

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2021 5:00 PM**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021 8:15 AM**

**REV. MATTHEW CLARK**  
Senior Pastor

**REV. MATTHEW KOBS**  
Assistant Pastor

**GABE MAICHEL**  
Director of Music

**PAMELA FOX**  
Office Manager

**VICAR JOHN GURUNG**  
Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology

**GAGAN GURUNG**  
Nepali Evangelist

**CHRIS & KATHY THIES**  
Youth Ministry

**CRAIG MATTES**  
Communications Coordinator

**GEORGE LLUKA**  
Maintenance Technician

**BARBARA HARTUNG**  
Parish Nurse

**CLAUDIA SEIFERT**  
Parish Librarian



**LOVED BY CHRIST**  
**SHARING CHRIST'S LOVE**  
  
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
Word of Life Lutheran School

**WEEKEND WORSHIP TIMES**  
5:00 pm Saturday Worship  
8:15 am Sunday Worship  
9:45 am Sunday School and Bible Class  
11:00 am Sunday Worship (Contemporary Music)

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18 & 19, 2021 5:00 PM & 8:15 AM

## AS WE GATHER

Our world is filled with turmoil, strife, contention. Every time it seems that our nation or even our own lives are at peace, again something disrupts it. Peace is as elusive as a slippery eel. Today's Readings point us to the truth that the peace we seek cannot come from the powers of the world, nor can it come from anything in our own hearts or our spiritual potential. Real peace comes from what seems like the least promising place: a little town, through the young Virgin. Peace comes from Bethlehem, from where God comes to us. From God's Word. From the Bread of Life in Holy Communion. Real peace comes to us, often beyond our understanding, through the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, through whom God made peace with us by a cross.

## PRELUDE

ORGAN

**RINGING OF THE BELLS** - *We Prepare our hearts and minds for worship*

## WELCOME

### ✠PREPARATION ✠

**OPENING HYMN: WHAT HOPE! AN EDEN PROPHESED**

LSB 342

*(Please Stand)*

## LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

**P** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,  
**C** **the light no darkness can overcome.** [*John 8:12; John 1:5*]

**P** Let Your light scatter the darkness  
**C** **and illumine Your church.**

**HYMN: WE LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE** The Candle of Love

OAR 172, v. 4

**We light the Advent candle And share the wondrous Word.  
With love, we tell of Jesus Till all around have heard.  
God's love is for all nations Throughout His whole creation.  
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!**

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## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*(If you would like private confession and absolution, please call the office at (314) 832-5600 to make an appointment with Pastor Clark)*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8–9*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[John 20:19–23]*

**C** **Amen.**

(or)

**A** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. *John 1:12, Philippians 1:6*

**C** **Amen.**

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

### SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might,

**C** **that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy;**

**P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*(Please Be Seated)*

### OLD TESTAMENT READING *Micah 5:2–5a*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler 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 given birth;

then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>And he shall be their peace.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 10:5–10*

<sup>5</sup>When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,  
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

<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, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please Stand)*

**GOSPEL VERSE: COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS**

*LSB 338, v. 1*

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 1:39–45*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby 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 from the Lord.”

**P** This is the Gospel of Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*(Please Be Seated)*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE 8:15AM

HYMN OF THE DAY: O COME, O COME, EMMAMUEL

LSB 357

## SERMON

*(Please Stand)*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

*A brief time of silence may be observed.*

**P** O Wisdom from on high, grant us peace. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to be peacemakers. We pray,

**C** hear us, coming Lord.

**P** O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

**C** hear us, coming Lord.

- P** O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, [*especially . . .*]. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. We pray,
- C** **hear us, coming Lord.**

*(Special Petitions)*

- P** All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

*(Please Be Seated)*

### **GATHERING OF OFFERINGS**

*Your tithes and offerings shape the lives of people through the Gospel of Jesus Christ for now and eternity. Thank you for your generosity! "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7*

### **OFFERTORY HARK THE GLAD SOUND**

LSB 349, v. 1

**Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.**

*(Please Stand)*

### **✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠**

*We believe Holy Communion is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink. If you are a communicant member of a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation, please feel free to commune with us. If not, please speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper.*

*How should we each examine ourselves before coming to Holy Communion?*

- 1. Be aware of our sins and be sorry for them*
- 2. Believe in our Savior, Jesus Christ, and in His words in the Sacrament*
- 3. Intend, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to live as God's forgiven people walking in newness of life*

### **PREFACE**

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

### HYMN VERSE: HARK THE GLAD SOUND

LSB 349 v. 2

**He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

LSB 209

**P** Hear us as we pray in His name as He has taught us:

**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 WORDS OF OUR LORD

LSB 209

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✠}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."  
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✠}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

### PAX DOMINI *The Peace of the Lord John 20:19*

LSB 209

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

### HYMN VERSE HARK THE GLAD SOUND

LSB 349 v. 3

**He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace To enrich the humble poor.**

*(Please Be Seated)*

### $\text{✠}$ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS $\text{✠}$

#### NOT ALL THE BLOOD OF BEASTS

LSB 431

#### THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

LSB 356

#### SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS COME

LSB 332

*(Please Stand)*

## DISMISSAL

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

**C** Amen.

## HYMN VERSE: JOY TO THE WORLD

LSB 387, v.1

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

## BENEDICAMUS and BENEDICTION *Psalm 103:1*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. *Numbers 6:24-26*

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN: PRAISE THE ALMIGHTY

LSB 797

## POSTLUDE

*Organ*

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