

Holy are you and blessed is your Son,  
Jesus, the Light, your presence here with us.  
You sent him in the fullness of time,  
He came to preach good news to all.

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

And on the night he was betrayed,  
Christ took the bread, and unto you gave thanks  
He broke the bread and shared it with friends.  
“Take, eat, my body given for you.”

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

After the meal he lifted up the cup,  
“My blood, my life, I pour it out for you.  
This covenant I make anew.  
Set free from sin! Remember me!”

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Spirit of God descend upon us now,  
And make these gifts become for us.  
The body and the blood of Christ  
A holy, living sacrifice

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Prayer after Communion:

**We thank you God of Mystery  
For sacred meal, community  
Send us forth now to share your light,  
Disciples of the One of Peace!  
Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

## Psalm 126

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> **Then our mouth was filled with laughter  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;**  
then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”

<sup>3</sup> **The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad.**

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses in the Negeb.

<sup>5</sup> **May those who sow in tears  
reap with shouts of joy.**

<sup>6</sup> Those who go forth weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
**shall come home with shouts of joy,  
carrying their sheaves.**

## Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me,  
Because the LORD has anointed Me  
To preach good tidings to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives,  
And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

<sup>2</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,  
And the day of vengeance of our God;  
To comfort all who mourn,

<sup>3</sup> To console those who mourn in Zion,  
To give them beauty for ashes,  
The oil of joy for mourning,  
The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;

That they may be called trees of righteousness,  
The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”  
4 And they shall rebuild the old ruins,  
They shall raise up the former desolations,  
And they shall repair the ruined cities,  
The desolations of many generations.  
8 “For I, the LORD, love justice;  
I hate robbery for burnt offering;  
I will direct their work in truth,  
And will make with them an everlasting covenant.  
9 Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles,  
And their offspring among the people.  
All who see them shall acknowledge them,  
That they are the posterity whom the LORD has blessed.”  
10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
My soul shall be joyful 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 ornaments,  
And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
11 For as the earth brings forth its bud,  
As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth,  
So the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring  
forth before all the nations.

### **St John 1:6-8, 19-28**

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”

20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” 21 And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” 22 Then they said to him, “Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?” 23 He said: “I am ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Make straight the way of the LORD,” as the prophet Isaiah said.” 24 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees. 25 And they asked him, saying, “Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” 26 John answered them, saying, “I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know. 27 It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.” 28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

### **Sung Liturgy for Advent (Tune: VENI EMMANUEL)**

The Lord be with you as we gather here  
Lift up your hearts unto the Lord your God.  
For it is right to give God our praise.  
Let us prepare our hearts for coming days:

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

You created all things and called them good,  
Made us like you, but we cast off your love.  
You set us free and claimed us as yours,  
Through sage and prophet spoke to us your word.

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O Holy God of power and might,  
Bless'd be the one who comes in your name,  
Hosanna in the highest, God!  
Hosanna in excelsis.**

**Rejoice, Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**