

*First Reader:* **A READING FROM ISAIAH**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Reader:*           The Word of the Lord.

*People:*           **Thanks be to God.**

*Leader:* **Our Psalm for today is Psalm 96.**

**We will respond by half verse.**

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song;  
**sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.**
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;  
**proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations  
**and his wonders among all peoples.**
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;  
**he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
**but it is the LORD who made the heavens.**
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!  
**Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;  
**ascribe to the LORD honor and power.**
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name;  
**bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
**let the whole earth tremble before him.**
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is King!  
**he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity.”**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
**let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.**
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD when he comes,  
**when he comes to judge the earth.**
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness  
**and the peoples with his truth.**

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*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.**