

WELCOME to Emanuel's Lutheran Church!

We eagerly await the coming of Christmas and are glad you are with us today.

PRELUDE

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CALL TO WORSHIP

- P: As we begin this second week of Advent, focused on peace, may we remember what the angel said,
- C: "Be not afraid, Glory to God in the highest!"
- P: Born to bring peace, the Spirit of Christ says, "Peace to this house."
- C: Born to bring peace, the Spirit of Christ says, "Blessed are the peacemakers."
- P: In this season of long nights and expectant hearts, how do we find this peace?
- C: Peace happens when we treat each other, ourselves, and the world kindly.
- P: Peace emerges when the work of justice is done, when all are free to be who God made us to be.
- C: Let us worship in a spirit of peace, proclaiming the coming of the Prince of Peace!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

P: A long time ago, a baby was born in a town called "House of Bread." His name was Jesus. Before his birth, his mother, Mary, sang of God's goodness: "God has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; God has filled the hungry with good things."

AM: First, we light the candle of hope. Hope is believing things can get better with compassion and imagination.

P: Today, we light the candle of peace. Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world kindly.

AM: As we light this candle, we are reminded that, from the manger, peace is growing...growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus, Bread of Life.

GATHERING HYMN "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!" ELW 246

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Vicar: Let us pray together.

C: God of starry skies, into your peaceful presence we bring our whole selves: anxieties, concerns, distractions, projects, dreams, and disorders. We know that in this unjust and chaotic world, peace is difficult to find and maintain, but we hunger for peace today. Reveal the ways we have blocked or prevented your peace within us and our communities. Expand our capacity for peace as we remember the manger, where peace first began to grow. Help us reimagine systems that would make space for more peace. May the peace of Christ sustain us in worship today. Amen.

WORD God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Malachi 3:1-4

L: A reading from Malachi.

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

New Testament Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

L: A reading from Philippians.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my

prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Vicar Rudy

HYMN OF THE DAY "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

ELW 249

APOSTLES CREED

AM: Let us confess the faith of the church, using the words of the Apostles Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

AM: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized.

Response to each petition: AM: Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

AM: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

AM: Christ himself is our peace, destroying barriers and walls of hostility, unifying us as one body, and inviting everyone to the table of peace. May the peace of Christ nourish us as we extend words of peace to our family, friends, and neighbors.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING HYMN

"He Came Down"

ELW 253

Giving information is located on the back of the bulletin.

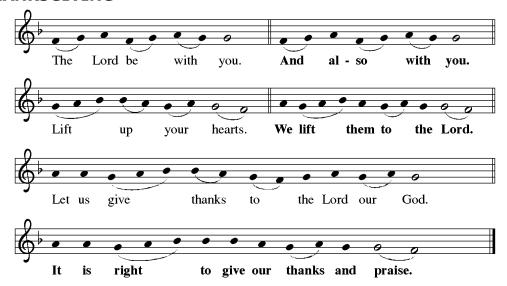
PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING

Vicar: Let us pray.

Loving God, these gifts and offerings are a reflection of our commitment to Christ's peace. May they provide sustenance to those in need and extend your love and justice throughout the world. Bless the generosity of this community, prompting us to compassionately share in building a world where the hungry are filled.

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: 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, forever and ever.

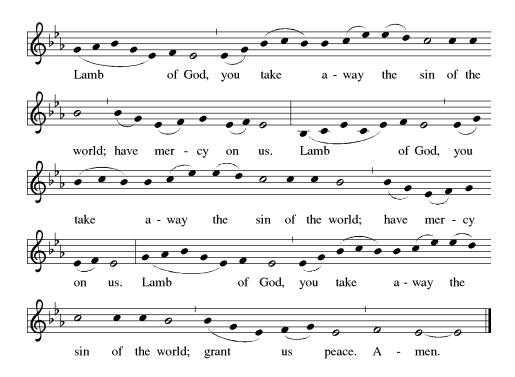
Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God"



COMMUNION

Communion will take place via continuous line. We welcome all baptized persons to the Lord's Table who believe Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. Children are welcome to be brought forward to receive a blessing. Participants will be offered a wafer and invited to eat with these words, "the body of Christ given for you." Gluten free wafers are available. Next, step to the side, to the silver tray that contains glasses of white grape juice at the center and outer empty glasses for wine. Lastly, participants will step to the last assistant who will pour the wine and share these words, "the blood of Christ shed for you." Place your glass in the small silver bowl at the end of the first pew as you return to your seat. If you wish to come forward and not receive either element, simply cross your arms for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"
"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

ELW 241 ELW 247

TABLE BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Vicar: Let us pray.

God of peace and presence, once again you have met us at the table of bread and wine, life and blessing. We marvel at the mystery of this gift, where basic food and drink become the sacred components of our fellowship together. Our union with you compels us to join the angels in their hillside song, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!" Let this holy feast sustain us as we walk this second week of Advent together.

C: Amen.

ANNUAL MEETING

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

P: May Christ, the Bread of Life, who is the Prince of Peace in a hostile world, bring peace to your hearts and minds. May the love of our Creator, who calls us to care for the hungry and oppressed, surround you. And may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to imagine a kindom where all needs are met, strengthen you, now and always. Go in hope and peace to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of Christ's coming.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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SANCTUARY FLOWERS and RADIO BROADCASTS are sponsored by Emanuel's members. If you would like to remember or honor a loved one in this way, please call the church office, or sign up on the calendar on the Level 2 hallway outside the church office. Fees and submission forms are located in the narthex, the church office, and online. Thank you to everyone who participates in this meaningful worship ministry.

Musician: Edward Workmon, organ

WORSHIP LEADERS for today, December 8, 2024: Preaching: Vicar Rudy; Presiding: Pastor Marcus; Assisting Minister: Stephanie Robbins; Communion Assistants: Bill Salt, Bill Elley, NEEDED, Rissa Springs, Marsha Schroeder; Reader: Steve Anderson; Ushers: Doug Parker, Debbie Parker, Hughlene Micheli, Karen Weinstein; Altar Guild: Sandra Schneider, Nancy Meier; A/V Tech: Jonathan Zitelman; Council Greeter: Debby Richardson; Hospitality: Cathy Anderson, Carol Hamilton, Rachel Abrameit; Safety Attendants: TBD

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, December 15, 2024: Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Marcus; Assisting Minister: Gerry Harrison; Communion Assistants: Dave English, Cindy Piqe, Bev Seidenschwarz, Elaine Giesber, Emily Prochnow; Reader: Brandon May; Ushers: Jacqueline Springs, Rissa Springs, Ilene Cherry, Darlene Zies; Altar Guild: Cindy Pique, Dave English, Sheila English; A/V Tech: Steve Anderson; Council Greeter: Sarah Kennedy; Hospitality: Doris Jefferies, Barbara Haas; Safety Attendants: TBD

EMANUEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY WORSHIP is in-person, online, and aired on KWED AM 1580 radio at 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH NURSERY is available for children 4 and under on Level 2 anytime between 9-Noon.

SUNDAY STUDIES:

- **THE HERITAGE CLASS** (307): 9:15am. Participants explore the deeper meaning found in the Bible and seek to unlock its wisdom through fellowship and robust group discussion. The aim is to make the Bible relevant and applicable to daily life.
- **JOY CLASS**: Bible stories and songs for adults with intellectual disabilities. Class meets December 8 in the WMR at 9:00am.
- "THE BIRTH OF JESUS IN THE GOSPELS" ADULT CLASS (Family Life Center): 9am December 8 and 15. Join us during Advent as we rediscover the powerful birth narratives in the Gospels.
- **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**: During worship Children's Ministry Coordinator Jordana leads our PK to 5th grade learners to the Children's Church room, just down the hall from the sanctuary, as we begin the "Gathering Hymn" and then return as we "Share the Peace."
- **THE COMPASS COOPERATIVE** gathers every Sunday with our four church partners- Emanuel's, St. Andrew's, Spirit of Joy, and Friedens Church at Spirit of Joy campus. Middle School (6-8 grades) from 4-5pm, dinner for everyone at 5pm, and High School (9-12 grades) from 5:30-6:30pm.
- **CONFIRMATION CLASSES** for our 6th to 8th graders meets this year on the 4th Sunday of every month after worship in the Women's Ministry Room.

WEEKDAY STUDIES:

Faith Circle (Women's Ministry Rm):3rd Tuesdays at 2:00 **Joy Circle** (Women's Ministry Rm): 2nd Thursday at 9:30 **Ladies Aid** (Women's Ministry Rm): 1st Wednesdays at 2:00

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, December 8, 2024

Immediately following the celebration of Holy Communion, we will hold the 2024 Emanuel's Annual Congregation Meeting. This meeting will take into consideration with potential action the 2025 proposed budget, church council nominees and synod delegates.

3C (Community-Connection-Conversation) is a time of gathering, starting **Tuesday Mornings** out under the Oak Tree, from 7:30-8:30am. Bring a chair and join us as we share in fellowship, invite new faces to sit and share their stories, and welcome visitors who pass us on the street. Our format is to be open, very fluid, and provide a place to share, visit, and grow together as a community of faith.

PATHWAYS TO HEALING support group reflects on the journey through grief while learning to navigate life with loss. Emanuel's Bereavement Ministry is combining elements of both the *Healing Through Conversation* and *Journeying Through Grief* programs into a new format meeting the 2nd Sunday of every month starting on Sunday, December 8 at 2pm in the Family Life Center. Each gathering will highlight a different topic and invite open sharing in a safe and supportive environment. Donna Simmons, Emanuel's Bereavement Care Coordinator, donna@elcsequin.org

ADVENT MIDWEEK MEAL AND WORSHIP: *From the Manger* on **Wednesdays, December 4, 11** and 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Women's Ministry Room. Hunger is a universal human experience, drawing attention to our most basic needs for food and nourishment and our more complex needs—peace, liberation, and meaning in this life. So, it's no wonder that the story of Jesus—the one who came to feed the hungry—begins, ends, and centers around food. On Wednesday evenings during Advent we will begin with a shared meal followed by a time of devotion as we prepare for the coming of Christ. There is a place at the table for you.

Help is appreciated with the meals. Sign-up sheets for food and serving help are in the narthex after the Sunday services.

BLUE SANTA CAMPUS HOSTS NEEDED! We are excited to again host The Seguin Police Department 2024 Blue Santa giftwrapping in our Fellowship Hall every **Tuesday and Thursday** between **December 3 – December 19** from 4-8pm. Toys and gifts are collected throughout the city in November/December and will be wrapped by volunteers before being distributed to children in need by Christmas morning. Your assistance as a campus volunteer will help make the evenings run smoother and provide a cheery welcome to visitors. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Outreach and Service Team member Sarah Kennedy (281) 734-3845 can answer any questions.

TLU VESPERS SERVICE: *When All is Still* is presented by the TLU School of Music on **December 6, 7, and 8** in Jackson Auditorium. This holiday tradition lifts hearts and spirits with peace, harmony, and hope. Tickets are free but required. www.tlu.edu/news/when-all-is-still-christmas-vespers-2024

"THE BIRTH OF JESUS IN THE GOSPELS" adult class meets in the Family Life Center at 9am on **Sundays, December 8 and 15**. The birth of Jesus is narrated at the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke, but is not mentioned in Mark, and alluded to very differently in John. Although the story may seem familiar, a close analysis shows that there are significant differences between the accounts, with little in common between them. Join us during Advent as we rediscover the powerful birth narratives in the Gospels.

SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING: Two days to serve! We'll be at Walmart on **Monday, December 9** from 9am – 5pm AND **Saturday, December 21** from Noon - 9pm. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Fran (830-379-5041) can answer your questions.

SHARE THE GOOD MOOs!!! With your donations, **poinsettias** will grace the sanctuary of Emanuel's this Christmas and ELCA Good Gifts will make a difference throughout the world. You may honor or remember a loved one by supporting the ELCA Good Gifts Project (any dollar amount or as indicated on the specific ornament) and/or with a red poinsettia (\$15 each). Check out the decorated trees in the narthex and by the chapel. Forms and payments may be put in an envelope and placed in the offering basket, given to our advent tree attendants, or delivered to the church office. Online payments accepted. Deadline is Monday, December 16, 2024

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE is **Thursday, December 19** at 6pm at Emanuel's. This service is a time of reflection, prayer, and music, drawing attention to the reality that while Christmas is a joyful time we also know it can and does bring many griefs. We invite you to share a time of worship and reflection acknowledging our griefs and losses, taking seriously those feelings and hurts, while also hearing words of hope shared in community.



EMANUEL'S CONGREGATION COUNCIL

President, Rissa Springs, Worship Team
Vice President, Garry Miller, Stewardship Team
Secretary, Melissa Barbre, Worship Team
Treasurer, Susan Yeatts, Congregational Care Team
Sheila English, Congregational Care Team
Bryce Kennedy, Outreach & Service Team
Sarah Kennedy, Outreach & Service Team
Tim Kent, Congregational Care Team
Debby Richardson, Stewardship Team
Paul Sims, Education Team
Darlene Zies, Outreach & Service Team
In memoriam, Aaron Jenke

ALL TEAM MEETING NIGHT

resumes January 2025

All of Emanuel's Ministry Teams gather on a single evening each month to share a meal, collaborate, plan, and schedule upcoming events and ministry projects.

EMANUEL'S STAFF

Senior Pastor, The Rev. Marcus Bigott, 830-377-8643 cell, pastormarcus@elcseguin.org
Visitation Pastor- San Antonio, The Rev. Darwin Huartson, dhuartson@porterloring.com
Day School Director, Michelle Martin, mmartin@elcseguin.org
Bereavement and Senior Care Coordinator, Donna Simmons, donna@elcseguin.org
Office and Campus Administrator, Sherry Hardwick, sherry@elcseguin.org
Accountant and Bookkeeper, Jeni Payton, jeni@elcseguin.org
Principal Organist, Edward Workmon, edward@elcseguin.org
Director of Choirs, Samuel Bigott, sbigott@ingramisd.net
Children's Ministry Coordinator, Jordana Gutierrez, jordana@elcseguin.org
Seminarian, Vicar Rudy Salazar, vicarrudy@elcseguin.org
Compass Cooperative Program Director, Hannah Hansen, hannah@elcseguin.org
Nursery Attendant, Aaliyah Kirton

EMANUEL'S MISSION STATEMENT: "To be the church God is calling us to be by declaring God's love, serving others, and embracing all."

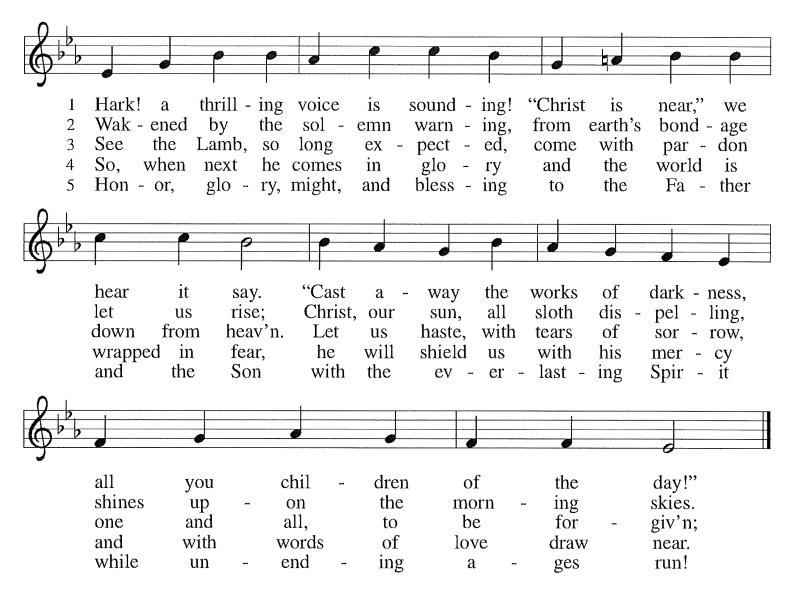
GIVING AT EMANUEL'S: Donations and tithes to the church may be given by envelopes in the pews, mailed to the church, online, or scanned with QR Code below.



Emanuel's Lutheran Church

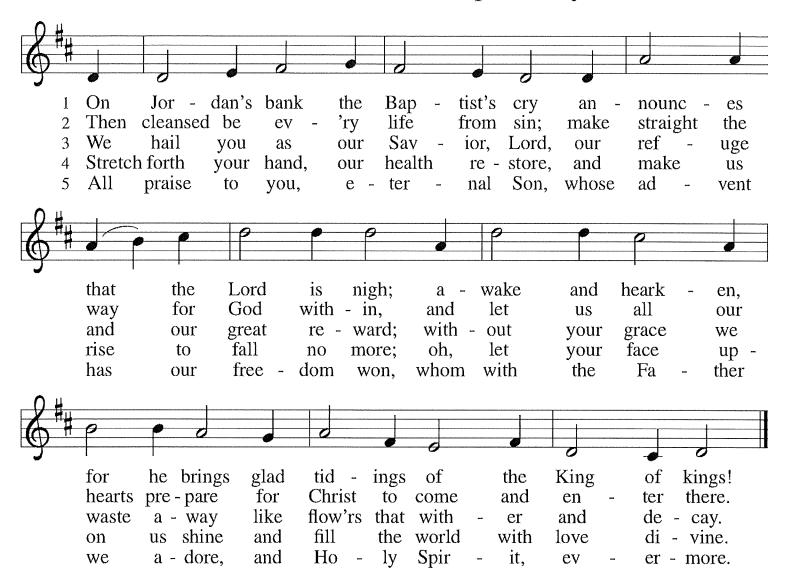
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America 206 North Travis Street | Seguin, Texas 78155 (830) 379-5046 | info@elcseguin.org Church office is open Monday-Thursday from 8-5 www.EmanuelsLutheranChurch.com

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

He Came Down



- He came down that we may have love;
- He came down that we may have light;
- He came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;

he came down that we may have light;

He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;

he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;

he came down that we may have light;

he came down that we may have peace;

he came down that we may have joy;

hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

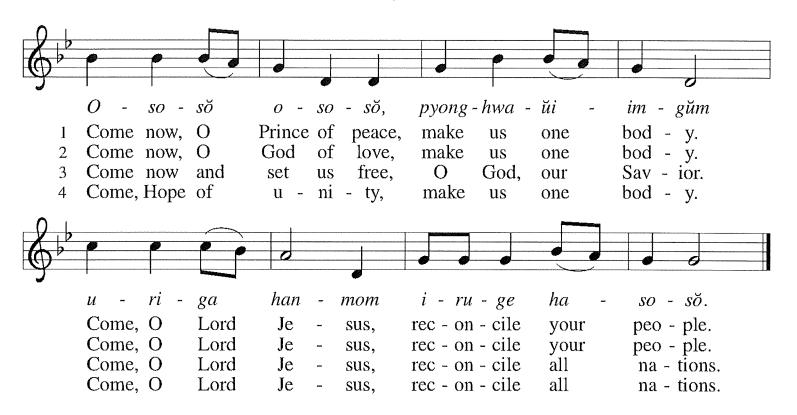
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite

Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Come Now, O Prince of Peace Ososŏ, Ososŏ



Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope Music: OSOSO, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947

Text and music © Geonyong Lee

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