

FIRST ANTIPHON

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering all things: Come and teach us the way of prudence.

HYMN STANZA

“O Come, O Wisdom”

ELW 257, st. 2

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:3–5

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

CAROL

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

ELW 256

SECOND ANTIPHON

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the Law on Sinai: Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

HYMN STANZA

“O Come, O Lord of Might”

ELW 257, st. 3

SECOND LESSON

Exodus 6:2–7a

²God also spoke to Moses and said to him: "I am the LORD. ³I appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as God Almighty, but by my name 'The LORD' I did not make myself known to them. ⁴I also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land in which they resided as aliens. ⁵I have also heard the groaning of the Israelites whom the Egyptians are holding as slaves, and I have remembered my covenant. ⁶Say therefore to the Israelites, 'I am the LORD, and I will free you from the burdens of the Egyptians and deliver you from slavery to them. I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. ⁷I will take you as my people, and I will be your God.

CAROL

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”
Soloist, st. 1, Congregation st. 2

ELW 254

THIRD ANTIPHON

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations¹ will do homage: Come quickly to de-¹ liver us.

HYMN STANZA

“O Come, O Branch of Jesse”

ELW 257, st. 4

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 11:1–10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The 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.

³His 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;

⁴but 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.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On 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.

CAROL

“Low, How a Rose E'er Blooming”
Congregation sts. 1-2, 4, Choir St. 3

ELW 272

FOURTH ANTIPHON

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open: Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

HYMN STANZA

“O Come, O Key of David”

ELW 257, st. 5

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 42:5–9

⁵Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
 who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
 who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
 I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
 I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
 to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.
⁸I am the LORD, that is my name;
 my glory I give to no other,
 nor my praise to idols.
⁹See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
 before they spring forth,
 I tell you of them.

CAROL

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”
Congregation sts. 1, 3-4, Choir st. 2

ELW 241

FIFTH ANTIPHON

O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

HYMN STANZA

“O Come, O Dayspring”

ELW 257, St. 6

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:68–79

⁶⁸Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
 for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us
 in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.
⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.
⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break upon us,
⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

CAROL

"Light Dawns on a Weary World"
Soloist and Choir

ELW 726

SIXTH ANTIPHON

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone unit-^ling all people:
Come and save us all, whom you formed ^l out of clay.

HYMN STANZA

"O Come, O King of Nations"

ELW 257, st. 7

SIXTH LESSON

Isaiah 35:4–7a

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

In our Savior Christ, God is with us.

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen

SENDING SONG

“Joy to the World”

ELW 267

POSTLUDE

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

John Schaffner

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