



Magnificat (Luke 1:46b-55)

*"And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.*

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

*49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.*

*50 His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.*

*51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.*

*52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;*

*53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.*

*54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,*

*55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."*

The Fourth Sunday of Advent





Sunday, December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion

December 20, 2020 • 9:00, 11:00 A.M. Service

WELCOME TO EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

INTRODUCTION

God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Miller

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARY'S SONG (*from Holden Evening Prayer*)

SUNG BY PASTOR STEVE

TRINITARIAN CHIMES

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Currently there is **NO CONGREGATIONAL SINGING**. Please silently meditate upon the words to this song.*

The assembly is seated.

GATHERING SONG:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*Verses 1,2,4,7*)

ELW 257

Sung at Emmanuel's December 22, 2019 worship service

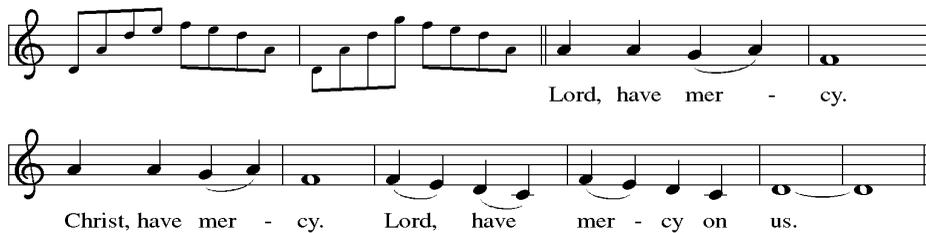
GREETING

Grace and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

And also with you.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

KYRIE (SUNG BY CANTOR)



Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.
As we light the candles on this wreath,
open our eyes to see your presence
in the lowly ones of this earth.

Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may sing of your advent among us
in the Word made flesh.

Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.



*The fourth Advent candle is lit as the Assembly sings verse four of **Light One Candle**:*

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the God's anointed.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25–27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Here I am, the servant of the Lord, let it be with me according to your word. Alleluia. *(Luke 1:38)*

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26–38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little known places). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Rick Bliese

A time of reflection follows the sermon.

*Currently there is **NO CONGREGATIONAL SINGING**. Please silently meditate upon the words to this song.*

The assembly is seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Unexpected and Mysterious*

ELW 258

Courtesy of First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Nebraska, Tom Trenney, Director of Music. Composer: Calvin Hampton, Music - ©1977 GIA Publications, Inc.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
 in accordance with the scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

"who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We bring to you, Christ, members and friends of Emmanuel who need your healing touch.
(Names from our congregation...)

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

During this time, the table is set.

OFFERTORY

O Come, Holy Savior

**arr. Anna Laura Page
Pat and Paul Guehler, duettists**

The assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Savior of the nations, come.

Make your home here in us.

Feed us with your love,

that our faith shine ever new

and our lives reveal your light.

Amen.

The assembly stands.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of pow'r and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.
Come, eat and drink.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers and those at home say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond Amen.

(Parents are encouraged to bless their children at this time. Follow the instructions from the Presiding Minister).



The assembly stands.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious and abundant God,
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us
and open our hearts to the world's needs,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

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The assembly is seated.

SENDING SONG

Joy to the World

ELW 267

Sung at Emmanuel's December 22, 2019 worship service

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The ushers will dismiss the congregation by rows. Please wait until the usher directs you to exit.

POSTLUDE

Advent Dialogue

Aaron David Miller

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