

December 19, 2021

*Fourth Sunday in
Advent*



**GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

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Worship:

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00am

Communion:

1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

Adult Bible Study &

Sunday School:

9:30 am

(Grace Hall)

+

Pastor:

Richard Willsea

Deaconess:

Karen Suter

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 19, 2021

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRELUDE

"Partita on People Look East"
"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

arr. J. Bertolozzi
setting: C. Schalk

WELCOME

Stand

HYMN

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

LSB 361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove
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;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
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.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
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;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!
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 - el!

INVOCATION

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Luke 1:49–51, 54, adapt.

- P** The mighty Lord has done great things and holy is His name.
C **We thank You, O Lord!**
- P** The Lord's mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.
C **We adore You, O Lord!**
- P** The Lord has shown the strength of His arm.
C **We praise You, O Lord!**
- P** The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.
C **We worship You, O Lord!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

All four Advent candles are lit.

- P** Let us pray. O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- P** Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

- P** We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not always been instruments of Your peace. Our homes have at times been places of strife and turmoil by our own fault. Even in the church sometimes we have chosen to fight rather than to make peace.
C **Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**

- P** Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
- C** **according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**
- 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.
- C** **Amen.**

† **SERVICE OF THE WORD** †

KYRIE

LSB 168



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove and for our sal-va-tion let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



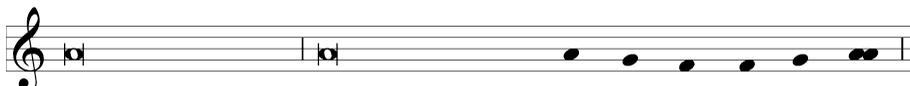
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the uni-ty of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

SALUTATION

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.**

Sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 5:2–5a

The Word is read...

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

GRADUAL

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

- P** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.
- C** **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**
- P** Behold, your king is coming to you;
- C** **righteous and having salvation.**
- P** Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
- C** **From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:5–10

The Word is read...

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

Stand

VERSE

- P** Alleluia! Alleluia!
- C** **Alleluia! Alleluia!**
- P** Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
- C** **and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39–45

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the third chapter.
- C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

The Gospel is read...

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

Sit

HYMN

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

LSB 356



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!

SERMON

Stand

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 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 \dagger of the world to come. Amen.**

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.**

A 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,

G 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. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

G hear us, coming Lord.

A O Key of David, let Your peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

G hear us, coming Lord.

P O Lord of might, let the peace that surpasses human understanding, the peace that comes from being in Christ, so fill our hearts that we become signs of Your peace in this chaotic world. We pray,

G hear us, coming Lord.

A O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

G hear us, coming Lord.

P You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G Amen.

OFFERING

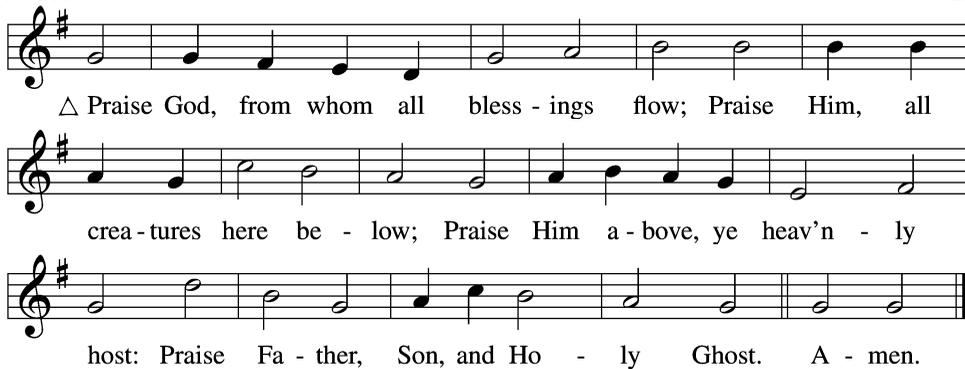
VOLUNTARY

"He Shall Feed His Flock" (from the Messiah) arr. L. Leatherman

Stand

OFFERTORY

LSB 805



△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

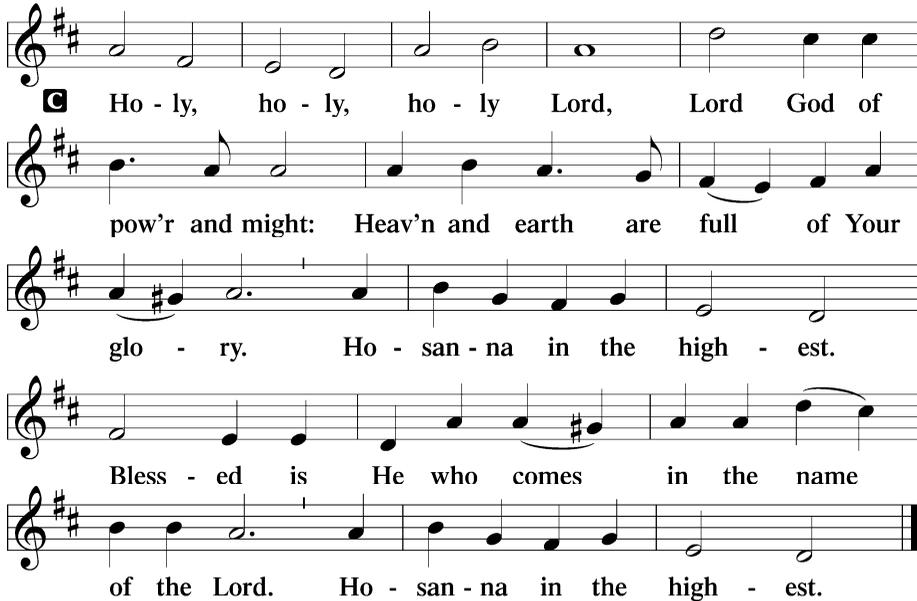
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

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, who made peace between God and humanity by dying on the cross and being raised by the Father. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 178



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Thank You, Lord of all creation, for Your constant, abiding, seeking love, given to us now in the Supper of our Lord. You created the heavens, the earth, all creatures, and human beings. You promised a Savior when Adam and Eve rebelled against You. You made Your covenant with Abraham and Sarah to bless the world through their offspring. You saved the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and guided them through the wilderness. You sent prophets to people who had again rebelled against You. In the fullness of time, You sent to us Jesus, Your Son, who proclaimed, taught, and demonstrated the coming Kingdom and who suffered, died, rose, and ascended. You provide for us the body and blood of Christ to forgive our sins, and You empower us to love the world as You have first loved us. In You we find the peace that surpasses human understanding.

G **We thank You. We praise You. We adore You. Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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 † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

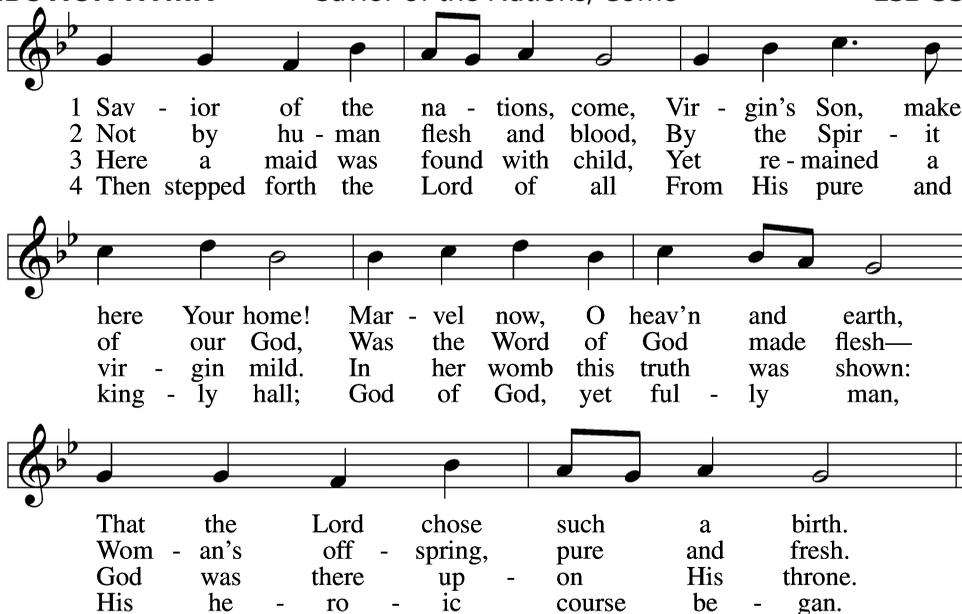


have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
 sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
 God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

LSB 332



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
 3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and
 here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
 vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,
 That the Lord chose such a birth.
 Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 God was there up - on His throne.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,
 Back to God He ran His course.
 Into hell His road went down,
 Back then to His throne and
 crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
 Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
 By Your mighty pow'r make whole
 All our ill's of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

△8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

VOLUNTARY

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

setting: W. Pelz

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 182



Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which You have prepared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal You to the na - tions and the glo - ry of Your peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P Let us pray. Thank You, Lord, for the peace that comes to us through Christ's body and blood. Help us leave this Table so filled with Your peace that it overflows to our homes, our church, and our community; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB 183

