

***December 19, 2021***



**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
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## INTRODUCTION

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

*Please stand*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## Savior of the Nations, Come



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won - drous birth— oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
hallows night with newborn light.  
Night cannot this light subdue;  
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
To the holy Trinity  
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version  
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524  
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### GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al- might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



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



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. 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.**

*Please sit*

## **FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a**

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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; <sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55**

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.  
<sup>50</sup>You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
<sup>52</sup>casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.  
<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

## **SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>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." <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

## **GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45**

The holy gospel according Luke. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

## **HOMILY**

*Please stand*

## Love Divine, All Loves Excelling



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to  
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry  
3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy  
4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy  
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us  
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-  
let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,  
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;  
more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,  
ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with  
Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as  
serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.  
its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.  
crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788

Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each prayer petition ends*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ. Offering baskets can be found in the back pews.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

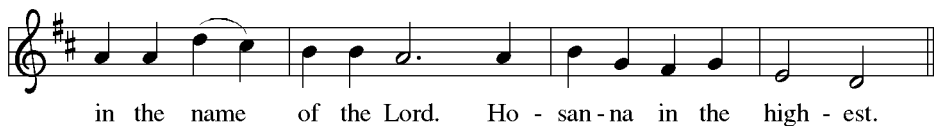
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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:



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus 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 COMMUNION**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

*Please sit*

**LAMB OF GOD**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION**

## **SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Gracious God, when your Son Jesus gathered a crowd and blessed the loaves and fish, all ate and were filled. And still there was more. In your love and care, extend this meal to all who will come after to receive it. Give us all the comfort of your abiding presence and the courage to be the body of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **FAMILY TIME WITH ANNE**

## **BLESSING**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

*Please stand*

## **HYMN**

## Come, Now, O God

1 Come now, O God, when our love is for - sak - en.  
2 Come, when we squan - der the free - dom you gave us.  
3 Come, put an end to our self - serv - ing mad - ness.

Come, when our bed - rock of faith has been shak - en.  
Come, break the sys - tems of sin that en - slave us.  
Come, while the world is en - shroud - ed in sad - ness.

Come, when our deep - est of hopes are mis - tak - en.  
Come, though we won - der if you can still save us.  
Come, turn the tears of our mourn - ing to glad - ness.

Come, Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984  
Music: LOST IN THE NIGHT, Finnish folk tune  
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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.

**Thanks be to God!**

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*"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"*

*"Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice"*

*"People, Look East"*



**The Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:00 pm, Friday, December 24th in the sanctuary. Anticipating that this service may be a larger gathering than normal, we are encouraging that masks be worn.**