

First Reader: A READING FROM ISAIAH

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Our Psalm for today is Psalm 98.

We will respond by half verse.

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.

Second Reader: A Reading from Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”? Or again, “I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God's angels worship him.” Of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.”

But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” And, “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Trusting in God, let us pray, O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, make us increase and abound in love for one another.
Keep your Church on the paths of love and faithfulness. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. May all the world know your peace and safety. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, you place signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. Give us the eyes to see, the wisdom to prepare, and the faith to trust in you. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity restored: bring the people of central Texas and this nation together in a spirit of love and respect. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, remember your compassion and love. Heal and restore the sick and the suffering, the anxious and the grieving. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, keep us blameless before you that we may meet the coming of Lord Jesus with joy. May we, and all who have died rise to life immortal. O come, O come Emmanuel;
Be our hope and our salvation.

The Celebrant continues:

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**