

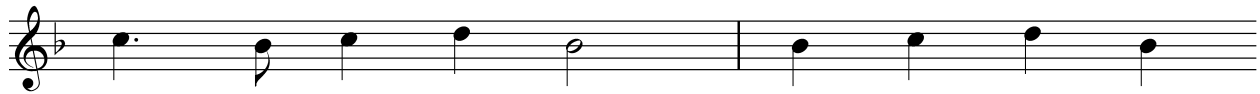


SAINT STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 ANTE-COMMUNION AND MORNING PRAYER: RITE I
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2022
 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Processional Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #54 - Savior of the nations, come!*



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938). Sts. 3-4 Copyright © 1982, James Waring McCrady. Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616).

The Word of God

Officiant Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People ***His mercy endureth for ever.***

The Officiant continues

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Officiant Lord, have mercy upon us.

People ***Christ, have mercy upon us***

Officiant Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People ***And with thy spirit.***

Officiant *Let us pray*

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

[The people may be seated for the readings]

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah (7:10 - 16),

Again, the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader The Word of the Lord

People ***Thanks be to God***

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to The Romans (1:1 – 7),

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

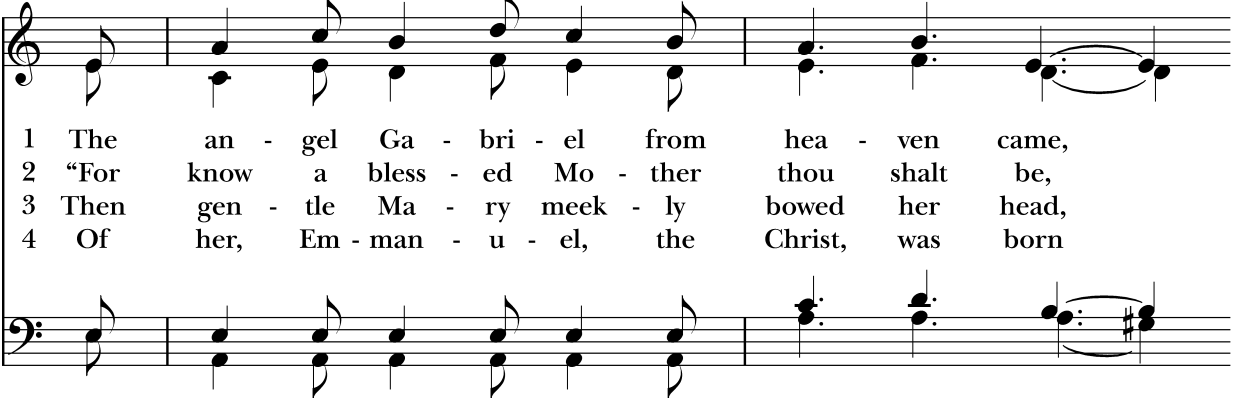
To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

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

Reader The Word of the Lord

People ***Thanks be to God***

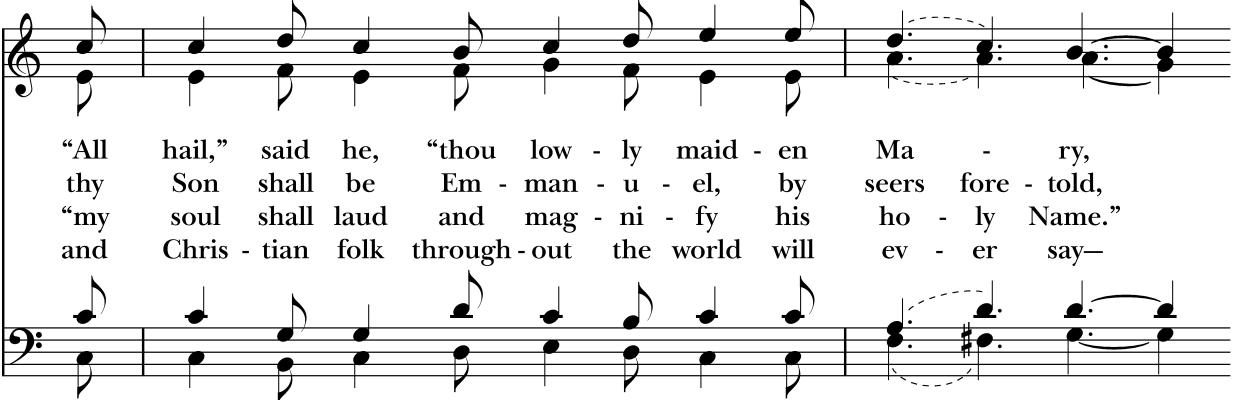
Sequence Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #265* - The angel Gabriel from heaven came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud 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 la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England.

A Reading from The Gospel of Matthew (1:18 - 25),

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People *Thanks be to God*

The Nicene Creed [Please stand, as you are able]

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

He came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

He became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

and was made man.

For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son, He is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People [The people may be seated]

The Deacon or other person appointed says

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

After each paragraph of this prayer, the People may make an appropriate response, as directed.

Almighty and ever living God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially to Marty our Bishop and Stephen our Priest, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their lives.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Joseph our President, Greg our Governor, and Bill our Mayor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

On the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Korea.

In the Diocese of Montana, we pray for Emmanuel, Miles City. We also pray for Camp Marshall.

In our St. Stephen's community, we pray for Dannielle, David, Dorothy, Richard, and Yvonne. We also pray for our adopted unit at The Billings Clinic hospital.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Saint Stephen and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.

The Officiant then says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People

Almighty and most merciful Father,

we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,

we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,

we have offended against thy holy laws,

we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,

*and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for His sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.*

The Officiant, remaining kneeling or seated, then says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of His great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Him, have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people [Please stand, as you are able]

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

NEW Churchy Term of the Week – Ante-Communion

The liturgy of the word (*Pro-anaphora*) from the eucharist, without the Great Thanksgiving or communion of the people. Ante-Communion includes the first part of the eucharistic rite through the prayers of the people. It may begin with the Penitential Order if a confession of sin is desired. The BCP (pp. 406–107) provides that a hymn or anthem may be sung after the prayers of the people and the offerings of the people are received. The service may conclude with the Lord's Prayer and with the grace or a blessing or the peace. Ante-Communion (without the final blessing) may be led by a deacon or lay person if a priest is unavailable.

Adapted from Don S. Armentrout's *An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church: A User-Friendly Reference for Episcopalians* Church Publishing Inc., 2000.

Offertory Hymn: *Hymnal 1982 #56 - O come, O come, Emmanuel* (verses 1-3)



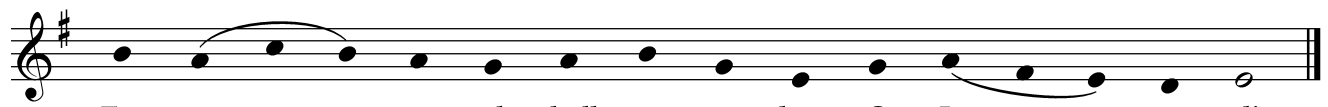
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

Anthem



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711)
 Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?)

The Prayers *Book of Common Prayer – Page 54*

The people stand or kneel

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People ***And with thy spirit.***

Officiant Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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,

for ever and ever. Amen.

A Collect for Sundays *Book of Common Prayer – Page 56*

O God, who makest us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of thy Son our Lord: Grant us this day such blessing through our worship of thee, that the days to come may be spent in thy favor; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Prayer for Mission *Book of Common Prayer – Page 58*

O God, who hast made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and didst send thy blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after thee and find thee; bring the nations into thy fold; pour out thy Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of thy kingdom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

we thine unworthy servants

do give thee most humble and hearty thanks

for all thy goodness and loving-kindness

*to us and to all men.
We bless thee for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for thine inestimable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ,
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we beseech thee,
give us that due sense of all thy mercies,
that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful;
and that we show forth thy praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to thy service,
and by walking before thee
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost,
be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom *Book of Common Prayer – Page 59*

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication unto thee, and hast promised through thy well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name thou wilt be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Announcements

Recessional Hymn: *Voices Found* #64 - Mary, when the angel's voice

1 Ma - ry, when the an - gel's voice called you high - ly fa - vored,
 2 Jo - seph, in your dark - est night, an - gel mes - sage hear - ing,
 3 Old and sage E - liz - a - beth, birth an - ti - ci - pat - ing,
 4 God whose name we mag - ni - fy, all your child - ren mat - ter.

dread and joy in your heart mixed, pon - dered there and sa - vored.
 you cast not your love a - side, scorn and an - ger fear - ing.
 nur - tur - ing your cous - in's will, you taught hope - ful wait - ing.
 From op - pres - sion raise the poor; proud and might - y scat - ter.

May we learn to wel - come all that our life is bring - ing,
 When a loved one brings us grief, rips our world a - sun - der,
 So, as wo - men long have done, may we nev - er fal - ter
 Seeds be - neath the win - ter snow live, 'tho all seems bar - ren.

e - ven when in pain we feel birth with - in us spring - ing.
 dream - er, may we have your heart, o - pen to God's won - der.
 to ex - tend a gen - tle touch, fears to cour - age al - ter.
 Lift a car - ol, sing of hope for the Rose of Shar - on.

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 Music: *Tempus adest floridum*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; harm. Tom Whittemore © Tom Whittemore. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Officiant
People

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



"The Angel Visiting Joseph in a Dream" by Georges du Mesnil de La Tour, 1628-1645

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