

ADVENT PROCESSION

WITH LESSONS & CAROLS



Sunday, December 18, 2022

4:00 PM

All Saints' Church

Chelmsford, Massachusetts

(Hymns are at the end of the program)

PRELUDE: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” - Handbell Choir arr. Hart Morris

PROCESSION OF THE CHOIRS “Veni Emmanuel” Gerald Near (b. 1942)

Officiant Let us pray.

GOD, who enfolds us in night’s sacred darkness, accept our evening sacrifice of prayer and praise. As frankincense was brought to the Christ Child by the magi, and as the angel offers incense before the throne of God amidst the prayers of all the saints, so now we bring to you our gift of incense. May these clouds ascending to you be a sign of our prayer. May their fragrance fill us with longing for the sweetness of Christ. May our offering this night honor and please you. This we pray through the one whose coming we await, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

A bell is rung and all stand, as able.

Let my prayer come up as the incense Words: Psalm 141:2
(Sung by cantor)

Let my prayer come up as incense:
The lifting up of my hands
as an evening sacrifice.

GREETING & BIDDING PRAYER

Officiant Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

All The Great King who is to come.

Officiant Dear friends in Christ, in the stillness of this church we gather to mark the season of Advent, a season of waiting upon the Lord; who came once in the flesh as Savior and Redeemer of the world, who comes daily in word, Sacrament, and ordinary moments of human encounter, who will come again in glorious majesty to establish God’s Kingdom of justice and peace.

Let us hear from prophets foretelling the first coming of Emmanuel and proclaiming “God with us.” Let us remember prophecies fulfilled in the distant past and strive to proclaim Christ’s transforming presence in our own generation.

Let us also pray for a renewed vision of God’s righteousness on earth; where healing is freely offered to all; the poor and the oppressed, the privileged and proud, the complacent and complicit, the sick and the suffering, prisoners and refugees, the forgotten and outcasts—that together we may proclaim and enact the coming of God’s Reign.

May God give us ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to receive the message of Christ.

All Amen.

Please be seated.

ANTIPHON I

setting by Peter Hallock



SAPIENTIA, *quæ ex ore Altissimi prodisti, attingens a fine usque ad finem, fortiter suaviter disponesque omnia; veni ad docendum nos viam prudentiæ.*

WISDOM, you came from the mouth of the Most High, and reach from one end of the earth to another, mightily and sweetly ordering all things: Come, and teach us the way of prudence.

READING I *The Wisdom of Sirach 1:1-10*

Wisdom is from the Lord,
and she dwells with God forever.
The sand of the sea, the drops of rain,
and the days of eternity - who can count them?
The height of heaven, the breadth of the earth,
the abyss, and wisdom - who can search them out?
Wisdom was created before all other things,
and prudent understanding from eternity.
The root of wisdom - to whom has it been revealed?
Her subtleties - who knows them?
There is but one who is wise, greatly to be feared,
seated upon the throne - the Lord.
It is God who created her;
who saw her and took her measure;
who poured her out upon all God's works.
upon all the living, as a gift;
and lavished her upon those who love the Most High.

Please stand, as able

HYMN 65 "Prepare the way, O Zion"

Tune: Bereden väg för Herran

St. 1 - choir; St. 2-3 - sung by all

Please remain standing, as able

COLLECT I O Wisdom, your words spoken in the beginning of creation generated a world of beauty and goodness: Come and instruct us in the way of prudence, that we may care for your world with justice and compassion; through the one whom we know as the Wisdom of the Ages, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Please be seated.



ADONAI, *et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammæ rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.*

ADONAI, Ruler of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush; on Mount Sinai you gave him your law: with outstretched arm, come and redeem us.

READING II *Ezekiel 20:33-36, 40-41*

AS I LIVE, says the Lord GOD surely with a mighty hand and an out stretched arm, and with wrath poured out, I will be king over you. I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out; and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. As I entered into judgement with your ancestors in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, says the Lord GOD.

For on my holy mountain, the mountain height of Israel, says the Lord GOD, there all the house of Israel, all of them, shall serve me in the land; there I will accept them, and there I will require your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your sacred things. As a pleasing odor I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples, and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered; and I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations.

HYMN 74 "Blest be the King whose coming"

Tune: *Valet will ich dir geben*

Please stand, as able

COLLECT II O Adonai, Ruler of the house of Israel, you rescued remnants of your people from slavery and exile; Come and with great might deliver us from all that binds us to sin and alienates us from you, through the one whom we know as Mighty Savior of all, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated.

ANTIPHON III

Hallock



RADIX JESSE, *qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges suum, quem gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, iam noli tardare.*

ROOT OF JESSE, you stand as an ensign to the peoples; before you kings shall keep silence, all nations bow in worship: Come and save us, and do not delay.

READING III *Isaiah 11:1-10*

A SHOOT shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips
he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the lion and the calf and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play
over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand
on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full
of the knowledge of the LORD

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Please stand, as able.

HYMN 81 "Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming "

Tune: *Es ist en Ros*

Please remain standing, as able.

COLLECT III O Root of Jesse, you reach deep into our hearts, drawing forth our longing for justice: Come and plant within us a passion for your Kingdom; through the One whom we know as the Root of all righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Please be seated.

ANTIPHON IV

Hallock



CLAVIS DAVID, *et sceptrum domus Israel; qui aperis, et nemo claudit; claudis et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.*

KEY OF DAVID, scepter of the house of Israel; you open and no one closes: you close and no one opens: Come and deliver us from the chains of prison - we who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

READING IV *Revelation 3:7b-8, 11-13*

THESE are the words of the holy one, the true one,
who has the key of David,
who opens and no one will shut,
who shuts and no one opens:

“I know your works. Look, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I am coming soon; hold fast to what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. If you conquer, I will make you a pillar in the temple of my God; you will never go out of it. I will write on you the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.”

HYMN 53 “Once he came in blessing”

Tune: *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*

Please stand, as able.

COLLECT IV O Key of David, you open and no one closes; you close and no one opens: Come and liberate us from captivity to our past, that we may face your future’s promise with boldness and purpose; through the One whom we know as the Son of David, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Please be seated.

ANTIPHON V

Hallock



ORIENS, *splendor lucis ætermæ, et sol justitiæ: veni, et illumine sedentes in tenebris, et umbra mortis.*

RISING DAWN, brightness of the light eternal, sun of righteousness;
Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

READING V *Malachi 4: 1-6*

SEE, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evil doers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

Remember the teaching of my servant Moses, the statutes and ordinances that I commanded him at Horeb for all Israel.

Lo, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes.

He will turn the hearts of parents to their children and the hearts of children to their parents, so that I will not come and strike the land with a curse.

HYMN 68 "Rejoice! Rejoice, believers"

Tune: *Llangloffan*

Please stand, as able.

COLLECT V O Rising Dawn, you chase away the shadows of the night: Come and enlighten our darkness with visions of reconciliation, that we who are alienated one from another may see fullness of life together; through the One whom we know as the Light of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated.

ANTIPHON VI

Hallock



REX GENTIUM, *et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.*

KING OF NATIONS, and their desire, you are the cornerstone that binds two into one: Come and save the creature whom you have fashioned from clay.

READING VI *Revelation 19:11-16*

I SAW heaven opened, and there was a white horse! Its rider is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems; and he has a name inscribed that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, "King of kings and Lord of lords."

Please stand, as able.

HYMN 104 "A stable lamp is lighted"

Tune: *Andújar*

St. 1 - choir; Sts. 2 & 3 - all

Please remain standing, as able.

COLLECT VI O King of the Nations, you defend the cause of the poor and raise up the oppressed of the earth: Come and build us into a world community where all are valued and the vulnerable protected; through the one whom we know as the chief cornerstone, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated.

ANTIPHON VII

Hallock



EMMANUEL, *Rex et legifer noster, expectatio gentium, et Salvator earum; veni ad salvandum nos, Domine Deus noster.*

EMMANUEL, our King and Lawgiver, the desire of the nations and their Salvation: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

READING VII *Isaiah 43:14a, 15-19a; 7:14-15*

THUS says the LORD
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:
I am the LORD, your Holy One,
the Creator of Israel, your King.
Thus says the LORD,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing:
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

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.

CAROL *Advent Carol* Philip Ledger (1937-2012)

The angel Gabriel came unto Mary, His wings drifted snow, his eyes as flame, 'All hail' said he, 'Thou lowly maid, The Lord has blest and sanctified thy name.'

'For thou shalt bear a son known as Emmanuel, Most highly favoured lady thou shalt be, Thy son shall bring joy to the world, All generations laud and honour thee.'

Then Mary clasped her hands in supplication, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord!' she said, 'Thy will be done, I have no fear.' And with these words she meekly bowed her head.

Please stand, as able.

COLLECT VII O Emmanuel, God with us, you dwell beyond our farthest reach, yet are nearer to us than we are to ourselves: Come among us in these days of Advent expectation, that we may give birth to what is true, just, beautiful and good; for you are the One whom we know as Lord, and the Creator and the Holy Spirit, you abide with us, one God, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

Please remain standing, as able.

BLESSING

Officiant May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of God's blessing and set you free from all sin.

All **Amen.**

Officiant May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

All **Amen.**

Officiant May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer,
at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

All **Amen.**

Officiant And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

All **Amen.**

A bell is rung seven times.

Hymn 56 "O come, O Come, Emmanuel" Tune: *Veni, veni Emmanuel*
St. 1 - Choirs; St. 2, 3, 4 - all; St. 5 - Choirs; St. 6, 7, 8 - all

DISMISSAL *The Officiant dismisses the Assembly.*

The Assembly responds: Thanks be to God.

PROCESSION OF THE CHOIRS

Prelude in E minor J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

HYMN 65 "Prepare the way, O Zion"

Tune: *Bereden väg för Herran*

St. 1 - choir; St. 2-3 - sung by all



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

HYMN 74 "Blest be the King, whose coming"

Tune: *Valet will ich dir geben*

1 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
 2 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
 3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
 4 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of

God! For him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him
 God! By those who tru - ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly
 God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of
 God! He of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they

barred! Not robed in roy - al splen - dor, in
 heard; pi - ty the proud and haugh - ty, who
 God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All
 need. Gen - tle is he and hum - ble! And

power and pomp, comes he; but clad as are the
 have not learned to heed the Christ who is the
 things are in his hand, all a - ges and all
 light his yoke shall be, for he would have us

poor - est, such his hu - mil - i - ty!
 Prom - ise, who has a - tone - ment made.
 peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!
 bear it so he can make us free!

HYMN 81 "Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming"

Tune: *Es ist en Ros*

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

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HYMN 53 "Once he came in blessing"

Tune: *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
 2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us
 3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,
 4 One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.



came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
 from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us;
 but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,
 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;



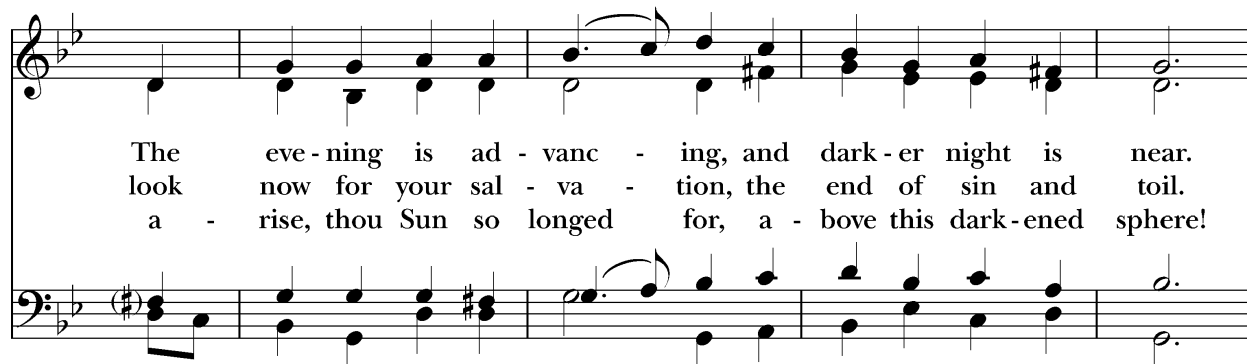
bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
 not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.
 he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee.
 let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

HYMN 68 "Rejoice! Rejoice, believers"

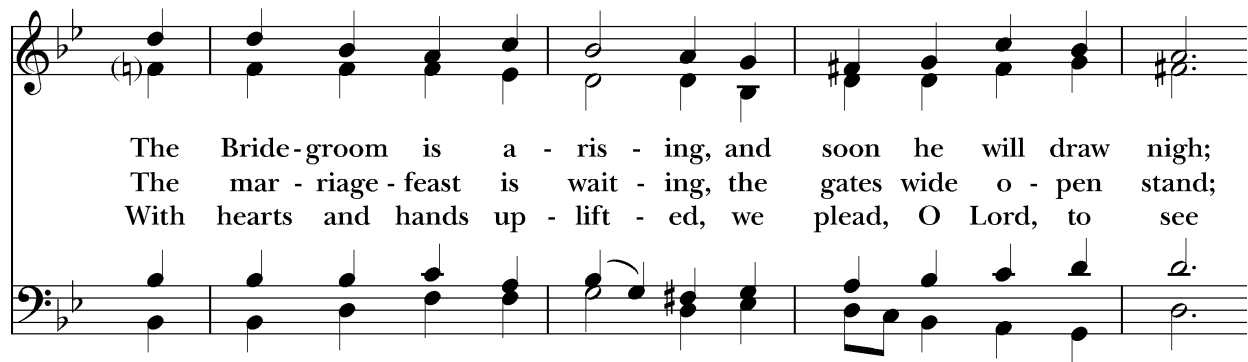
Tune: *Llangloffan*




1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark-ened sphere!



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride-groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

HYMN 104

"A stable lamp is lighted"

Tune: *Andújar**St. 1 - choir; Sts. 2 & 3 - all*

1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose
 2 (This) child through Da - vid's ci - ty Shall
 3 (Yet) he shall be for - sak - en, And
 4 (But) now, as at the end - ing, The



glow shall wake the sky; The stars shall bend their voic - es,
 ride in tri - umph by; The palm shall strew its branch - es,
 yield - ed up to die; The sky shall groan and dark - en,
 low is lift - ed high; The stars shall bend their voic - es,



And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry;
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,



And straw like gold shall shine; A barn shall har - bor hea - ven,
 Though hea - vy, dull, and dumb, And lie with - in the road - way
 For ston - y hearts of men: God's blood up - on the spear - head,
 In prais - es of the Child By whose de - scent a - mong us



A stall be - come a shrine. _____
 To pave his king - dom come. _____
 God's love re - fused a - gain. _____
 The worlds are rec - on - ciled. _____

2 This
 3 Yet
 4 But



Words: © Richard Wilbur (b. 1921)
 Music: *Andújar*, David Hurd (b. 1950)

76. 76. 66. 71

Hymn 56

"O come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Tune: *Veni, veni Emmanuel**St. 1 - Choirs; St. 2, 3, 4 - all; St. 5 - Choirs; St. 6, 7, 8 - all*

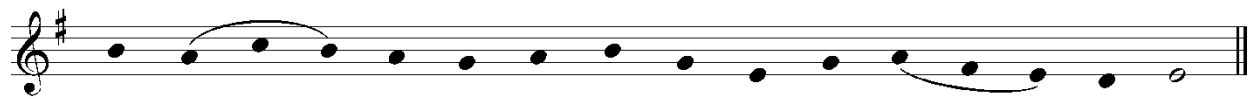
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



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
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



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.