

Fourth Sunday in Advent- December 21, 2025 PAX

They Shall Call His Name Immanuel

As We Gather

It is still Advent, but today we hear an account of the Christmas story early so that we may know what to look for later this week. The Son of Mary by the Holy Spirit is Jesus, who saves us from our sins and who fulfills the promise of Immanuel: God is with us. Perhaps the richness of the details of Luke's account sometimes distracts us from the message. The Lord has come to keep His Word, to save us from our sins, and to keep us in His hand so that we may be His eternally. None of this was obvious to either Mary or faithful Joseph, and yet the Lord was at work through it all to deliver to us His Son to be our Savior. We will still worry when things do not go as we plan, and we will still struggle with doubts and fears, but the angel of God's presence is no mere messenger sent in His place. No, the angel of God's presence is His only-begotten Son, whose name is Jesus and whose work is our salvation.

“O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL (HIS NAME SHALL BE)”

Verse 1

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant.
O come, ye, O come, ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him: born the King of angels.

Chorus

O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him: Christ the Lord.

Verse 2

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation.
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above.
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

Chorus

O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him: Christ, the lord. The Lord, the Lord, the Lord,

Verse 3

Yea, Lord we greet Thee: born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

Chorus

O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him: Christ, the Lord. The Lord.

Bridge

His name shall be Wonderful, Counselor. His name shall be Everlasting Father.
His name shall be Prince of Peace, Mighty God. His name shall be Emmanuel.

Chorus

We'll praise Your name forever. We'll praise Your name forever.
We'll praise Your name forever, Christ the Lord.
We'll praise You name forever. We'll praise Your name forever.
We'll praise Your name forever, Christ the Lord.

Bridge

His name shall be Wonderful, Counselor. His name shall be Everlasting Father.
His name shall be Prince of Peace, Mighty God. His name shall be Emmanuel.

“He Shall Reign Forevermore”

In the bleak mid winter all creation groans,
For a world in darkness frozen like a stone.
Light is breaking, in a stable for a throne.

And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
Unto us a Child is born, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.

If I were a wise man, I would travel far.
If I were a shepherd, I would do my part,
But poor as I am I will give to Him my heart.

And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
Unto us a Child is born, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.

Here within a manger lies the One who made the starry skies,
This Baby born for sacrifice, Christ, the Messiah!
Into our hopes, into our fears, the Savior of the world appears,
The Promise of eternal years. Christ, the Messiah!

He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.

He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.

Unto us a Child is born, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.

He shall reign. He shall reign. He shall reign.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 130:7; Philippians 1:6

P O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
C and with Him is plentiful redemption.
P Holy and gracious God,
C I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.
P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

Epistle

Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Children's Message

“GLORY (Let There Be Peace)”

Verse 1

One star burns in the darkness, shines with a promise, Emmanuel
One child born in the stillness, living within us, Emmanuel

Chorus

We're singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let there be peace
We're singing glory, glory
Let there be peace, let it start in me

Verse 2

One voice speaks for the voiceless, hope for the hopeless, Emmanuel

One love brings us together, now and forever, Emmanuel (Chorus)

Bridge

Do not be afraid, His love is strong enough to save us
Nothing stands in the way, His love is strong enough to lead us
Do not be afraid, His love is strong enough to save us
Nothing stands in the way, His love is strong enough to lead us (Chorus X2)

Let there be peace, let it start in me.

Sermon

“The Greatest Gift of All”

Rev. Bernhard Huesmann

Creed

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.

Offering

“Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)”

Verse:

Light of the world, treasure of Heaven,
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky.
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness,

Shine across the earth, send the Shadows to flight.

Verse:

Light of the world, from the beginning.
The tragedies of time Were to match for Your love.
From great heights of glory, You saw my story.
God, You entered in, and Became one of us.

Chorus:

Sing Hallelujah! Sing Hallelujah!
Sing Hallelujah for the things He has done!
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.
Sing Hallelujah to the Light of the world.

Verse:

Light of the world, crown in a manger
Born for the Cross to suffer, to save.
High King of Heaven, death is the poorer.
We are the richer by the price that He paid.

Chorus:

Sing Hallelujah! Sing Hallelujah!
Sing Hallelujah for the things He has done!
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.
Sing Hallelujah to the Light of the World.
You're the light of the world.

Verse:

Light of the world soon will be coming.
With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own.
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory.
And there He shall reign forevermore.

Chorus:

Sing Hallelujah! Sing Hallelujah!
Sing Hallelujah for the things He has done!
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him.
Sing Hallelujah to the light of the world.
The light of the world.

Prayers of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

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.

“Oh, What a Glorious Night”

The shepherds came to see the baby, Stood by his mother's side
Here laid the Savior inside a manger,
Oh what a glorious night, Oh what a glorious night

CHORUS

I hear the angels singing halleluiah, Let the earth receive her king
I know that love has come, Sing it out,
Jesus Christ is born, Jesus Christ is born

The shepherds wondered, They couldn't hide it, Told everyone in sight
All were amazed, when they heard how,
God came down on the glorious night
God came down on this glorious night (CHORUS)

Glorious, Glorious, What a Glorious night,
Glorious, Glorious, What a Glorious night

I hear the angels singing halleluiah, Let the earth receive her king
I know that love has come, Sing it out, Jesus Christ is born

I hear the angels singing halleluiah, Let the earth receive her king
I know that love has come, Sing it out, Jesus Christ is born
I heard that Jesus Christ is born

All is calm now, All is quiet, A Star shining in the sky, Below in Bethlehem
The king is sleeping, Oh What a Glorious Night, Oh What a Glorious Night

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 + give you peace.

C Amen.