is no longer a secret. For it is told by your own mouth singing of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ.



Divine Service 3 LSB pgs. 184-202

#### **Prelude**

#### **Welcome and Announcements**

# To Our Congregation and Guests about the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is Jesus' meal of forgiveness and strength. However, because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because we also believe that receiving the Lord's Supper together is an outward profession of unity with one another in faith and doctrine, we would therefore only invite communicant members of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to receive this gift with us. If you still desire to receive the sacrament, please first speak with the pastor.

Guests are still encouraged to come to the altar, cross their arms over their chests, and receive a special blessing.

Preparation for the Lord's Supper can be made by reading the front inside cover and pp. 326-327 of the hymnal along with reaffirming the following statements:

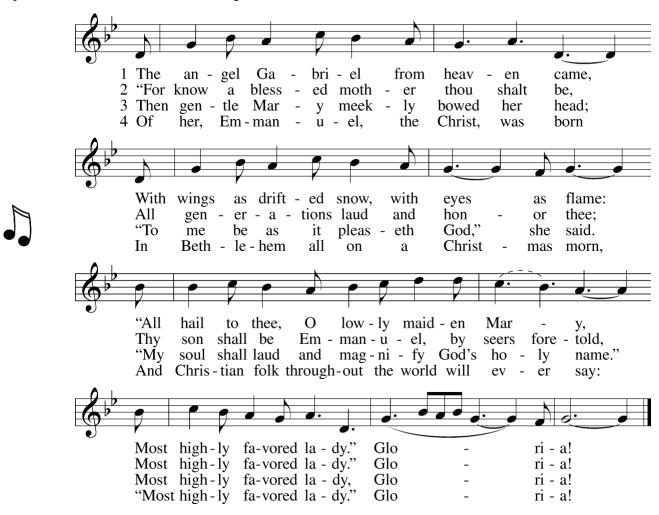
- I am baptized.
- I repent of my sins, trusting in Jesus' atoning sacrifice for forgiveness and eternal life.
- I believe that I will eat Jesus' actual flesh and blood in, with, and under bread and wine.
- As Jesus has forgiven and loved me, I do not refuse to forgive and love.
- By God's grace I will continue to frequently receive Word and Sacrament, and I will strive to lead a Godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus' holy name.

#### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Mark and Connie Havanec | 8:00 am Tom, Jean and Jaxon Moffitt | 10:45 am Neil, Amber, Sammie & Malina Furr | 1:30 pm

**Hymn of Invocation** LSB 356 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE



Tune and text: Public domain

#### Tonfession and Absolution

L In the name of the Father and the 🕆 Son and of the Holy Spirit.

LSB pgs. 184-185

**C** Amen. Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

L Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[Hebrews 10:22]

L Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Psalm 124:8

C who made heaven and earth.

L I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Psalm 32:5

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

L O almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the & Son and of the Holy Spirit. John 20:19-23

C Amen.



# ★ Service of the Word ★

# **Salutation and Collect of the Day**

LSB 189

L The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

- C And with thy spirit.
- L Let us pray.



Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might,

- C that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy;
  - L for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
  - C Amen.

# **Prayer of the Church**

-(after each petition)

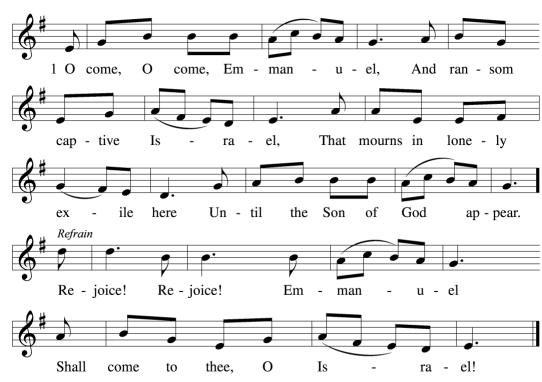
- L Lord, in Your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.

LSB 357 (stanza 1 and refrain)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

VENI EMMANUEL





Tune and text: Public domain

# The Great O Antiphons

- O Sapientia, quae ex ore Altissimi prodiisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem fortiter, suaviterque disponens omina: veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiae.
- O Adonai, et dux domus Israël, qui Moysi in igne flammae rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extent.
- O Radix Jesse, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, jam noli tardare.
- O Clavis David, et sceptrum domus Israël qui aperis, et nemo claudit, claudis, et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.
- O Oriens, splendor lucis aeterna et sol justitiae: veni, et illumine sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.
- O Rex gentium, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facic utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem quem de limo formasti.
- O Emmanuel, Rex et legifer noster, exspectatio gentium, et Salvatore arum: veni ad salvandum nos, Domine, Deus noster.

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us." – Matthew 1:23

May grace and peace be yours in abundance in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. — 2 Peter 1:2

#### THE PREACHER:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are Advent People. We watch. We wait. We hope for what we do not see. But the nights of our Advent are long, and the nights of our Advent are cold and dark. We grow weary and lose hope. Our hearts grow cold. And, in the end, the darkness seeps into our souls.

For generation after generation, the Advent people of God have encountered these problems. Those who have gone before us, however, found a way to "hold fast to the hope" that they confessed. They found a way to renew their joy and to rekindle their passion. They simply took these problems to the Lord in prayer.

During the last week of their annual celebration of Advent, when they gathered for evening prayer, our fathers and mothers in the Faith voiced together their Advent longing. The words they used, these antiphons, were said before and after their singing of the Magnificat — Mary's Advent song of joyous hopefulness. Beginning with the seventeenth of December, each night had its own special antiphon. These prayers reminded the people of God that Emmanuel would indeed come again and save them. In this promise, they found strength.

Today, we will use these prayers, and the hymn they inspired, to press our own fervent, Advent longing. May this good news of Emmanuel prepare our hearts to welcome Him aright when He comes!

#### THE READER:

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of understanding.

#### THE PREACHER:

Is there anyone here this morning who feels that his or her life is not "mightily and sweetly ordered"? Is there anyone here who suddenly finds himself saying, "All I have are answers I can't trust to questions I don't understand?" Is there anyone here who is searching for a wisdom that will not turn out, in the end, to be vanity, or deception, or just more human folly? Then we say to that person, "Brother, Sister, take heart! The Wisdom from above now comes down to you. He comes from highest Heaven to your world, down to the manger, down to the cross. Emmanuel knows all things, and He knows you. He comes to teach you God's foolishness, which is 'the way of wisdom.' He is God-with-us and He is with you, too. So rejoice and sing."

#### THE PEOPLE:

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



# THE READER:

O Adonai, and Ruler of the House of Israel, Who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai: Come and with an outstretched arm redeem us.

#### THE PREACHER:

Is there anyone here this morning who feels that he or she is still trapped in the ancient bondage of Egypt? Is there anyone here who feel that he or she is a slave to sin, or guilt, or death? That the promise of a new ruler and a new law is only the promise of new oppression? Who fears that no one can guide him through the wilderness to the Promised Land of Freedom? Then we say to that person, "Brother, Sister, take heart! 'When the fullness of time had come, God came, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem those who are under the law.' His name is Emmanuel. He is God-with-us and He is with you, too. So rejoice and sing."

#### THE PEOPLE:

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



# THE READER:

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before Whom all kings are mute, to Whom the nations will do homage: Come to deliver us, and delay not.

#### THE PREACHER:

Is there anyone here today who feels that she simply has no life left in her? Is there anyone here who feels that he is "used up" and "burnt out" — *exhausted?* And not only that, he fears that the whole people of God is nothing but "dead wood"? Then we say to that person, "Brother, Sister, take heart! Look! From the dead stump of our failure, God raises up a new and living sprout. He comes to bring you life. His name is Emmanuel. He is God-with-us and He is with you, too. So rejoice and sing."

# THE PEOPLE:

O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



#### THE READER:

O Key of David and Scepter of the House of Israel, You open and no one can close, You close and no one can open: Come and rescue the prisoners who are in the darkness and the shadow of death.

#### THE PREACHER:

Is there anyone here today who feels that he has been locked out of the House of Life, so that he cannot enter the peace and joy within? Is every door of opportunity locked tight against her so that she cannot open it — even the door to God? Then we say to that person, "Brother, Sister, take heart! Look! Here is the Key who opens His heavenly home to you. Here is the Door, enter through Him and be saved! His name is Emmanuel. He is God-with-us and He is with you, too. So rejoice and sing."

#### THE PEOPLE:

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



#### THE READER:

O Dayspring, Splendor of Light Everlasting and Sun of Righteousness: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

#### THE PREACHER:

Is there anyone here this morning who thought he could hide his wickedness in the darkness but now realizes that the darkness possesses him? And even though she once hated the Light, she now knows the only the Light can save her from this place of weeping and gnashing of teeth? Then we say to that person, "Brother, Sister, take heart! The Sun of righteousness shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot master Him. He comes to give you righteousness. In Him, you will shine like the stars. His name is Emmanuel. He is God-with-us and He is with you, too. So rejoice and sing."

# THE PEOPLE:

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



#### THE READER:

O King of the Nations, the Ruler they long for, the Cornerstone uniting all people: Come and save mankind whom You formed out of clay.

#### THE PREACHER:

Is there anyone here today who feels that she has never, in all her life, had a firm foundation? Who feels that his life has always been shifting sand? Neither nation nor family, nor church nor friends have given her any solid ground on which to stand and upon which to build? Who feels that his life is clay and his life is crumbling? Then we say to that person, "Brother, Sister, take heart! For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid, that foundation is Jesus Christ. Against Him even the gates of Hell cannot prevail. His name is Emmanuel. He is God-with-us and He is with you, too. So rejoice and sing."

#### THE PEOPLE:

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



#### THE READER:

O Emmanuel, our King and Lawgiver, the Desire of All Nations and their Savior: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

#### THE PREACHER:

Is there anyone here this morning whose life has left him afraid to hope, afraid to dream, afraid to wish for anything? Is there anyone here whose Christmas list is empty because she no longer knows what to ask for, because she no longer knows what could bring meaning and purpose, hope and joy, peace and love? Is there anyone here this morning who longs to know a life that is not just a slow dying? Who yearns for the desire of every nation — the desire of his own heart? Then we say to that person, "Brother, Sister, take heart! Emmanuel comes. In His presence are joy, and peace, and life abundant. Because He knew how to die, He can teach you how to live. The gift He brings is far better than anything you could ask for, dream for, or even imagine. Behold! The gift He gives you is Himself. He is God-with-us and He is with you, too. So rejoice and sing."

#### THE PEOPLE:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!



#### THE PREACHER:

Brothers and sisters, I ask you now to turn back with me for a moment to the cover, for I want to share with you a message of hope and joy hidden within the prayers we have just prayed together again. On the cover you will see these antiphons in their original Latin form. You can see that each antiphon begins with the word O. For that reason, they are called the "Great O Antiphons." But the second word is really the more important. The second word of each prayer is the title of the coming Savior: Wisdom, Adonai, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Dayspring, King of Nations, and Emmanuel.

Now here is the message: If you read the red letters backwards from the last prayer to the first, they read "E-R-O-C-R-A-S." The final prayer, the one that begins "O Emmanuel," will be prayed on the twenty-third of December. The following evening will be Christmas Eve, the celebration of Emmanuel's birth. So then, if on December 23, you look back at all of the prayers you have said this week and recall all the promises you have heard this week, you will discover the hidden message I spoke of — Emmanuel's response to the Advent longing of His people. In Latin, *ero cras* means, "Tomorrow, I will be there!"

Rejoice! Emmanuel has heard your prayers. He promises: "Tomorrow, I will be there!"

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit. — Romans 15:13

This message takes its inspiration from Dr. Robert Bertram's 'The Great O Antiphons of Advent," published in *RESOURCES for Youth Ministry* I [January-April 1969] Copyright © 1969 The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. It was first introduced to me by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey A. Oschwald during a chapel service at Concordia Seminary — Saint Louis

Advent ANNO DOMINI 2014

Offertory

# "To a Virgin Meek and Mild"

arr. Johnson



To a virgin meek and mild Came an angel holy,
Greeting her, the undefiled, In her chamber lowly;
Hail to thee, thou blessed one, Chosen mother of God's Son.
Through a wonderous birth He shall come to earth,
And shall reign as a king,
As a king forever, Jesus, blessed Savior.

By the sages long foretold, Now the day is nearing,
Promises of God unfold In the Son appearing.
Here, the child of Bethlehem,
Branch divine of Jesse's stem,
Shall have great increases As the Prince of Peace,
And the earth shall be filled With the Lord's salvation,
Hope of ev'ry nation.

Come into this heart of mine, Jesus, Guest from heaven.
Cradled there, O Babe divine, Earth shall be a heaven.
Angels, sing your lullaby;
Keep your vigil in the sky, Till the dawn shall break,
And all earth awake To proclaim him the King who shall reign forever,
Jesus blessed Savior.

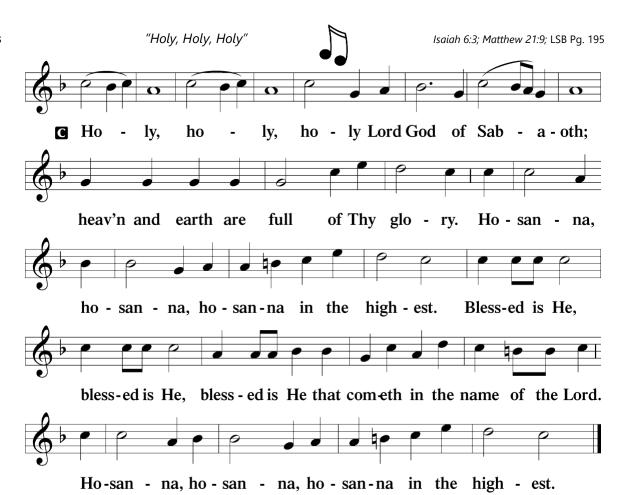
# ₩ Service of the Sacrament ₩



Proper Preface LSB pgs. 194

- It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory.
- C Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:





#### The Lord's Prayer

LSB pg. 196

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.

Matthew 6:9-13

#### Words of our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My & body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My & blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.

This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### **Pax Domini**

C

"The Peace of the Lord"

John 20:19, LSB pg.197

The peace of the Lord be with you always.



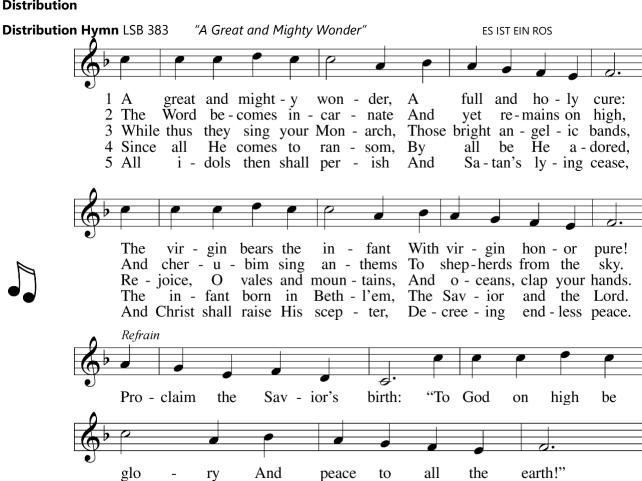


peace.

A

men.

#### **Distribution**



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Text and tune: Public domain

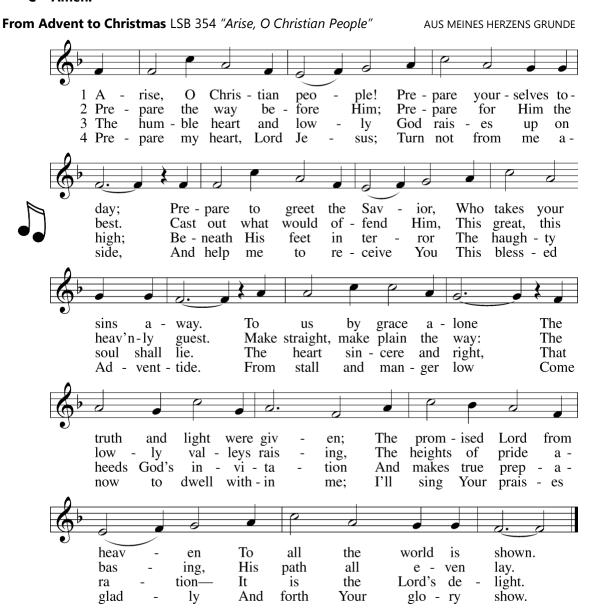


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The Dismissal LSB Pg. 199

L The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

#### C Amen.



Text and tune: Public domain

Benediction LSB pg. 201

L The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22

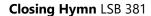
- C And with thy spirit.
- L Bless we the Lord. Psalm 103:1
- C Thanks be to God.
- L The Lord bless you and keep you.

Number 6:24-26

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

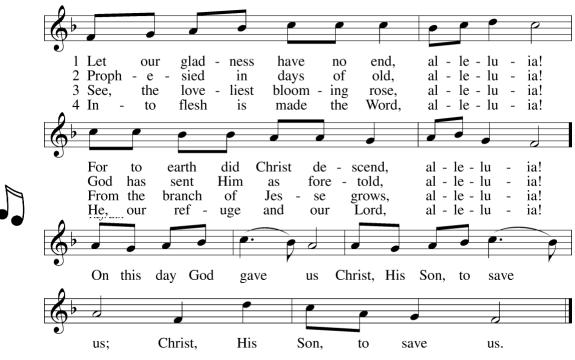
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ⊕ give you peace.





"Let Our Gladness Have No End"

NARADIL SE KRISTUS PÁN



Text and tune: Public domain

#### Sending

- P Go in peace, and serve the Lord
- C Thanks be to God.

#### **Postlude**

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# **Advent & Christmas**

November 29<sup>th</sup> First Sunday of Advent 8:00 am, 10:45 am & 1:30 pm

Isaiah 64:1-9, I Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

December 6<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Advent 8:00 am, 10:45 am & 1:30 pm

Isaiah 40:1-11, 2 Peter 3:8-14, Mark 1:1-8

December 13<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Advent 8:00 am, 10:45 am & 1:30 pm

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, I Thessalonians 5:16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 20<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:00 am, 10:45 am & 1:30 pm

The Great "O" Antiphons



#### **Christmas Eve Services**

Please sign-up in advance for Christmas Eve Services (call, text or email).

12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 pm in the Sanctuary December 24<sup>th</sup>

Candlelight at all services

Christmas Day Service Signing-up is not required for the Christmas Day Service.
9:30 am in the Sanctuary December 25<sup>th</sup>

December 27<sup>th</sup> The First Sunday of Christmas *Signing-up is not required*. 8:00 am, 10:45 am & 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary

January 3<sup>rd</sup> The Second Sunday of Christmas *Signing-up is not required*. 8:00 am, 10:45 am & 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary

January 10<sup>th</sup> The Baptism of Our Lord

Please sign-up in advance for Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup> Services (call, text or email).

8:00 am, 10:45 am & 1:30 pm in the Sanctuary

All services are held in the main sanctuary.

Visit our website for more information: stjohndublin.org