

# LARGE PRINT EDITION



## HOLY COMMUNION

*4 Advent*

Sunday School program

December 22, 2024 + 9:30 am

*Blessed are you among women*

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Learn Live and Share God's Word

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### *The Spirit and the font are the womb of our birth*

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion—with high delight — "we proclaim the Lord's death."*

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### GATHERING MUSIC

*arr. M. Thompson*

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice /  
O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*At the sound of the bell please stand if you are able and face the worship leaders.*

### ENTRANCE HYMN

*(hymn) ELW 257*

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*stanzas 1 – 3*

**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***

***Refrain***

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

- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. ***Refrain***

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

**GREETING**

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** *by Sunday School & asst. min.*

A The Spirit and the church cry out:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A All those who await his appearance pray:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

A The whole creation pleads:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

L 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, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C Amen.

*This Sunday's candle is lit during the singing of the Advent hymn.*

## ADVENT HYMN

*(hymn)* ELW 240

"Light One Candle"

*stanza 1 - 4*

- 1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.**
- 2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
gently lead them homeward.**
- 3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the King of glory.**
- 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!**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## 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 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.

*The presider continues with words of welcome.*

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song*

## FIRST READING

*From Bethlehem comes a ruler*

Micah 5:2-5a

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,

who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel,

whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

...Word of God, come down to us.

## C Thanks be to God.

**PSALMODY**                    *all sing hymn paraphrase*                    *(hymn) ELW 251*

*The Lord has lifted up the lowly. (1:5)*                    Luke 1:47-55 (ICEL)

*In Mary's song/canticle of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers,  
scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

“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.

## SECOND READING

*I have come to do your will*

Hebrews 10:5-10

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

...Word of God, come down to us.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*setting 3 p. 142*

*The assembly stands and welcomes the gospel, singing:*

**C Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

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

## GOSPEL

*Blessed are you among women*

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

*My soul magnifies the Lord.*

*We are presented with Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. Inspired Elizabeth enthusiastically greets Mary who responds in song.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

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

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

The gospel of the Lord.

### **C Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE

Sunday School Christmas program

'Twas the Night Before Christmas

*The Christmas carols in program will be displayed on the screens:*

He Came Down *st. 1 kids; 2 - 4 all*

Away in a Manger *st. 1 kids; 2 - 3 all*

Sing Noel *kids*

Angels We Have Heard on High *st. 1 - 3 all*

Silent Night *st. 1 kids; 2 - 3 all*

**stand**

Joy to the World *(hymn of the day)* *st. 1, 2, 4 all*



## He Came Down

- 1 *He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.*
- 2 **He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.**
- 3 **He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.**
- 4 **He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.**

Text: Cameroon traditional

## Away in a Manger

- 1 *Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.*
- 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.**
- 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.**

Text: North American, 19th cent.

## Sing Noel (kids)

## Angels We Have Heard on High

- 1 **Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.**
- Refrain**  
Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
gloria in excelsis Deo.
- 2 **Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heav'nly song?**
- Refrain**
- 3 **Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn king.**

**Refrain**

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864

## Silent Night, Holy Night!

- 1 *Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.*
- 2 **Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!**
- 3 **Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885

## Joy to the World

- 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

## 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  
in thought, word, and deed. Therefore, I pray God Almighty to  
have mercy on me, forgive me all my sin, and bring me to  
everlasting life. Amen.

**C** The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon,  
forgiveness, and remission of all your sin.

**P** Amen.

**C** I confess to God Almighty,  
before the whole company of heaven,  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed.  
Therefore, I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,  
forgive me all my sin,  
and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

P The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon,  
forgiveness, and remission of all your sin.

C Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A Awaiting the promised light,  
let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation.

*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 all.

C And also with you.

*The assembly is invited to share the peace of Christ 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.*

"Soon and Very Soon"

A. Crouch

## Presentation of the Gifts

## 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.**

*The assisting minister pours out the wine.*

## 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.

*setting 3; page 144*

**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)**

P As Christ teaches, we pray:

**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.

## 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 257

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*stanzas 6 – 8*

**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**

### Refrain

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

**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**

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

Text: Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710;

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

### DISMISSAL

*Please face the worship leaders for the dismissal.*

A Go in peace. Prepare the way.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**“People, Look East”**

*Farjeon/Rose*

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## **SERVING TODAY**

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Sinéad Carolan, *assisting minister*

Jo Alice Boatright, *reader*

Sunday School children, *Advent wreath household*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Chancel Choir

Julie and Dave Larson, *technology*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

Doug and Linda Jones, *ushers*

Rich Feist, *bus ministry*

Karen Moeller, *coffee hosts*

**Chancel flowers** this weekend are given by Diane Langer

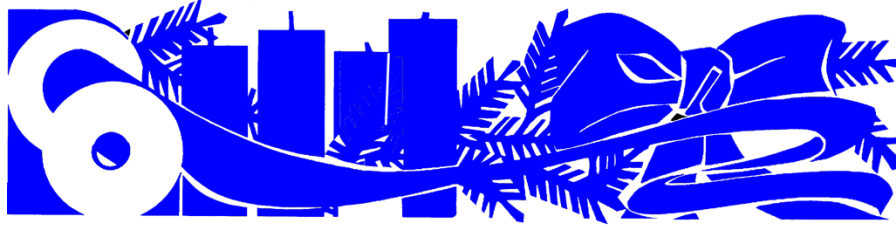
in memory of Douglas Davis.

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

*Please join us for pie & 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 worshipping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email [pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.



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