

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 74

December 23, 2018

No. 51

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Order of Worship -9 AM

+ Sunday School Christmas Program & Choral Cantata +

AS WE GATHER -

This is He whom seers in old time

Chanted of with one accord,

Whom the voices of the prophets

Promised in their faithful word. (LSB 384:3)

Micah is one such seer and prophet. He prophesies of the Savior's birthplace, Bethlehem, which means "house of bread." How fitting that the Bread of Life would be born in such a place. How fitting that He continues to feed us with His body and blood to this day. As we come to the Lord's Supper, we come to the house of bread. We come to Bethlehem or, rather, Bethlehem comes to us.

PRESERVICE DUET

Various Christmas Carols

Beth Buss & Beth Tevah

WELCOME

[Please fill out prayer request cards.]

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

♫ OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,

Refrain

Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - jice! Re - jice!
 And teach us in her ways to go. Re - jice! Re - jice!
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - jice! Re - jice!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - jice! Re - jice!
 And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - jice! Re - jice!

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
 And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
 In one the hearts of all mankind;
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
 And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Refrain

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INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.* **C** Amen.
- P** *Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!*
- C** **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**
- P** *Blessed is the fruit of Mary's womb!*
- C** **He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord!**
- P** *His flock shall dwell secure.*
- C** **And He will be their peace.**
- P** *My soul magnifies the Lord,*
- C** **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**
- P** *Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!*
- C** **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Hebrews 10:10

- P** *In the season of Advent we prepare for Jesus to come. Sometimes in our preparations we lose sight of God's grace. Sometimes we are so desperate for God's approval we think we can earn His favor by doing more, by being better, or by scheming in just the right way. Despite God's unconditional love, we still try to earn our way into security and salvation. We turn to the Lord for forgiveness.*

[Silence for reflection.]

- P** *Heavenly Father,*
- C** **we confess that we have not trusted Your Word of forgiveness, life, and salvation. We have questioned if we are truly forgiven. We have doubted the new life we now live. We have distrusted Your way of salvation. Restore us, O God. Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

(continued)

P God's ways are not our ways. Despite our continued failures and our inability to trust as we ought, Christ's death and resurrection for Your forgiveness remains effective, and it always will. Hear these words of forgiveness for they are from Christ Himself: 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 \mp Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

INTROIT

1 Sam. 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47

P My soul magnifies the Lord,

C and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

P My mouth derides my enemies,

C because I rejoice in your salvation.

P There is none holy like the LORD;

C there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

P The barren has borne seven,

C but she who has many children is forlorn.

P The LORD kills and brings to life;

C he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

P The LORD makes poor and makes rich;

C he brings low and he exalts.

All: 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.

P My soul magnifies the Lord,

C and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

HYMN OF PRAISE

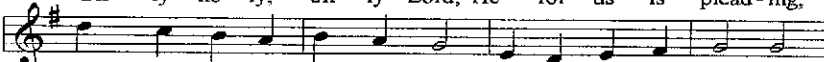
Glory Be to God on High



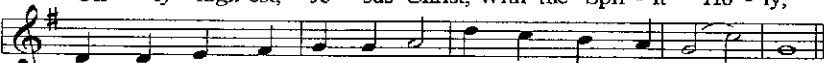
1 Glo - ry be to God on high, Praise and a - do - ra - tion
 2 Heaven's King, Our Lord and God Our Al - might - y Fa - ther,
 3 Je - sus sits at God's right hand For us in - ter - ced - ing;



Lord, on earth Your grace sup - ply, Peace, and con - so - la - tion.
 And Your on - ly Son, the Christ, Lamb of God and Sav - ior,
 On - ly ho - ly, on - ly Lord, He for us is plead - ing,



You we bless and mag - ni - fy All our thanks out - pour - ing,
 You have tak - en this world's sin, Lamb of God have mer - cy,
 On - ly high - est, Je - sus Christ, With the Spir - it Ho - ly,



You are pleased with us to dwell, Won - drous is Your glo - ry.
 Hear our prayer, re - ceive our plea, Je - sus Christ, have mer - cy.
 You we praise and mag - ni - fy in the Fa - ther's glo - ry.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P *The Lord be with you.*

G **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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

G **And also with you.**

P *Let us share this peace with one another.*

(People greet one another saying: "Peace be with you. And also with you.")

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

Micah 5:2–5a

L *This is the Word of the Lord.*

G **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE LESSON

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

Hebrews 10:5–10

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA VERSE

Matt. 1:23a

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

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39–56

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

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

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

P *This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

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

[Congregation may be seated]

TO THE WORLD, JOY!!

HANDBELL SELECTION

"To the World, Joy!"

NARRATION

CHORAL SELECTION

"Joy of Every Longing Heart"

NARRATION

SONG

"Ring the Bells"

Young Sunday School Children

SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHOIR

"Bethlehem Town"

NARRATION

CHORAL SELECTION

"And It Came to Pass"

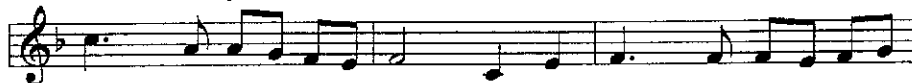
NARRATION

HYMN MEDLEY

Once in Royal David's City [v. 1: Solo; v. 2 & 4: Congregation & Choir]



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and



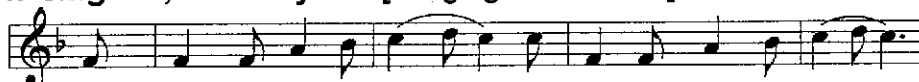
ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.

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Now Sing We, Now Rejoice [Congregation & Choir]



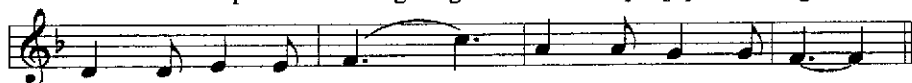
1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly ground?



He from whom joy stream - eth Poor in a man - ger lies;
 Where the an - gels sing - ing With all His saints u - nite,



Not so bright - ly beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
 Sweet - est prais - es bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

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NARRATION

CHORAL SELECTION

"A Stable Lamp is Lighted"

NARRATION

HYMN [Congregation & Choir]

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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♪ APOSTLE'S CREED

☐ I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

♪ OFFERING

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

by Kenneth D. Varner

♪ OFFERTORY

O Little Town of Bethlehem



3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;

(continued)

So God im-parts to hu-man hearts The bless-ings of His heav'n.
 Cast out our sin, and en-ter in, Be born in us to-day.

No ear may hear His com-ing; But in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an-gels The great glad tid-ings tell;

Where meek souls will re-ceive Him, still The dear Christ en-ters in.
 O come to us, a-bide with us, Our Lord Im-man-u-ell

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LSB 357

- P** *Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Lord Jesus Christ, come to all those who are in bondage to sin and Satan. Break their chains and release them from their enslavement, that they serve You in peace and quietness. O come, O come, Emmanuel,*
- C** **and ransom captive Israel.**
- P** *Lord Jesus Christ, we live in a world where everyone does what is right in their own minds. Come to us with Your perfect wisdom, that we follow You and not our own selfish ways. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,*
- C** **who orders all things mightily.**
- P** *Lord Jesus Christ, come to those whose life is in chaos and provide order, structure, and discipline, that they live in peace and unity with their neighbors. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,*
- C** **who gave the Law on Sinai's height.**
- P** *Lord Jesus Christ, Satan remains an active voice in the world. Silence him by Your mighty power, and proclaim liberty to those who are under his influence. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,*
- C** **free us from Satan's tyranny.**
- P** *Lord Jesus Christ, there are many who do not know You and Your salvation. Send missionaries, pastors, teachers, and anyone willing to share Your grace around the world, that more might believe in You and be saved by Your death and resurrection. O come, Thou Key of David, come,*
- C** **and open wide our heav'nly home.**
- P** *Lord Jesus Christ, so many in this world are lonely and longing for friendship and a place to belong. Send us to those people, that we befriend them and bring them to You...[special petitions]. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,*
- C** **and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh.**
- P** *Lord Jesus Christ, come to Your broken Church with the gifts of reconciliation and restoration. Unite Your people once again, that we enjoy fellowship rather than fractured division. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;*
- C** **bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.**

(continued)

P *Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy.*

C **Amen.**

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.**

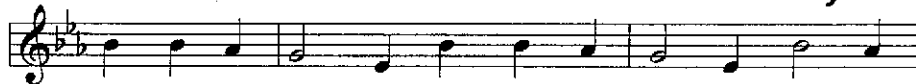
BENEDICTION

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 His peace.*

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

My Soul Rejoices



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



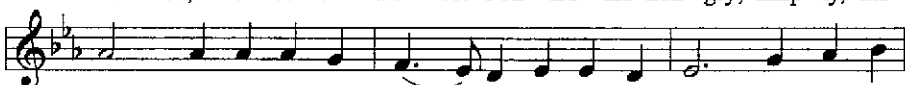
great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



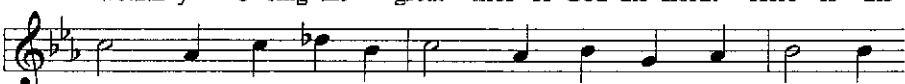
fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring

(continued)



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

“O Bride of Christ, Rejoice”

by Jeffrey Bliersch

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THE LUTHERAN HOUR MESSAGE KOA 850 AM: Sunday @ 6:00 AM

December 30: “A Long Good-Bye”; Dr. Dean Nadasdy, Guest Speaker

As the year comes to a close, we likely have regrets and guilt. We can beat ourselves up over work left undone, but Jesus Christ has assured us that He is your hope. His grace is more than sufficient to take us into another year and give us peace.

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