

LARGE PRINT EDITION



HOLY COMMUNION

4 Advent

December 24, 2023 + 9:30 am

The angel appears to Mary

Learn Live and Share God's Word

Jesus is God's greeting of love for us

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."

gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

"Angel Carols"

arr. Lani Smith

At the sound of the bell please stand and face the worship leaders.

ENTRANCE HYMN

(hymn) ELW 251

"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

**1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;
I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.**

Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.

2 To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.

3 To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

P The Spirit and the church cry out:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P All those who await his appearance pray:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P The whole creation pleads:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**



all earth is hopeful

P From the One who was, and who is, and who is to come:
Grace and peace be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER AT THE ADVENT WREATH

P We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. In this fourth week of waiting, open our eyes to 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

C **Amen.**

ADVENT HYMN

(hymn) ELW 266

"All Earth is Hopeful"

stanza 1 - 4

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**
- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**
- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.**

**This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.**

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
© 1995 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

The presider continues with words of welcome.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

CHILDREN'S WORD

Children are invited forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

FIRST READING

God's promise to David

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord 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 Lord's anointed.

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the 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.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I 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. ⁷Wherever 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?”

⁸Now 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; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹from 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. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

...Word of God come down to us.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26 (ICEL)

Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing. (89:1)

A I sing your love all my days, Lord, your faithfulness,
from age to age.

**C I know your love is unending,
your fidelity outlasts the heavens.**

A “I, God, covenant with my chosen one,
I swear to David, my servant, to establish your house for ever,
to uphold your throne, from age to age.

**C You, our glory and power, favor us with victory,
you, the Holy One of Israel, our shield, our Lord, our king.**

A In a vision, O God, you speak to your beloved:

**C “I help this warrior, chosen from the people.
I seek our David, my servant, and anoint him with sacred oil.**

A “My hand strengthens him, my arm encircles him.
No enemy ensnares him, no schemer brings him down.

**C “I crush his foes, I stroke those who hate him.
I pledge loyalty and love; in my name I raise him up.**

SECOND READING

The mystery revealed in Jesus Christ

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.

Paul writes to the church at Rome:

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

...Word of God come down to us.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands and welcomes the gospel, singing: setting 3 p. 142:

C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

The angel appears to Mary

Luke 1:26–38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little-known places (Nazareth). 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 before the reading:

after the reading:

P The holy gospel

The gospel of the Lord.

according to

C Praise to you, O

C Glory to you, O Lord. Christ.

The gospel is proclaimed by the cantor. The assembly joins in Mary's song, the Magnificat, from Holden Evening Prayer.

L An angel went from God... ...I live to do your will:

C 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 forevermore.

How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.

C 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 mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice,

**strong your love, As you promised to Sarah and Abraham,
kindness forever more**

C *repeat first stanza: My soul proclaims your greatness, O God...*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ!**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

(hymn) ELW 263

“Savior of the Nations Come”

stanza 1, 2, 3 & 6

- 1 Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.**
- 2 Not by human flesh and blood,
but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh,
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.**
- 3 Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—
from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son,
eager now his race to run!**
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!**

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED

A We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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.**

ADVENT CONFESSION

P As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sin
and seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

silence is kept for reflection

P I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned by my own fault,
in thought, word, and deed.
I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins,
and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

C Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon,
and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

C I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have sinned by my own fault,

in thought, word, and deed.

**I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins,
and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon,
and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Prayers are offered for the Church, the earth, the nations, and those in any need.

Each petition concludes:

...Come Lord Jesus.

C Bless us with your presence.

meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

The assembly is invited to share God's peace with one another.

OFFERING

When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Please leave your offerings in the baskets in the aisles or give online. During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.

"The King of Glory"

arr. Austin Lovelace

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together.

C God of abundance,

**we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation,
and with them our very lives.**

**Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need
until the coming of your Son, our Savior. Amen.**

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 ...and join their unending hymn:

C 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 in the highest.**

The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:

Lord's Prayer (1789)

C Our Father who art 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.

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

Communion

“Lamb of God”

setting 3; page 146

C 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.

silence for reflection concludes the communion

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread
and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome
Christ into our lives, and send us forth to be your people in
the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus
Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

sending

We are sent to be God's hands in the world

BLESSING

P May God direct your ways in peace,
make you abound in love for one another and for all,
and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

(hymn) ELW 248

“People Look East”

- 1 People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**
- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Rose, is on the way.**
- 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Star, is on the way.**
- 4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth
him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965
Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Jubilate Deo”

arr. G. F. Handel

You are welcomed to be seated and enjoy the postlude if you wish.

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serviNG today

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Dave Olson, *assisting minister*

Cheryl Sundly, *reader*

, advent wreath

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Chancel Choir

Erik Ruser, Myrna Flatland, *technology*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

Doug & Linda Jones, *ushers*

Doug Jacobsen, *bus ministry*

Karen Moeller, *coffee hosts*

Chancel flowers this weekend are given to the glory of God.

If you wish to donate flowers sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

Please join us for coffee fellowship in the lower level following worship.

This service is being streamed live on the internet.

welcome



Everyone is welcome. We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available outside the sanctuary.

Welcome to the Lord's Table. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

Welcome to the Holy Baptism. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. Our pastor will contact you.

Friends of Mt. Carmel...Stay connected

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Mt. Carmel. Email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org for more information or to join.



Digital giving is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at mountcarmelmpls.org and click on **Give**. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

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