



**St. Luke Lutheran Church • 8:30AM • December 20, 2020**  
**The 4th Sunday in Advent**

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**Prelude: "Prepare Ye the Way" 2X** *written by Debbi St. John*

**Prepare ye the way for the Savior is coming; prepare ye the way for the babe in the stall.  
Prepare ye the way, for the Savior is coming. He is coming to bring salvation to us all.**

**Greeting:** L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: **And also with you.**

**Confession and Forgiveness** *(please stand as you are able)*

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

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. C: **Amen.**

L: The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing. Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy. *Silence for reflection and self examination.*

L: Almighty God,

C: **We confess that we have sinned against you, and against our sisters and brothers. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin, and come quickly to save us. Amen**

L: In the advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and healing. Through Jesus Christ, God looks with favor upon you, and forgives you all your sins. C: **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn:** *(you may be seated)* "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs. 7, 8 #257

**Verse 7: O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. [Refrain]**

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

**Verse 8: O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. [Refrain]**

**Advent Reflection** *read by Zabe Flom* We have lit three candles – for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle – the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

**Advent Prayer** *read by Zabe Flom*

*Love - Dear God, As our Advent pilgrimage draws to completion, grant us the courage to share your love.  
Love for the unexpected challenge, Love for the vulnerable one. Love for the presence of God. Amen.*

**Lighting of Advent Candles & Hymn:** "Light one candle to watch for Messiah" vs. 4 #240

**Verse 4: Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!**

**Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway" #264**

**Verse 1: Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! Let ev'ry hill and valley a level road appear! Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:**

**Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

**Verse 2: God's people, see him coming; your own eternal king! Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout & sing! God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! [refrain]**

**Verse 3: Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king! Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring. All lands will bow before him: their voices join your singing: [refrain]**

**Verse 4: His is no earthly kingdom: it comes from heav'n above. His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love. So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: [refrain]**

**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.**

**Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16** *read by Kayla Thomforde*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." <sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

**Gospel Acclamation: "Celtic Alleluia" (Stand as you are able) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. 2X**

L: The holy gospel according to.... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38** *(Please stand as you are able)*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." <sup>34</sup>"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For no word from God will ever fail." <sup>38</sup>"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

L: The gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Sermon: (you may be seated)**

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day: "Here I Am Lord" #574**

**Verse 1: I, the Lord of sea & sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark & sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?**

**Refrain:** Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

**Verse 2:** I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

**Verse 3:** I, the Lord of wind & flame, I will tend the poor & lame. I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save, Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? [Refrain]

**Apostles' Creed:** 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, & 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, & he will come to judge the living & 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, & the life everlasting. Amen.

**The Prayers:** (call and response)

God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. *A brief silence.* Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence, especially; Ruth Holm, Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, David Roschen, Jim Howard, Brad Roschen, Naomi Berland, Nathlye Benrud, Donald Hadler, Nancy & Donald Nord, Dean Kirkland, Marlene & Lloyd Roschen, Finley Budensiek, Hunter Burow, Cassidy Post, Brent Hokanson & Karl Thomforde. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace:** L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: **And also with you.**

**Offering & Doxology:** "Praise Him, Praise Him All Ye Little Children" vs.1

**Verse 1:** Praise Him praise Him All ye little children, God is love God is love Praise Him praise Him,  
All ye little children God is love God is love

**Offertory Prayer:**

P: Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. C: **Amen.**

**The Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you C: **And also with you**

L: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**Salutation**

Hymn: "Away In The Manger" #277

Verse 1: Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Verse 2: The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; Look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Verse 3: Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay. Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

#### Words of Institution

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; & forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; & lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, & the power, and the glory, forever & ever. Amen.

#### Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. 2X

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Blessing and Communion Prayer: 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. C: Amen.

#### Blessing (please stand as you are able)

L: May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor + and give you peace. C: Amen.

#### Sending Hymn: "What Feast of Love" #487

Verse 1: What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven? What food of everlasting life,  
what gracious gift is given? This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

Verse 2: What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven? What hope of everlasting life,  
what wondrous word is given? This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The word of God is given!

Verse 3: What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven? What stream of everlasting life,  
what precious blood is given? This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

Dismissal L: You are the body of Christ raised up for the world. Go in peace. Share the good news.  
C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

#### "Go In Peace" 3X written by Debbi St. John

Go In Peace And serve the Lord your God. Sow the seeds about the man of love.  
Go into the world and tell them One by one. Go tell them what Jesus has done

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