

First hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
come then and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings from the King of kings.

Stretch forth thine hand to heal our
sore,
and make us rise, to fall no more;
once more upon thy people shine,
and fill the world with love divine.

Then cleansed be every Christian breast,
and furnished for so great a guest!
Yea, let us each our heart prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee
whose advent sets thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore,
and Spirit blest, for evermore.

C. Coffin (1676-1749) Tune: Winchester New

For thou art our salvation, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace our souls must fade
and wither like a flower decayed.

Reading

A reading from the Letter to the Philippians (4.4-7)

Advent Response

Response: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O
Israel

Gospel Acclamation

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Gospel

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (3.7-18)

Offertory hymn:

To God be the glory, great things he hath done;
so loved he the world that he gave us his Son;
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice;*

*Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice:*

*O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!*

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood!
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our rapture, when Jesus we see.

F.J. van Alstyne - (1820-1915)

Tune: To God be the glory

Communion Hymn

Hark the glad sound! the Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne
and every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with thy beloved name.

P. Doddridge (1702-51) Tune: Bristol

Final Hymn

Hark! a herald voice is calling:
'Christ is nigh,' it seems to say;
'Cast away the dreams of darkn
O ye children of the day!'

Startled at the solemn warning,
let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her Sun, all sloth dispelli
shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb so long expected,
comes with pardon down from heaven;

let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
one and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes in glory,
and earth's final hour draws near,
may he then as our defender
on the clouds of heaven appear.

Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
to the Father and the Son,
with the co-eternal Spirit,
while unending ages run.

Latin, tr. E. Caswall (1814-78) Tune: Merton

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