

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

The Fourth Sunday in Advent ☩ December 20, 2020 ☩ 11:00 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music
Marty and Jim Hagberg, Musician Leaders

☐ = Pastor ☑ = Lector [reader] ☒ = Congregation *ELW* = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (hymnal, if you have one at home)

**PLEASE NOTE: We will not distribute paper copies of this Worship Guide. All will be projected on the screens.
If you would like, you could print a copy and home and bring it with you,**

PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate to the number in your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." So in these days of required distancing, longing to share the Lord's Supper again soon physically together at one table of the Lord, we acknowledge communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space. This will be another form of that connection. We understand no precedents are being set in these unique times.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fritz

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS: *Creator of the Stars of Night*

ELW Hymn 245

- 1 Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.**
- 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blessed mother mild.**
- 4 Come in your holy might, we pray, redeem us for eternal day;
[Forgive our sin, and reconcile our hearts to greet the holy Child.]**

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Text © 1940 Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved.

- ☐ People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love, ☩ comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

☒ Amen.

ADVENT HYMN: *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

ELW Hymn 242

- 1 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.**
- 2 To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness,
the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.**
- 3 In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.**
- 4 Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.**

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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GREETING

2

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **G** Amen.

PSALM: Psalm 8:3-5

—*Contemporary English Version*

- I** ³I often think of the heavens your hands have made,
II and of the moon and stars you put in place.
I ⁴Then I ask, “Why do you care about us humans?
II Why are you concerned for us weaklings?” and you have crowned us with glory and honor.

Contemporary English Version Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society

L The word of the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.

LESSON: Revelation 22:16-17

—*Good News Translation*

L Today’s Lesson is from Revelation, the twenty-second chapter

“It is I, Jesus, . . . I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.”
¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let everyone who hears say, “Come.”
And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes, take the water of life as a gift.

Good News Translation Copyright © 1992 by American Bible Society

L The word of the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *The Angel Gabriel*

ELW Hymn 265

- 1** The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
2 “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924 Public Domain

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

—*Good News Translation*

P The Holy Gospel according John, the first chapter.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. ²⁷He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. ²⁸The angel came to her and said, “Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!”
²⁹Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant.
³⁰The angel said to her, “Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. ³¹You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, ³³and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!”
³⁴Mary said to the angel, “I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?” ³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Remember your relative Elizabeth. It is said that she cannot have children, but she herself is now six months pregnant, even though she is very old. ³⁷For there is nothing that God cannot do.”
³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” And the angel left her.

P The Gospel of the Lord. **G** Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Unexpected and Mysterious* ELW Hymn 258; *Alternate Tune: JOYOUS LIGHT*

- 1 **Unexpected and mysterious is the gentle word of grace.
Everloving and sustaining is the peace of God's embrace.
If we falter in our courage and we doubt what we have known,
God is faithful to console us as a mother tends her own.**
- 2 **In a momentary meeting of eternity and time,
Mary learned that she would carry both the mortal and divine.
Then she learned of God's compassion, of Elizabeth's great joy,
and she ran to greet the woman who would recognize her boy.**
- 3 **We are called to ponder myst'ry and await the coming Christ,
to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life.
God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth,
while we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth.**

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961

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OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES' CREED

- P** Let us confess our baptismal faith together.
- C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*When the petition concludes "Hear us, O God." please respond, "your mercy is great."
The prayers are ended with these words, "Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." Please respond, "Amen."*

INVITATION TO OFFERING: *Link to give:* <https://coslutheran.org/give/>

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- | | |
|--|--|
| 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 our thanks and praise. |
- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- P** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- 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.

SHARING COMMUNION WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD

*As the pastors and worship team commune, please join them and the whole Church remotely by communing each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:
"The body of Christ for you" and "The blood of Christ for you."*

SONG DURING COMMUNION: *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

ELW Hymn 726

- 1** Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain: The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

- 2** Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

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PASTORAL BLESSING

BENEDICTION

- P** The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✠ now and forever.
- C** Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: *Joy to the World*

ELW Hymn 267

- 1** Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2** Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 4** He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 Public Domain

DISMISSAL

- P** Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus' pathway of joy and life.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Altar Guild: Linda Barbour and Carol Talbott

Tech crew: Will Friedrichs, Joni Siepert, Bill Porter, Carol Jensen-Linton

*Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God by Dick and Pat Ronco in memory of Mike and Jack Larken.
Last Sunday Bob and Benya Spruck gave flowers in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary.*