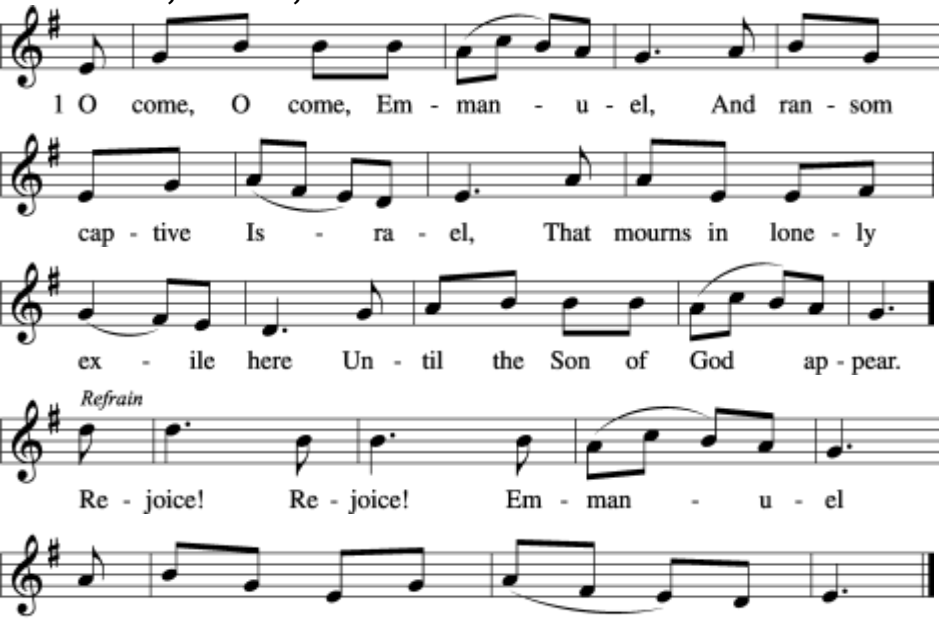


357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



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Collect of the Day


Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament – Isaiah 35:1–10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who have an anxious heart,
“Be strong; fear not!

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you.”
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Gradual

- 
- Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*
Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.
Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*
righteous and having sal- | vation.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*
From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

The numbers on the right refer to the page numbers which are found in the Hymnal (LSB) which is located in the pew rack

The Preparation

Hymn of Invocation	331
Invocation	203
Confession & Absolution	203

The Service of the Word

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”	Bulletin
Kyrie	204
Salutation & Collect	205
The Old Testament	Bulletin
Gradual	Bulletin
Epistle	Bulletin
Alleluia and Verse	205
The Holy Gospel	Bulletin
Nicene Creed	206
Hymn of the Day:	345
Sermon	
Prayer of the Church	207
Offering	207
Choir: “Be Strong, Fear Not”	

The Service of the Sacrament

Preface	208
Sanctus	208
Prayer of Thanksgiving	209
Lord’s Prayer	209
The Words of Our Lord	209
Pax Domini	209
Agnus Dei	210
Distribution Hymns:	Insert, 346, 348
Dismissal	210
Nunc Dimittis	211
Post-Communion Collect	212
Benedicamus & Benediction	212
Closing Hymn:	338

Epistle - James 5:7-11

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

The Holy Gospel – Matthew 11:2-15

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and



the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And

blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear."



Soli Deo Gloria

Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

A Biblical, Confessional and Traditional congregation in the Chicago region committed to ministering to sinners with the forgiving presence of Jesus Christ.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025
THE DIVINE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION
PAGE 203

Welcome in the Name of Jesus!

Today, as we gather in the Lord's House, we are united with all the saints—both visible and invisible—around the throne of the Lamb. Here, the Triune God serves us through His appointed Means of Grace: the preaching of His Word and the administration of His Holy Sacraments. These are not optional extras—they are the very heart of the Christian life and the Church itself. Apart from these Means of Grace there are no Christians and there is no Church! In the Divine Service, God takes center stage, delivering His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation. It is God's Service to His people. This sacred gathering finds its high point in the celebration of the Lord's Supper, where Christ Himself feeds us with His body and blood.

Dear Visitors and Friends: As the first Christians devoted themselves to the Lord's Supper, they also devoted themselves to the Apostles' Doctrine (Acts 2:42). The two went hand in hand. As we devote ourselves to the Lord's Supper today, we also want to be faithful to the Apostles' Doctrine

For this reason, the congregations of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have agreed to follow the Biblical and historical practice of "Closed Communion." **If you desire to receive the Lord's Supper and are not a communicant member of Divine Shepherd, or a sister congregation in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod we respectfully ask that you not commune this morning.** We do invite those who are not a member of the LCMS to come to the altar for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, as you kneel at the altar, please cross your arms so that your right hand is on your left shoulder and left hand is on your right shoulder. God bless you for Your understanding.**is on your right shoulder. God bless you for Your understanding.**