

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024



PRELUDE

WELCOME STATEMENT

PROCESSIONAL *“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”* ELW 251

GREETING

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Brief silence for self-examination

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ☩ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Advent Noel”

Page/Shafferman, arr.

Sing we now, rejoicing, Christ on earth to dwell.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”* *ELW 257, Verse 4*

Hart Family

(light four purple candles during the song, then pray...)

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, 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. Amen.

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Luke 1:46b-55

(Assembly reads the bold font in the Congregational Response.)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,
the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from Hebrews.

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 8, page 188

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

The gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

SERMON

Rev. Phillip Potaczek

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

ELW 263

PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE NICENE CREED

With the whole church, let us affirm our faith through the words of the Nicene Creed.

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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each prayer petition, please respond:

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

"A Little Light"

Dakota Road

From you oh Bethlehem, the son of righteousness
shall rise up from the earth to heal our brokenness
A little light is born to shine throughout the land
humility brings strength, the love that God had planned

There's life for everyone, Yahweh has come near
Our hunger will be fed and laughter will appear
But all the world's wealth will not guarantee
this everlasting love, a gift from Galilee

The Christ comes as a child to comfort all the earth
to challenge those with might to trust a lowly birth
and so we pray that life which comes as love fulfilled
would enter all our hearts for peace on earth to build

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, **you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to
you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and
join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:...

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Modern Version

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as our Savior taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All who wish to know the love of God in Jesus Christ are invited to Holy Communion. Inform a communion assistant if you need a gluten-free host. Grape juice is located in the center ring of the tray. If you are not receiving the sacrament today, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest for a blessing.

COMMUNION MUSIC

"From God's Heart"

Dakota Road

May our words and what we do
be lived in gratitude to you
Emmanuel, Love has come
in an unexpected lowly one

Into this hungry, violent place
your word's for every tribe and race
Let love increase, let hatred fall
Be peace on earth good will to all

Grace revealed for humankind
good news for poor of every kind
The low raised up, the rich brought low
so abundant life the world may know

From God's heart a child arrives
Here hope abounds and joy abides
God with us in the night
Glory to the One who brings the light

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, † bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL

“Canticle of the Turning”

ELW 723

SENDING

Siblings in Christ, our Eucharist has ended. **Now, it must be lived.**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Glory (Let There Be Peace)”

Matt Maher

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Crucifer/Acolyte: *Madi*

Ushers:

Lector: *Sue Williamson*

Communion Assistants: *Anne Lauterjung*

Carol Wahlstrom

Kevin Evensen

Altar Guild: *Becky Glaser and Linda Scott*

Video Tech:

Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Crucifer/Acolyte: *Pearl*

Ushers:

Lector: *Sue Williamson*

Communion Assistants: *Anne Lauterjung*

Altar Guild: *Anne Lauterjung*

Video Tech:

Music Directors: *Matt Makeever & Mary Heider*