



**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran**  

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**Church, School, & Preschool**

**Advent 2024**  
**Getting Ready for a Real Christmas!**

**Large Print Service Folder**  
**12/21/2024 & 12/22/2024**

**OPENING HYMN: There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying | CW# 333**



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt.

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

Text and tune: Public domain

**INVOCATION** (calling on God's Name begins our worship)

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**CONFESSION** (We acknowledge sins, inherited and actual)

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.  
**Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up.**

*James 4:6,10*

Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature and have sinned against You in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved You with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve Your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with His innocent suffering and death.**

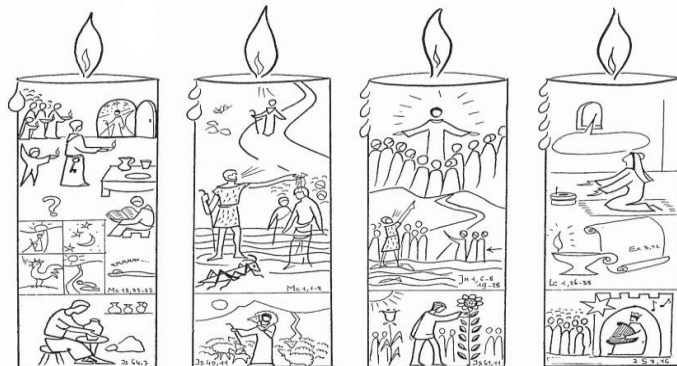
**Trusting in Him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

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

**But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared.**

*Psalm 130:3,4*

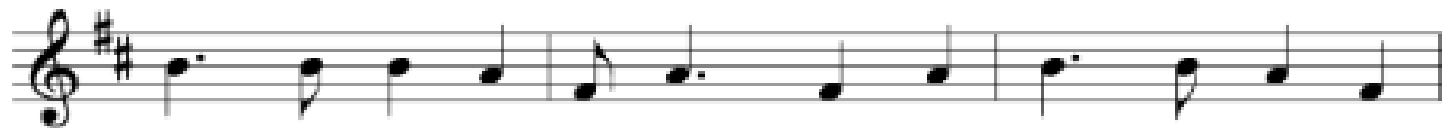


# 956 Holy Is Your Name

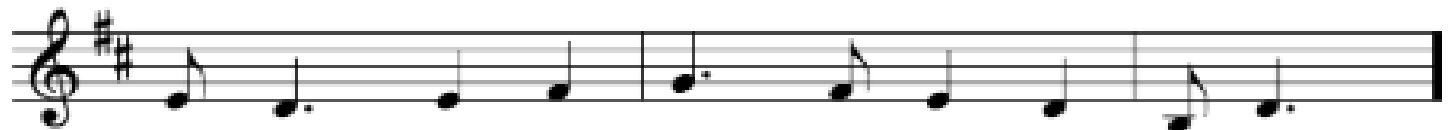
CW 956 sts. 1, Ref, 2-3



1 My \_\_\_\_\_ soul is filled with joy as I  
2 I am low - ly as a child, but I  
3 I pro - claim your pow'r, O God! You work



sing to God, my Sav - ior. You have looked up - on your  
know from this day for - ward that my name will be re -  
won - ders for your ser - vants; you have scat - tered the proud -

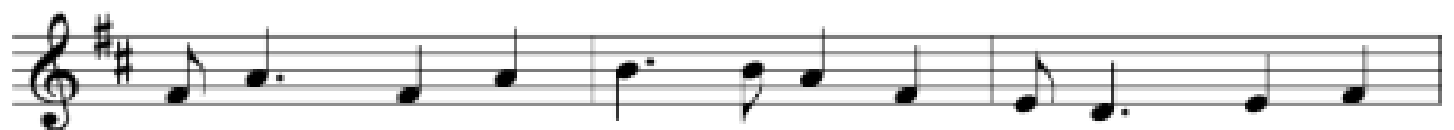


ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.  
mem - bered, and the world will call me bless - ed.  
heart - ed, you have lift - ed up the low - ly.

## *Refrain*



And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -



a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the



peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name!

Text: anonymous, alt.

Tune: Scottish

Text and tune: Public domain

*Our Hymn is based on the Magnificat, the song of Mary rejoicing at the fact that she would be the mother of Jesus.*

**Absolution** (We hear the announcement of sin forgiven)

God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was fulfilled in the coming of His Son. Jesus Christ humbled Himself by submitting to God's law. He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross. God promises to lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, so that we through His poverty might become rich.** *2 Corinthians 8:9*

Even as we await Christ's second coming, He comes to us here and now in the words He gives His messengers to speak: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Sung: to the tune previously sung as the candles are lit

*Four in number are now lighted,  
As now Gabriel approaches,  
God humanity embraces,  
Hope and joy, He now unleashes.  
And holy is Your Name, through all generations!  
Everlasting Is Your mercy to the people You have chosen, and holy is  
Your name!*

We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

**We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

**We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

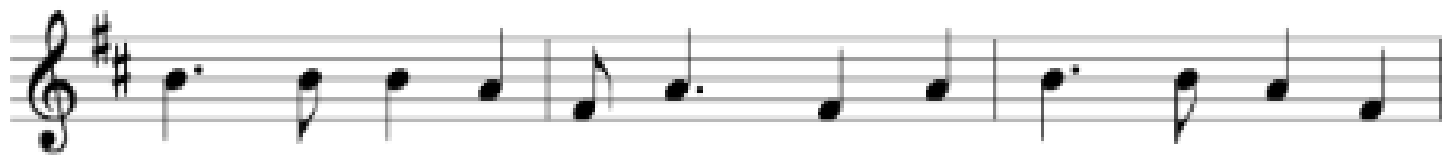
**Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

# 956 Holy Is Your Name

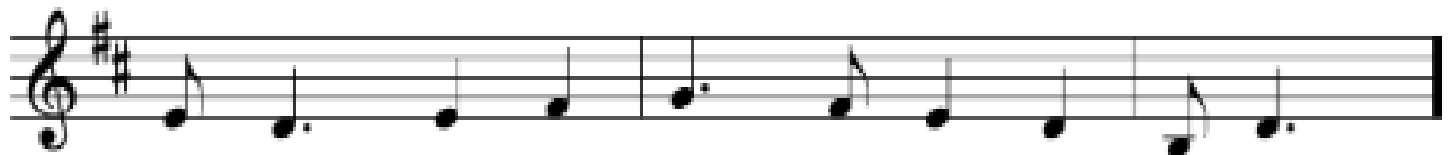
CW 956 sts. Ref, 4-5



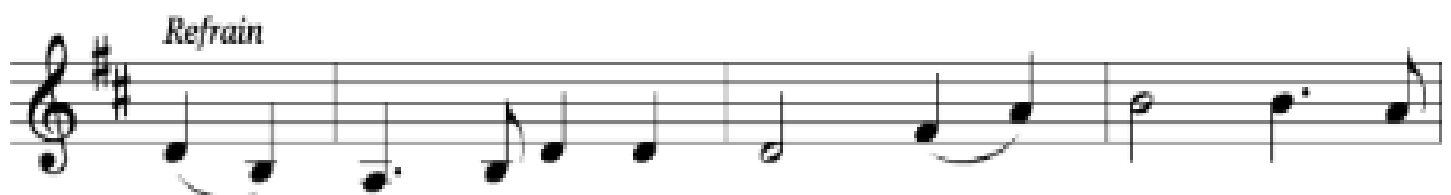
4 To the hun - gry you give food, send the  
5 In your love you now ful - fill all you



rich a - way with noth - ing. In your mer - cy you are  
prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, God, my



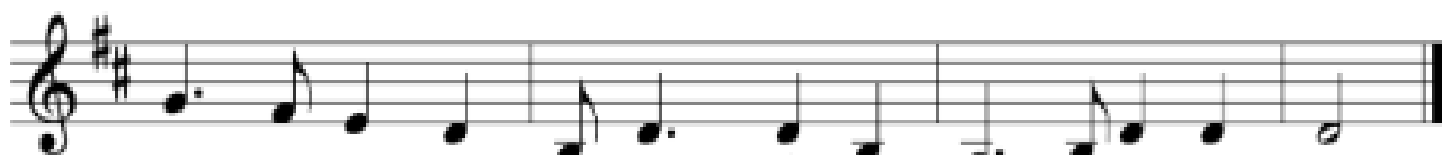
mind - ful of the peo - ple you have cho - sen.  
Sav - ior, ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy.



And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -



a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the



peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name!

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON: *Micah 5:2-5a*

<sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” <sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. <sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And he will be their peace. When the Assyrian invades our land and marches through our fortresses, we will raise against him seven shepherds, even eight leaders of men.



## PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 85

### Refrain



LORD, in your mer - cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

### Tone



You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people  
and covered / all their sins.

You set aside / all your wrath  
and turned from your fierce / anger.

Show us your unfailing / love, LORD,  
and grant us your sal- / vation. *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the / LORD says;  
he promises peace to his / people.

Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him,  
that his glory may dwell / in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;  
righteousness and peace kiss each / other.

**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***

Text: Hal H. Hopson

Tune: Hal H. Hopson

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

Text and tune: © 2008 Birnamwood/MorningStar Music Publishers (refrain).

Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House.



## SECOND LESSON: *Hebrews 10:5-10*

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup> with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll — I have come to do your will, O God.’ ” <sup>8</sup> First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them” (although the law required them to be made). <sup>9</sup> Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**Verse of the Day:** Matthew 1:23

**The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel.**

*Congregation Sings*

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These Words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*Please stand for the reading of the Gospel*

## GOSPEL LESSON: *Luke 1:39-55*

<sup>39</sup> At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!” <sup>46</sup> And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me — holy is his name. <sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. <sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful <sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.”

HYMN OF THE DAY:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | CW# 327



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from  
 3 O come, O Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
 4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your  
 by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y  
 wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



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

*Refrain*



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



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.  
 Tune: French, 15th cent., alt  
 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

*after the sermon, please 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.**

*please be seated*

## THE GATHERING OF THE OFFERING

*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made (1 Cor. 16:2).*

The offering plates will be passed through the congregation. After collection, the ushers will take the offering plates to the front to present them at the altar of God. As the plates come forward, please stand and sing our offering hymn.

## OFFERING HYMN

### The Advent of Our King | CW#309:1,4



1 The ad - vent of our King our prayers must now em - ploy,  
4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come a - gain



and we must hymns of wel - come sing in strains of ho - ly joy.  
and his true mem - bers all u - nite with him in heav'n to reign.

Text: tr. John Chandler, 1806–1876, alt.; Charles Coffin, 1676–1749

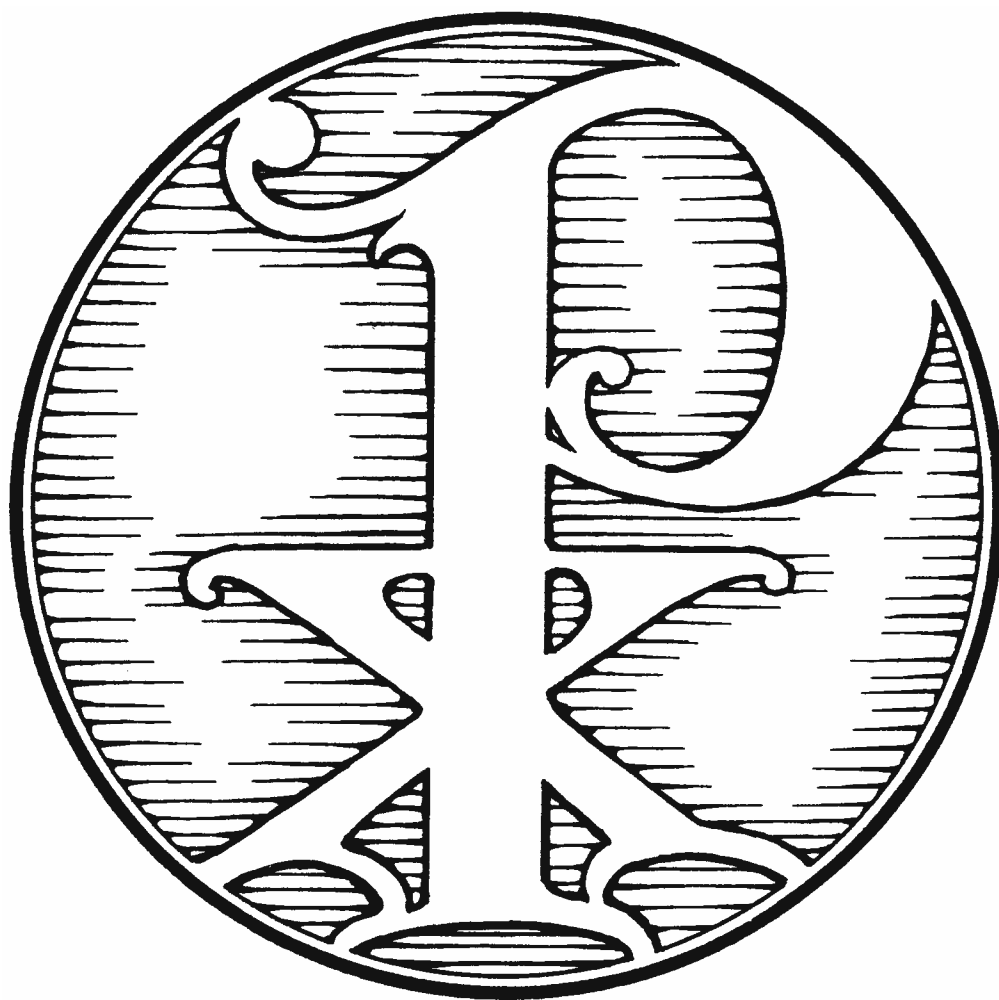
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

Text and tune: Public domain

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### 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.**





1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree:  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame:  
 a bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be.  
 "To me be as it pleas - es God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y,  
 Your son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say,



"most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!  
 most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.; Basque, c. 18th cent.

Tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

## PRAYER

... through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
(sung) *A-men.*

## BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

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.  
(sung) *Amen. Amen. A-men.*

## CLOSING HYMN

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord | CW#315

See next page





1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly  
 2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'  
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
 4 Sav - ior, hear my wel - come cry— loud ho - san - nas



kept his word and at last to us did send  
 heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y\_a year  
 Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—  
 lift - ed high! King of glo - ry, en - ter in;



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
 stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
 tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
 cleanse my soul of ev - 'ry sin.

5 Crush for me the serpent's head  
 that, set free from doubt and dread,  
 I may cling to you in faith,  
 safely kept through life and death,

6 And, when you shall come again  
 as a glorious king to reign,  
 I with joy may see your face,  
 freely ransomed by your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; (sts. 1–3, 5–6): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 2021

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter

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