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

PLEASE FILL OUT PRAYER REQUEST CARDS.

OPENING HYMN Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come LSB 350

1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, On-ly hope for
2 Enter now my wait-ing heart, Glo-rious King and
3 My hos-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, sce* 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; Anxiously we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest divine!
will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

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.
HYMN OF PRAISE

Love Has Come

Love has come, a light in the darkness! Love 
explodes in the Bethlehem sides. See, all heaven has

God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the

life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus with-

come to proclaim it; Hear how their song of

eyes of His mother; What is the name her

in and among us; Love is the peace our

joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a

heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she

hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Christmastime; 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
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

L This is the Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

HYMN RESPONSE
Emmanuel

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EPISTLE LESSON
(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

L This is the Word of the Lord. C Thanks be to God.

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

HOLY GOSPEL

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, 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.

YOUTH MESSAGE

[Prayer requests will be collected at this time.]

HYMN OF THE DAY O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em-man-u-el, And ransom captive
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)
S

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
migh - t - t - t - t - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
Si - nal'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 - 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!
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

PUBLIC DOMAIN

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
G 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
OFFERTORY

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

4 Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov'reign enter in And new and no bler life begin.

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.

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

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.

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;

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.

From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.

“The earth is the Lord’s and the fulness 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.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
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.

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

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

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

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

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

LORD'S PRAYER
O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
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
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
The blessing of God Almighty—the Father who created us, the ✝ 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.
Amen.

Dismissal
Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
CLOSING HYMN

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

1 Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
2 Angels sang about His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;

There He lay, the Unde-filed, To the world a stranger.
Heaven's star shone brightly forth Glory all around Him.
He is still the Unde-filed But no more a stranger.

Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, Heard the angels singing;
Son of God of humble birth, Beautiful the story;

Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ringing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glory!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Birthday: Joan Johnson]

POSTLUDE

"Savior of the Nations Come“ by Jeffrey Blersch

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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

IT'S NICE TO KNOW HE HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR
GOD I NEED A SIGN

OF YOUR PRESENCE