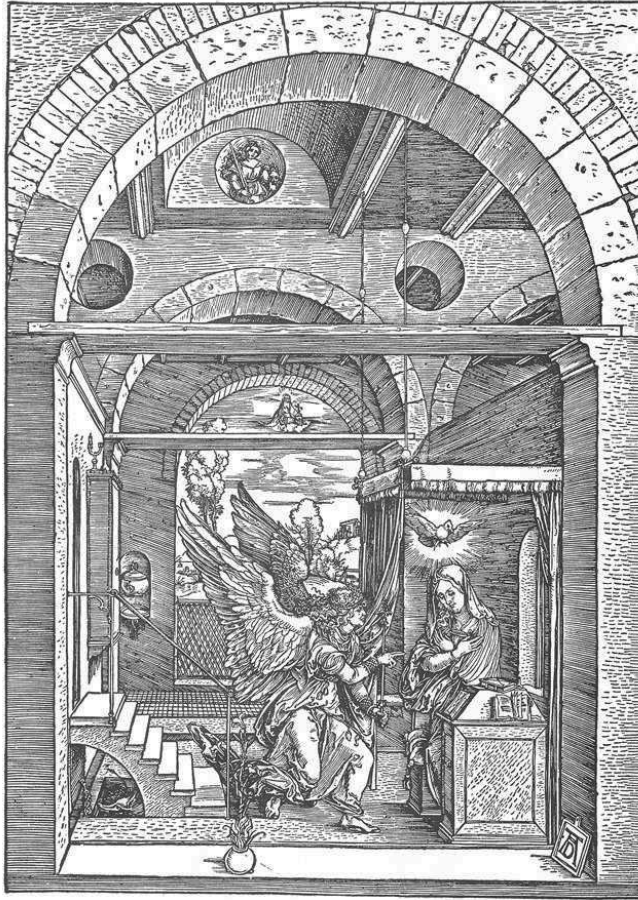


THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24th, 2023



MARTIN LUTHER
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Louis, MO

Pastor Seth Georgson

314-914-6457

THE COMMON SERVICE

Gathering Rite

Sing the refrain the first time and then sing it as indicated.

Lead us to your light, lead us out of dark-ness.

Lead us to your light. Come, Je - sus, come.

Lord, we await your coming to our world;
Bring us the gift of salvation. **Refrain**

Lord, you are hope and healing for our world;
Come, now, and bring us your good news. **Refrain**

Come, O come, O Come, Emmanuel;
Come with us on earth here to dwell. **Refrain**

Rouse us from sleep, wake us from our slumber;
Banish the darkness of night. **Refrain**

Child of the light and love beyond all telling,
Fill our hearts with wonder and praise. **Stand for the final Refrain**

Invocation

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: A - men.

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

M: God has come to make his dwelling with man. It is good for us to be watchful and ready for his return.

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom. Lord, have mercy.

(echoing the minister)

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: You come in Word and Sacrament to strengthen us in holiness. Christ, have mercy.

C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: You will come in glory with salvation for your people. Lord, have mercy.

C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

C: A - men.

Absolution

M: The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, he forgives us our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

Be seated.

THE WORD

First Lesson ----- 2 Samuel 7:8–16

You are also to say the following to my servant David.

This is what the LORD of Armies says. I took you from the pasture, from following sheep, to be

ruler over my people, over Israel. I have been with you wherever you went. I have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make your reputation great, like that of the great ones on the earth. I will set up a place for my people Israel, and I will plant them there. They will dwell there, and they will not be disturbed again. Violent men will not afflict them again as they did at the beginning and ever since the day I appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies.

The LORD also declares to you that the LORD himself will make a house for you. When your

days are complete and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your seed, who will come from your own body. I will establish his kingdom. He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he sins, I will discipline him with a rod used by men and with blows of the sons of men. My faithful mercy will not depart from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you. Your house will stand firm, and your kingdom will endure forever before you. Your throne will be established forever.

Psalm of the Day ----- Psalm 89

CW p.98

Refrain

**At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song;
I sing for joy.**

I will sing of the LORD'S great love forever,*

I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever,*

that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,*

your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Refrain

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?*

You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,*

who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long;*
they exult in your righteousness.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

Second Lesson ----- Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you—
according to my gospel and the proclamation
of Jesus Christ,
according to the revelation of the mystery that
was veiled in silence for long ages past, but
now has been revealed through the

prophetic Scriptures and made known to all
the Gentiles, in keeping with the command
of the eternal God, resulting in the
obedience of faith—
to God, who alone is wise, be glory forever
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Verse of the Day

Matthew 1:23

Tune: CW 2



C: Soon a vir - gin will give birth, God's own



Son will come to earth. He will be Imm -



an - u - el — God with man will come to dwell.

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Stand.

Gospel ----- Luke 1:26–38

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women."

But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his fa-

ther David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end."

Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible for God."

Then Mary said, "See, I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Nicene Creed

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be seated.

Hymn of the Day ----- O Lord of Light, Who Made the Stars

CW 31

1. O Lord of light, who made the stars, O Dawn, by whom we see the way,
O Christ, Redeemer of the world: Come now and listen as we pray.
2. In lowliness you came to earth To rescue us from Satan's snares,
O wondrous Love that healed our wounds By taking on our mortal cares.
3. To pay the debt we owed for sin, Your painful cross was made the price;
From blessed Mary's womb you came, A victim pure for sacrifice.
4. But now you reign, the King of kings, Adored in highest majesty;
Your very name is held in awe From pole to pole and sea to sea.

5. Great Judge of all, on earth's last day Have pity on your children's plight.
Rise up to shield us with your grace; Deliver us from Satan's might.
6. To God the Father and the Son And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be From age to age eternally. Amen.

Sermon ----- 2 Samuel 7:8-16

Receive God's Gifts

Stand.

After the sermon, the congregation sings:

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be seated.

Offering

Stand.

Online giving option:
mluther.org/give



Offerings support the spread
of the Gospel here and around the world.

Prayer of the Church

The Great O Antiphons of Advent have been cherished for centuries by Christian worshipers. Each one consists of a title given to Christ in the Old Testament and a petition asking him to come and fulfill the Scriptural promise or prophecy. The minister offers a petition and the congregation responds by singing a stanza of "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" (CW 23).

M: Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed of the nations and their Savior, Come and save us, O Lord our God.

**C: Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily order all things; come and teach us the way of prudence.

**C: Oh, come, our Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai; come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

**C: Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times gave holy law, in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

- M: O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage; come quickly to deliver us.
- C: **Oh, come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty pow'r to save,
Bring them in victory through the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**
- M: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.
- C: **Oh, come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**
- M: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.
- C: **Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**
- M: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone for uniting all people, come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.
- C: **Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease and be yourself the King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Lord's Prayer

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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: A - men.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us your peace. A - men.

Be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

In Holy Communion we believe that Jesus gives us his own body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of our sins. We ask that, in keeping with God's Word, only confirmed members who are in confessional unity with our church (WELS and ELS) would come forward to receive this sacrament. If you have any questions or are interested in communicant membership, please speak with the pastor.

During the distribution, the congregation sings the following hymns:

Hymn ----- As Angels Joyed with One Accord

CW 5

1. As angels joyed with one accord Upon the advent of our Lord,
So laud we all and bless the name Of him who from the Father came.
2. He came, not clothed in majesty Nor pow'r that suits his deity.
In lowly state he walked till he In dying set us captives free.
3. This done, he soared to God's right hand,
Yet orphaned not his chosen band,
For he, not bound in grace and pow'r,
Attends his own each day and hour.
4. In ev'ry age—let praise abound—He comes; we hear his voice resound.
His glorious gospel does not cease To bring us comfort, joy, and peace.
5. He comes in water to the child And cleanses it, from birth defiled.
This washing seals his pard'ning grace
And shows the Father's kindly face.
6. He comes to us in bread and wine To give himself—and gifts divine.
Oh, praise him for this sacrament, Redeeming love's great testament!
7. Lift up your heads! All grief and pain Shall vanish when he comes again.
Where we shall see him face to face, There joy alone shall have a place.

Hymn ----- When Sinners See Their Lost Condition

CW 32

1. When sinners see their lost condition And feel the pressing load of sin
And Jesus comes on his blest mission To heal the sin-sick heart within,
All grief must flee before his grace, And joy divine will take its place.
2. When Jesus enters meek and lowly To fill the home with sweetest peace,
When hearts have felt his blessing holy
And found from sin complete release,
Then calm and joy within shall reign, And hearts divided love again.
3. When Jesus enters land and nation And changes people with his love,
When, yielding to his kind persuasion,
Our hearts his truth and blessing prove,
Then shall our life on earth be blest; The peace of God on us shall rest.
4. When Jesus comes—O blessed story—He works a change in heart and life;
God's kingdom comes with pow'r and glory
To young and old, to man and wife.
Through sacrament and living Word
Faith, love, and hope are now conferred.
5. Oh, may he soon to ev'ry nation Find entrance where he is unknown,
With life and light and free salvation, That Satan's pow'r be overthrown,
And healing to all hearts may come In heathen land and Christian home!

After the distribution is finished the congregation stands and sings:

Song of Simeon

Nunc Dimittis



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing

to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
 pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
 Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - - men.

Be seated.

Hymn ----- Prepare the Royal Highway

CWS 702

1. Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley A level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, Foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!
2. God's people, see him coming: Your own eternal King!
Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!
3. Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised King!
Your King, yet ev'ry nation Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before him! All nations, now adore him!
Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!
4. His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, For he fulfills God's Word!

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