

The Fourth Sunday in Advent



Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church
Peachtree City, Georgia
December 18, 2022
8:30 and 11:00 A.M.

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The Fourth Sunday in Advent ☩ December 18, 2022 ☩ 8:30 A.M.

Fritz Wiese, Senior Pastor Miriam Beecher, Pastor David Beecher, Minister in Music

☐ = Pastor ☒ = Lector [reader] ☑ = Congregation ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (the red hymnal)
⬆ Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

Welcome to worship! Today's worship includes the sacrament of communion. Communion is offered by intinction: you may receive a wafer and dip it in the chalice with wine or white grape juice. Or you may 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 Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
☑ **Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**
☐ Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just. *Silence is kept for reflection.*
God of new beginnings,
☑ **we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.
We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace.
We dishonor one another and your creation.
Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love,
that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**
☐ People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign.
By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ☩ Christ,
and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord. ☑ **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC (11:00): *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*

sKIDdles

⬆ EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF THE LORD

⬆ GATHERING HYMN: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

ELW Hymn 254

- 1 **Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**
- 2 **Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Text is in Public Domain.

⬆ 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 147

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

↑ **HYMN OF PRAISE: *Glory to God in the Highest (The Song of the Angels)***

ELW Page 148

- ℒ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
- ☩ **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

↑ **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- ☩ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- ☩ **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON: from Luke 1:6-20

- ℒ Our First Lesson is from the Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

Both (Elizabeth and Zechariah) were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense.

¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.

¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. . . . ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. . . . to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." ¹⁹The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

- ℒ Word of God, word of life.
- ☩ **Thanks be to God.**

↑ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *He Came Down***

ELW Hymn 253

**He came down that we might have love; He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we might have love; hallelujah forevermore.**

4 **He came down that we might have joy ...**
He came down that we might have peace ...
He came down that we might have hope ...

Text: Cameroon traditional. Text is in Public Domain.

↑ **GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25**

Ⓟ The Gospel according to Matthew, the first chapter.

Ⓞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Ⓟ The Gospel of the Lord.

Ⓞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Fritz

↑ **HYMN OF THE DAY: 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*

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*

6 **O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.**
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; translation is composite

Text Stanzas 2, 6 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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↑ **OUR PROFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

Ⓟ Let us confess our baptismal faith together.

Ⓞ **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 “God, in your mercy,” please respond, “hear our prayer.”

The prayers are ended with these words, “God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus’ name we pray.”

Please respond, “Amen.”

OFFERING

We acknowledge that you may have already offered your gifts electronically or by mail. Thank you.

Link to give: <https://coslutheran.org/give/>



OFFERING HYMN: *No Wind at the Window*

ACS Hymn 906

- 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

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↑ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>☞ The Lord be with you.</p> <p>☞ Lift up your hearts.</p> <p>☞ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.</p> <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:</p> | <p>☞ And also with you.</p> <p>☞ We lift them to the Lord.</p> <p>☞ It is right to give our thanks and praise.</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
- ☞ **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

—ELW page 153

↑ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

- ☞ 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

- ☞ ☞ **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.**

6 SHARING COMMUNION AT CHURCH or at home with your household

*As the pastors and worship team commune, please join them and the whole Church.
Please approach the altar using the diagonal aisles and return by the side or middle aisles.
You will be offered a wafer, which you may dip in the chalice of wine or white grape juice.
You may also choose a packaged cup with wine or grape juice, or a gluten-free wafer with wine.
At home commune each other/yourself with these ancient words of promise:
“The body of Christ for you” and “The blood of Christ for you.”*

THE AGNUS DEI: Lamb of God

ELW page 154

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

COMMUNION HYMN: 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!**
- 4 **Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: “Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!**

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

Text is in Public Domain.

† PASTORAL BLESSING and BENEDICTION

- ☞ God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever. ☞ Amen.

† SENDING 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.**
- 3 **No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 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, with God beside you. Invite everyone to Jesus' pathway of joy and life!
☞ **Thanks be to God.**

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Altar Guild: Carol and Paul Talbott

Ushers: Mark Barbour and Gus Reed (8:30); Ben McCumber and Paul Talbott (11:00)

Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God by Paul and Carol Talbott, in honor of our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.