

Advent Worship



December 19, 2021

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Peachtree City, Georgia

The Fourth Sunday in Advent ☩ December 19, 2021 ☩ 8:30 and 11:00 A.M.
Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister of Music

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

PRELUDES

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion, so please pick up a prefilled communion "kit" on the altar rail as you approach the altar. Please tell an usher if you need a communion kit brought to you where you sit. At home you may prepare ahead of time wine/grape juice and bread appropriate for your family. Our liturgy declares we celebrate with "the church on earth and the hosts of heaven." We acknowledge that communion always connects us "remotely" and powerfully with the Church through time and space.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fritz

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

☐ Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, ☩ who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

☑ Amen.

☐ Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*
God for whom we wait,

☑ in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you.

We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves.

We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love.

Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

☐ God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ☩ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

☑ Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW Hymn 257

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain***

**4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain***

**5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain***

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. Composite St. 1,4,5 are in Public Domain. Text st. 2 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. AF License SAS000345

GREETING

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

☑ And also with you.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE and KYRIE*ELW Page 138*

- L** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mercy. ▶
- L** 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** Lord, have mercy.
- L** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mercy.
- L** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **C** Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**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!
- 3** Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Text: Basque carol; paraphrased by Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924

Text is in Public Domain.

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 binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

LESSON: Luke 1:26-38*—The Message*

- L** Today's Lesson is the Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.
- L** In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:
- I** Good morning! You're beautiful with God's beauty, Beautiful inside and out! God be with you.
- L** ²⁹⁻³³She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her,
- I** “Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus. He will be great, be called ‘Son of the Highest.’
“The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David;
“He will rule Jacob's house forever—no end, ever, to his kingdom.”
- II** ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “But how? I've never slept with a man.”
- I** ³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, the power of the Highest hover over you; “Therefore, the child you bring to birth will be called Holy, Son of God.
³⁶⁻³⁸“And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six months pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible with God.”
- II** And Mary said, “Yes, I see it all now: I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve. Let it be with me just as you say.”
- L** Then the angel left her.
- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-56—*The Message*[Two versions of Mary's Magnificat, one from *The Message* to read silently and one from *Holden* to sing aloud]**P** The Holy Gospel according Luke, the first chapter.**G** **Glory to you, O Lord.****P** Mary didn't waste a minute. She got up and traveled to a town in Judah in the hill country, straight to Zachariah's house, and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby in her womb leaped. She was filled with the Holy Spirit, and sang out exuberantly, ▶*You're so blessed among women, and the babe in your womb, also blessed!**And why am I so blessed that the mother of my Lord visits me?**The moment the sound of your greeting entered my ears,**The babe in my womb skipped like a lamb for sheer joy.**Blessed woman, who believed what God said, believed every word would come true!*⁴⁶⁻⁵⁵ And Mary said,*[I'm bursting with God-news; I'm dancing the song of my Savior God. God took one good look at me, and look what happened—I'm the most fortunate woman on earth! What God has done for me will never be forgotten, the God whose very name is holy, set apart from all others. His mercy flows in wave after wave on those who are in awe before him. He bared his arm and showed his strength, scattered the bluffing braggarts. He knocked tyrants off their high horses, pulled victims out of the mud. The starving poor sat down to a banquet; the callous rich were left out in the cold. He embraced his chosen child, Israel; he remembered and piled on the mercies, piled them high. It's exactly what he promised, beginning with Abraham and right up to now.]**from Holden Evening Prayer: My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you.***You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.****Great and mighty are you, O Holy One; strong is your kindness evermore.****How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart!****You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of heart.****You have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.****Great and might are you, O Faithful One; strong is your justice, strong your love,****As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.***[Please repeat the first four lines.]***P** ⁵⁶Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and then went back to her own home.**P** The Gospel of the Lord.**G** **Praise to you, O Christ.***The Message (MSG) Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson***SERMON**

Pastor Fritz

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Unexpected and Mysterious**ELW Hymn 259; Alt. 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.

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, "God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect.

Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus."

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 and join their unending hymn: ▶
- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. 4**
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. —ELW page 144

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 IN THE SANCTUARY OR WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD AT HOME

*As the pastors and worshipers commune, please join them and the whole Church in the sanctuary or 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.”*

HYMN DURING COMMUNION: *No Wind at the Window* ACS* Hymn 906; Alt. Tune: CRADLE SONG

- 1 **No wind at the window, no knock on the door; no light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear:
just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.**
- 2 **“O Mary, O Mary, don’t hide from my face.
Be glad that you’re favored and filled with God’s grace.
The time for redeeming the world has begun, and you are requested to mother God’s Son.”**
- 3 **This child must be born that the kingdom might come: salvation for many, destruction for some;
both end and beginning, both message and sign; both victor and victim, both yours and divine.**
- 4 **No payment was promised, no promises made; no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess, replied with conviction, “Tell God I say yes.”**

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949 Text © 1992 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved. OneLicense A-701929
*All Creation Sings, new hymnal supplement from Augsburg Fortress © 2021

PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

- ☞ The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
- ☛ 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 Text is in Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Invite all to join in connecting to Jesus’ pathway of joy and life.
- ☛ Thanks be to God.

Tech Crew: Davida Kilgore, Dakota Atkins (8:30)

Carol Jensen-Linton, Joni Siepert, Linda Volckmann, Brad Milburn (11:00)

Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God by Madelyn Lee, in memory of her husband Norman.