

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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MISSION STATEMENT:

*In response to God's love for us, we **SERVE** God,
SUPPORT Christian fellowship,
And **SPREAD** the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people.*

Volume 76

December 20, 2020

No. 51

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

+ Service of Holy Communion +
9:00 AM

AS WE GATHER— God told King David by the prophet Nathan that He would build him a house. The mystery, however, was that He didn't mean a structure of wood and stone but an inheritance and a kingdom—the house and lineage of David. The mystery of salvation is made known only and alone through “the prophetic writings” and living Word of God in the Holy Scriptures. As we prepare to celebrate the greatest mystery of the Word made flesh, the incarnation and birth of the Son of God, Jesus, the Savior of the world, the best mystery is that God through the very telling of this story in our ears gives, works, and builds the gift of faith in the heart so that we believe it. We believe that Jesus was born for us, for me. He came down from heaven to be the only acceptable sacrifice for my sin, to redeem me, and give me eternal life through the forgiveness of my sins. O come, Emmanuel, God with us. O come, let us adore Him.

PRESERVICE MUSIC “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” by Wilbur Held

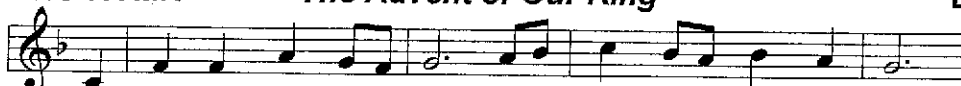
WELCOME

♩ [Means please stand; ♪ Means please be seated]

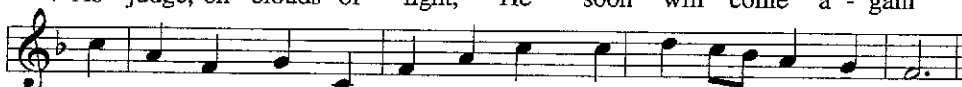
♩ OPENING HYMN

The Advent of Our King

LSB 331



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,
3 O Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly King,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace He comes to bring.
And His true mem - bers all u - nite With Him in heav'n to reign.

5. Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

6. All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever One
Through all eternity. Amen.

INVOCATION

P *In the name of the Father and of the \mp Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

C Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P *That our eyes and our ears may be open to receive the mystery of God's love, let us first empty ourselves of everything that has closed our hearts to God, confessing our sin and need of forgiveness and life.*

C **At the Lord's own invitation and command, I confess all my sins to God, the very thoughts, words, and deeds with which I have offended Him and hurt my neighbor. I come now in the sincere hope and faith of the forgiveness of God made known to the whole world in the mystery of His Son, Jesus Christ, who has sacrificed His own flesh and blood for me. Remove my sin and guilt for His sake, and restore a right spirit within me. Amen.**

P *Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the \mp Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

C Amen.

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *The Lord be with you.*

C **And also with you.**

P *Let us pray.*

All: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

P OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

A *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

Romans 16:25–27

A *This is the Word of the Lord.*

C **Thanks be to God.**

J ALLELUIA VERSE

Matthew 1:23a

All: Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA A CHANGING WORLD, A CHANGLESS GOD

HYMN

The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

LSB 356

[Choir: vs. 1 & 2; Congregation: vs. 3 & 4]



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Tune and text: Public domain

NARRATION

SONG [choir]

Baby in a Manger

Baby lying in a manger, cradled on a bed of straw

Baby lying in a manger, Jesus, the Lord of all.

Angels on that night robed with heaven's light sang the news in one accord.

Come and see the baby in a manger, Christ the Lord.

Baby lying in a manger as the prophets had foretold.
Baby lying in a manger, soon the world would know.
As the angels sing, earth receives her King.
Peace and joy are now restored.

Come and see the baby in a manger, Christ the Lord.
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
Come and see the baby in a manger, Christ the Lord, Christ, the Lord.

NARRATION

SONG [choir]

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing; noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping: shepherds keeping vigil 'til the morning new,
Saw the glory, heard the story, tiding of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the Babe was born for you.

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing; noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Christ the Babe is Lord of all.

NARRATION

SONG [choir & congregation]

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Choir

- 1 Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
but there is room and welcome there for me,
and welcome there for me.
- 2 In that unlikely place I find Him as they said:
sweet newborn babe, how frail! and in a manger bed:
a still, small voice to cry one day for me,
to cry one day for me.
- 3 How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
the Prince of Peace for me.

Congregation: 4 Can I, will I for - get how Love was
 born, and burned its way in - to my heart— un-
 asked, un - forced, un - earned, to die, to live, and
 not a - lone for me, and not a - lone for me?

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NARRATION

SONG [choir]

Mary Did You Know?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water?
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
 Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
 This child that you delivered, will soon deliver you.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
 Did you know, that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
 When you kissed your little baby, then you kissed the face of God.

The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again;
 The lame will leap, the dumb will speak the praises of the Lamb.

Mary, did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
 Mary, did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations?
 Did you know that your baby boy was heaven's perfect Lamb?
 This sleeping child you're holding, is the great, the great "I AM!"

NARRATION

SONG [choir]

In the First Light

In the first light of a new day no one knew He had arrived.
 Things continued as they had been while a newborn softly cried.
 But the heavens wrapped in wonder knew the meaning of His birth;
 In the weakness of a baby they knew God had come to earth.

As His mother held Him closely, it was hard to understand
That her baby not yet speaking was the Word of God to man.
He would tell them of His kingdom, but their hearts would not believe.
They would hate Him, and in anger they would nail Him to a tree.

But the sadness would be broken as the song of life arose;
And the Firstborn of creation would ascend and take the throne.
He has left it to redeem us, but before His life began
He knew He'd come back not as a baby, but as the Lord of ev'ry man.

Hear the angels as they're singing on the morning of His birth;
But how much greater will our song be when He comes again to earth.
Hear the angels as they're singing on the morning of His birth;
But how much greater will our song be when He comes again to earth,
When He comes to rule the earth.
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Amen.

NARRATION

✠ NICENE CREED

C 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 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 worshipped 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P *Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Almighty God, as we draw closer to the grand celebration of the incarnation and birth of Your beloved Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we thank You for making known the mystery of Your love from the very first promise to Adam and Eve, through the continued witness of the holy prophets, apostles, and evangelists, and finally through Your living voice through the ministers of Your Church to this day. Grant that Your living Word ever call us and all sinners to repentance and faith in Your only-begotten Son. Lord, in Your mercy,*

C **hear our prayer.**

P *Keep all You have called to preach and teach and care for Your people in true faith, guard them against the attacks of the evil one, and give them health and joy in their ministry. Lord, in Your mercy,*

C hear our prayer.

P *Send Your Spirit over the whole world that those who lead in the authority of government acknowledge Your laws and will, making for times of peace that we may live faithfully in safety. Lord, in Your mercy,*

C hear our prayer.

P *By Your Holy Word and Sacrament, strengthen us to obedient living. Send Your grace, mercy, peace, and love to surround our families, inspire those of various vocations in the world, comfort, defend, and heal all those in times of illness or distress [especially...] Lord, in Your mercy,*

C hear our prayer.

P *By the mystery of our Lord's incarnation, His life of obedient faith, and His substitutionary death on the cross, establish us in the one true faith, and strengthen us in lives obedient to Your holy will. Lord, in Your mercy,*

C hear our prayer.

P *Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

C Amen.

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.**

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 saying:*

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;**

Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that
cometh in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

P *O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:*

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.

PAX DOMINI

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

C Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

During Communion: **HANDBELL SELECTION**

During Communion: Organ Interlude

Christmas Angels

Hark the Glad Sound

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P *Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

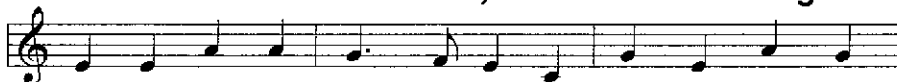
P *The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His peace.*

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

LSB 353



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text and tune: Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice" by Jeffrey Bliersch

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WE WISH TO THANK the following for their participation in our worship service this morning:

Altar Guild..... Elsie Leiker & Sharon Milliken
 Communion Assistant..... Bob Sees
 Counter..... Carl Kurth
 Organist / Music Director..... Beth Buss
 Special Music..... Christ Choristers, Handbells; Beth Buss, Director
 Mackenzie Egan, Flute
 Kae Kemerling, Keyboard
 Cameron Hatton, Narrator
 Sanitation CEO (Clean Every Object)..... Al Axford
 Service Web Recorder..... Robert Showalter
 Service Live Streaming..... Stuart Ruwet
 Usher..... Phil Vandre

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