

O Come, O Come:
Thou Branch of Jesse's Tree



December 20th, 2023
Immanuel Lutheran Church

*The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up
for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as King.
-Jeremiah 23:5*

Prelude
Ringing of Bells
Welcome

Hymn of Invocation #LSB 348

The King Shall Come

Stand

Opening Versicles

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, *Isaiah 11:1*

The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as King. *Jeremiah 23:5*

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
**the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.** *Isaiah 11:2*

The God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another. *Daniel 2:44*

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. *John 18:36*

Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. *Isaiah 65:17*

**[The people] shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.** *Isaiah 2:4*

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
**They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;** *Isaiah 11:8*

The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad;
let the distant shores rejoice. *Psalms 97:1*

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. *1 Timothy 1:17*

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Salvation

☐ Heavenly Father, as we come before your presence tonight, we confess that we have daily sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. Though you are the Lord and King over all things, we have not lived according to this truth. We have set ourselves upon the thrones of our hearts. We have closed our hearts off to the influence of your reign. And by our actions, we have chosen to live as if we are our own lords. For we have served ourselves and our own desires. Grant us forgiveness and the fear of the Lord, so that we may again respect and obey you and your kingship.

C Almighty God, merciful Father, You have sent Your Son into the world to establish a new kingdom not made with hands. You have set Jesus to be King over all so that he would rule in love, strength, and mercy. We praise you for establishing this kingdom and for calling us into it. We thank you for bringing us into your church where you daily and richly forgive us our sins. Give us confidence and strength that we are Your people, cherished, loved, and forgiven through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1–5, 10

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 2:6–9, 14–18

⁶It has been testified somewhere,

“What is man, that you are mindful of him,
or the son of man, that you care for him?”

⁷You made him for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned him with glory and honor,
⁸putting everything in subjection under his feet.”

Now in putting everything in subjection to [Jesus], [the Father] left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. ⁹But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁴Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might

destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Stand

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26–38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn #357 *vv.1 and 4* *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Sermon

Reflection Hymn # 350 *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

Stand

Prayers of the Church

Concluding Collect

Benediction

Departing Hymn #LSB 349

Hark the Glad Sound