

First Reader: **A READING FROM ISAIAH**

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: **Our Psalm for today is Psalm 147:13-21**

We will respond by half verse.

- 13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
 praise your God, O Zion;
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
 he has blessed your children within you.
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
 he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
 and his word runs very swiftly.
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
 he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
 who can stand against his cold?
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
 he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
 his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
 to them he has not revealed his judgments.
 Hallelujah!

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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.**