

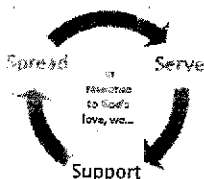
# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 75

December 22, 2019

No. 51

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Order of Worship –9:00 AM

**AS WE GATHER** – *Some videos go viral as our friends tell us, "Look at that!" Centuries ago, people would join a parade through city gates so they all could be part of some great event. As we share the news of Jesus entering human history, we bring our friends to that once-for-all yet eternal event. God kept His promise, Joseph named Mary's son Jesus, and we are called saints by the grace of God. It's news that can't be kept to ourselves; we have to tell our friends, "Look at that! Look at what God has done!"*

**PRESERVICE MUSIC** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" by Richard Ellsasser

## WELCOME

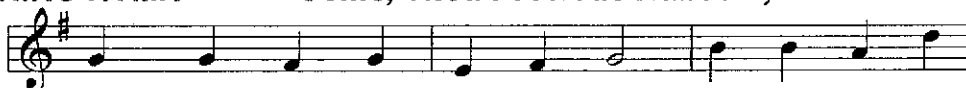
*[Please fill out prayer request cards.]*

[♯Means please stand; ♯Means please be seated]

## ♯OPENING HYMN

**Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come**

LSB 350



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for  
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and  
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -  
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!  
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,  
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,  
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty  
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es  
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I  
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see;      Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.  
will be mine      When Thou art my guest di - vine!  
will em - brace,      Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.  
we may sing:      Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

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## INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21; Psalm 24: 3-4; Romans 1:3

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
- C** **Amen.**
- P** *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,*
- C** **and shall call His name Immanuel.**
- P** *She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus,*
- C** **for He will save His people from their sins.**
- P** *Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?*
- C** **He who has clean hands and a pure heart.**
- P** *Christ Jesus was descended from David according to the flesh*
- C** **and declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead.**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Romans 1:1, 5-6; Psalm 24:4

- P** *In today's Reading from Isaiah, when God was about to send the King of Assyria to destroy Judah, King Ahaz didn't want to hear about it, though the nation deserved destruction.*
- C** **Help us to consider the physical or spiritual consequences of our actions, not taking God's grace and forgiveness for granted.**
- P** *As Paul begins his Letter to Rome, he writes that he is "called to be an apostle . . . among all the nations, including you."*
- C** **Help us to make talking about God's grace in our lives with people different from ourselves a priority. We are by nature sinful and have sinned in our words, in our thoughts, and in our actions. Have mercy on us, Jesus!**
- P** *God's plan of salvation has been unwavering since creation. The prophecies were kept, the Savior entered human history to pay for all sins, and everyone who believes has been given "clean hands and a pure heart" purely by the grace of God for Jesus' sake. 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.*
- C** **Amen.**

## KYRIE

- P** *In peace, let us pray to the Lord.*
- C** **O Lord, Emmanuel, have mercy.**
- P** *For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*
- C** **O Lord, Wisdom from on high, have mercy.**
- P** *For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.*
- C** **O Lord, Branch of Jesse's tree, have mercy.**
- P** *For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.*

- C** O Lord, Key of David, have mercy.
- P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C** Amen.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

## Love Has Come



Love has come a light in the dark - ness! Love ex -  
 Love is born! Come share in the won - der; Love is  
 Love has come He will nev - er leave us! Love is



plodes in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has  
 God now a - sleep in the hay. See the glow in the  
 life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with -



come to pro - claim it; Hear how their song of  
 eyes of His moth - er; What is the name her  
 in and a - mong us; Love is the peace our



joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a  
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she  
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of



Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.  
 whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.  
 Christ - mas; Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

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## PRAYER 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.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

Isaiah 7:10-17

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

- This is the Word of the Lord.       Thanks be to God.

## HYMN RESPONSE

Emmanuel

Em-man - u - el, \_\_\_\_\_ Em - man - u - el, \_\_\_\_\_ His name is  
called \_\_\_\_\_ Em - man - u - el: \_\_\_\_\_ God with us, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ re-vealed in us! \_\_\_\_\_ His name is called \_\_\_\_\_ Emman - u - el.

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## EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 1:1-7

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

- This is the Word of the Lord.       Thanks be to God.

## 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

Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

- This is the Gospel of the Lord.       Praise to You, O Christ.

## YOUTH MESSAGE

[Prayer requests will be collected at this time.]

## HYMN OF THE DAY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357

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

(continued)



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,



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



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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## SERMON

### "A SIGN FROM GOD"

*Isaiah 7:10-17*

- i. There are times when we want a "sign from God" to prove He exists or to give us direction.
- ii. Isaiah reminds us today that the birth of Jesus is the sign of God's love.

## 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 Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

by Jan Bender

4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a  
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -  
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your  
 Sov - reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.  
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!

5. Redeemer, come and open wide  
 My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
 O enter with Thy grace divine;  
 Thy face of mercy on me shine.  
 Thy Holy Spirit guide us on  
 Until our glorious goal is won.  
 Eternal praise and fame  
 We offer to Thy name.

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### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH [responses sung to: "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"]

Based on Matthew 1:19, 21; Romans 1:5; Psalm 24:1, 5-6; James 5:7

- P** As the time of Advent comes to an end, let us go to our heavenly Father on behalf of the Church around the world and all people in their various needs. "Call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." For people who have not heard a word of forgiveness from their society or circle of friends, that God would use the Church to bring them news of God's mercy and grace, available from His Son, born in a stable, killed on a cross, and risen from the grave, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
- P** Paul's apostleship was to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of Christ's name among all the nations. For our communities and country and for all the nations of the world, that God would put into positions of authority and influence capable and faithful people who would work for order at home and peace with neighboring states, let us pray to the Lord.
- C** From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
- P** "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." For those who tend God's good earth, those who distribute and sell the fruits of the harvest, and those who manage wildlife preserves and wilderness expanses, that they be successful in their oversight of creation and give praise to the Creator, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,**

**P** *For people who are weighed down by illness, strife, or oppression, our friends and neighbors "who seek the face of the God of Jacob," that God would bring healing, peace of body and mind, and freedom from discrimination, [including . . .], let us pray to the Lord.*

**C Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**P** *For the forgotten in prison and unseen among us, all whose treatment by society has given them cause to stop waiting for answers to prayer, that God would surround them with caring, devout family and friends, so that they in patient joy look forward as "the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth," let us pray to the Lord.*

**C Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!**

**P** *Joseph was a just man and unwilling to put Mary to shame. For those who have succumbed to the criticisms of their circle of acquaintances, the fallen morality of their society, and the consequences of their own mistakes, that God would open their eyes to the forgiveness He offers through Christ so that they lift up their heads to the gates through which our Savior walks, let us pray to the Lord.*

**C Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.**

**P** *For the Church around the world, wherever it experiences active persecution or increasing indifference, that God would strengthen, guide, and protect laity and clergy alike and that it receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.*

**C By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;**

**P** *These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**C By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

## 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

Matthew 1:23

**P** *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.*

**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

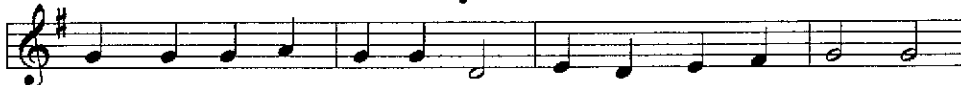
**P** *The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the ~~F~~ Son who saved us and shall return to welcome us home, and the Holy Spirit who creates and nourishes the faith that Jesus is the Lord—be with you now and forever.*

**C** **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

**P** *Go in peace as you serve the Lord.*

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



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.  
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[Birthday: Joan Johnson]

**POSTLUDE**

**"Savior of the Nations Come"**

by Jeffrey Blersch

From *Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish*, Series A, Quarter 1.  
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**THE LUTHERAN HOUR MESSAGE**

**KOA 850 AM: Sunday @ 6:00 am**

December 29: "Dreams"; Pastor John Nunes, Guest Speaker  
(Jeremiah 23:24)



**ASKED GOD FOR A SIGN**



**WRONG  
WAY**



**IT'S NICE TO KNOW HE  
HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR**

**GOD I NEED A SIGN**



**OF YOUR PRESENCE**