

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**December 20, 2020**

**8:00 am and 10:30 am**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

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."

**SILENT PRAYER**

**PRELUDE:** *Savior of the Nations Come*

Bach

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)**

***Stand***

**HYMN:** *Savior of the Nations, Come*

Printed on the next page.

## Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,  
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!  
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;

Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.  
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,  
 hallows night with newborn light.  
 Night cannot this light subdue;  
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,  
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!  
 To the holy Trinity  
 praise we sing eternally!

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### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Almighty God,  
 to whom all hearts are open,  
 all desires known,  
 and from whom no secrets are hid:  
 cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

***Kneel/Stand***

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** we confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done  
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of almighty God,  
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.  
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,  
and by his authority,  
I therefore declare to you  
the entire forgiveness of all your sins,  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the ✝ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

***Stand***

## GREETING

**P** 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.**

## KYRIE

**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** 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.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let  
us pray to the Lord.

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins  
and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you  
in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

**P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
In your Son, Emmanuel,  
you have shown us your light  
and saved us from the power of sin.  
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Increase our longing for your presence,  
 that at the celebration of your Son's birth  
 his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst,  
 for he is our light and our salvation.  
 Blessed be God forever.

**G** Amen.

**HYMN:** *Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Immanuel* (Stanza(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5)  
*Printed on the next page.*



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on  
 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's  
 4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your  
 5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save  
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,  
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

*Sit*

## 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, God's anointed.*

**A** A reading from Second Samuel.

<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 shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Later service only:*

**PSALM Luke 1:46b-55** *(The congregation reads the verses in bold face type.)*

<sup>1</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord;\*  
my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

**<sup>2</sup>for he has | looked with favor\***

**on his | lowly servant.**

<sup>3</sup>From this day all | generations\*

will | call me blessed.

**<sup>4</sup>The Almighty has done great | things for me,\*  
and holy | is his name.**

<sup>5</sup>He has mercy on | those who fear him\*  
in every | generation.

**<sup>6</sup>He has shown the strength | of his arm;\*  
he has scattered the proud in | their conceit.**

<sup>7</sup>He has cast down the mighty | from their thrones,\*  
and has lifted | up the lowly.

**<sup>8</sup>He has filled the hungry | with good things,\*  
and the rich he has sent | away empty.**

<sup>9</sup>He has come to the help of his | servant Israel,\*  
for he has remembered his prom- | ise of mercy,

**<sup>10</sup>the promise he made | to our fathers,\*  
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.**

Glory to the Father, and | to the Son,\*  
and to the | Holy Spirit;

**as it was in the begin- | ning, is now,\*  
and will be forev- | er. Amen**

## 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.*

**A** A reading from Romans.

<sup>25</sup>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 <sup>26</sup>but 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—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Stand**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

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

## GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people 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 this gospel.*

**☩** The holy gospel according to Luke.

**☩ Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The 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. <sup>36</sup>And 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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then 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.

**☩ Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

Pastor Weleck

*Stand*

*Later service only:*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

Printed on the next page.



## The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

### **Stand**

*The Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed may be spoken. The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times.*

### **NICENE CREED**

- P** With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
- C** **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.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

- A** With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,  
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
  
- A** We pray for the church, for its pastors and other ministers, for the newly  
baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our  
growth in grace.  
Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and among peoples.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts...

Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**A** We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and especially when they serve in harm's way, that they might speedily complete their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

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

**C** Amen.

*The Offering will be collected in the Narthex as you leave the church.*

*The service continues with the Great Thanksgiving.*

## LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:*

**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.**

*The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE:*

- P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... *Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding:* ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*The assembly continues with the SANCTUS:*

- C** **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.**

*The minister continues with the WORDS OF INSTITUTION.*

- P** 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**

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to 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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**C** Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.

### LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)

**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.

*Sit*

### COMMUNION

*When giving the bread, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

*and each person may respond*

**R** Amen.

*We Lutherans believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are “truly and substantially” present “in, with, and under” the forms of bread and wine. We invite to the communion all who are baptized and communing in this or another Christian denomination. We welcome children and others who are not communing to come forward for a blessing. At the direction of the ushers, approach the communion station, receive the host in your palm, move to the side and place the host in your mouth, and return to your seat.*

### BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

**P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A** Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us

through the healing power of this gift of life.

In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,  
in faith toward you

and in fervent love toward one another;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

### **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING (BENEDICTION)**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

#### **DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**HYMN:** *Joy to the World*

Printed on the following page.

# Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
 3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

## OFFERING

*The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.*

**POSTLUDE:** *Joy to the World*

Bish



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**The Christmas Cycle** celebrates the events surrounding Christ's coming — the prophecies, his birth, his manifestation (epiphany) to the Gentiles, and his baptism — through the Advent season, the Christmas season, and the Epiphany season.

**A Hymn of Praise** is not appropriate during Advent because of the season's preparatory nature.

**The liturgical color blue**, symbolic of hope, is used for the Advent season.



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Worship Assistants

Lectors: 8:00 am: Laurie Mueller    10:30 am: Sonya Sowards

Altar Guild: Linda Romano, Jim Lien, and Deb Scholl

Offering Tabulation: Lois Robinson and Chilly Lyaro

Video Production: Jim Lien

The Sanctuary Candle is given to the glory of God by Sara Gerhart in loving memory of Kitty Gerhart and Joyce Pennypacker.

The Wreaths on the doors of the church buildings are given to the glory of God by the Holcombe family in memory of loved ones.

**Augustus Family and Friends:**

At a special Vestry meeting on Sunday, December 13, the Vestry decided, with a heavy heart, **that we would stop ALL in person worship at Augustus, including Christmas Eve.** Recorded services will be provided in place of in person services. Please continue to check the web site for information about recorded Christmas services. **NO IN-PERSON SERVICES WILL TAKE PLACE.**

This difficult decision was taken out of an abundance of caution and love for our neighbors.

Please stay safe during this difficult time.