St. Paul's Lutheran Church Worship Sunday, December 20, 2020 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

Prelude - Savior of the Nations, Come

setting by J. S. Bach

GATHERING

Gathering Hymn - Savior of the Nations, Come

263

We gather in the name of the Father ₱ and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us confess our sin.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Most merciful God,

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.

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 \maltese Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

THIS IS THE FEAST

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Lord be with you **And also with you** Let us pray

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.

WORD

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.

¹Now 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.

Advent Wreath Lighting Hymn (in place of psalm) **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Advent 1: verse 1 and 2

Hymn 257

Advent 2: verse 1 and 4 Advent 3: verse 1 and 6 Advent 4: verse 1 and 8

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.

²⁵Now 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.

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.

²⁶In 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.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

265

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, 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 (*Nearby churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues may be named*). 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 for Audrey, Barbara, Jan, Johanna, Tony, JoAnn, Leon, Janet, Joyce, Ida, Debbie, Phyllis, Blanche, Leslie, Bob, Ellie, Tracey, Fran, and those we name before you now, silently or vocally.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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, Lord God of powe'r and might; Heav'n 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.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering. who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. 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. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,

and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Come to the banquet for all is ready.

LAMB OF GOD

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, grant us peace.

Holy Communion will be available in the church parking lot on Sundays, from 11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Please do not leave your car. We will come to you and deliver a wafer and wine or grape juice. It will be served to you in a foam bowl. Please take the elements and distribute among those in your vehicle and then dispose of the cups and bowl when you get home.

Prayer after Communion

God of the welcome table,

in this meal we have feasted on your goodness and have been united by your presence among us. Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts so that we may share your neighborly love with all, through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

Sending Hymn - Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

244

Postlude - Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

setting by Jacqueline Nappi

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #27001. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net ##A-721914.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God.

Prayer of the Church (Members): Audrey Pearson, Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Johanna Nikitscher, Tony Perrotte, JoAnn and Leon Bowman, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Ida Elliott, Debbie Fullbright, Phyllis Jenkins, Blanche Bragg, Leslie Johnson, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Tracey Dissel, Fran Whitfield

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time** - email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews [Tony's mother], Robert Meissner [Tony's uncle], and Dian and Gina Piazza [friends] (by Tony and Penni Perrotte); Laura Williams (friend of Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Phillip Idom & Warner Ettinger (friends of the Perrotte's), Pamela Kildahl (sister of Wendy Waugh), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Cary Grant (friend of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Lydia Taylor (cousin of Bee Ellertson), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Lois Horn (friend of Penni Perrotte), Brady Laubert (grandson of Pam and Steve Taylor), Staci Dominick (daughter-inlaw of Ted and Diana Dominick), Leonard Anderson, (family friend of Ted and Diana Dominick), Marti Casalino (friend of Marcia Redman), David Deardorff (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Virginia Hinshaw (great-grandmother of Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Michelle Meadors, Tony Blackwell (cousin of Pat Casper), Gad Kainer, Peggy Stevens (by John and Linda Foreman), Nancy Randle (niece of Ann and Larry Grovenstein), Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Dean Greg Jones of Duke Divinity, Chuck Noll (friend of the Waugh's), Kenneth and Shirley Craig (by Pat Casper), Blackwell and Miller families (by Pat Casper), the Jolly Family (by Marlene Coulter), Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Mark Ahrendsen (friend of Marcia and Bill Wilson), Marjorie Bower (daughter of Doug and Fran Whitfield), Linda Leslie (mother of Sean Slane), Rufous Coulter (brother-in-law of Marlene Coulter), Rev. Kyle Randle (nephew of Ann and Larry Grovenstein), Cathy White, (niece of Ann and Larry Grovenstein)

"Light a Candle" -- Candles are lit for prayer intentions. To "light a candle for someone" indicates one's intention to say a prayer for another person, and the candle symbolizes that prayer. The candle screen and votive candles are in the Narthex of the church, along with wood tapers to light them with. You are welcome to come, light a candle, and pray. If you come after hours or when no staff is in the building, please put out the candle before you leave. Staff will check during the daytimes when they are there to make sure all are put out.

Opportunities to Worship

We will continue outdoor worship for the first 50 people who come on Sunday mornings at 10 am. We are also broadcasting these services over fm radio channel 87.9 fm with a local transmission station if you wish to stay in your vehicle. We are using **Now the Feast and Celebration** for the outside worship. You will be required to **bring your own chair** and we will guide you to distance the placement of the chairs in the back parking lot near the Memorial Garden and the mobile classroom. **MASKS ARE REQUIRED**. Hand sanitizing dispensers will be available at the entrance to the worship space.

Holy communion is being served during this service and available as drive through from approximately 11:15 am until 12:00 noon, weekly, as well.

We continue to record Setting four weekly. So those who have enjoyed receiving weekly worship on our Vimeo channel may continue to do so.

In-Person Worship Policy: In the event of rain on Sunday, we will not hold in person services. We will do our best to notify the congregation on Saturday of cancellation if the weather forecast suggests over 50% chance of rain or snow on Sunday morning. But the best determinate of cancellation is to check the weather when you wake up and if it is raining or snowing on Sunday morning, we will not be holding in person worship. Pastor Scott

St. Paul's Preschool & PMO: It's that time of year to re-link your VIC Card. Please consider linking your VIC Card to the preschool so that we may receive a percentage of your sales from Harris Teeter. Our number is **3049** and can be linked at any Harris Teeter or online. Friends and family may link too to support the preschool! We have also created an Amazon Wish List, if you would like to support our outdoor spaces: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1BATIT5HO2RX1/ref-=cm_co_nav_hz

Pour a cup of tea or coffee and join the Pastor and Vicar for Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11. We are looking forward to seeing you, chatting, and catching up. Coffee hour **will** meet on December 21 but **not** on Dec 28. Here is the info:

Topic: Coffee Hour with the Pastor and Vicar, Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays

Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRlgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09

Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 - Password: 292680

Scott Anderson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom Bible Study on Thursday mornings. The Bible study will **not** meet on December 24 and 31 but **will** return on January 7, 2021.

Topic: Bible Study - Daniel - Time: 10:30 am on Thursdays

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/946532621?pwd=UTJqYjV0V3laMmpROStMdGRvTGFhUT09

Meeting ID: 946 532 621 - Password: 402561

A Multitude of Heavenly Hosts

The angels and creches are set up in displays as a gift for the congregation from the Continuing Conversation Group, Tina Bessias, Morris Casper, Pastor Scott and Vicar Judy. They are from personal, as well as church collections. Curtis Chi has added his talent by taking photos of the display which are posted on our website. However, if you can find a way and time please stop in for a moment to do a personal acceptance of this gift.

ADVENT AND BONHOEFFER

Once again this year the Duke Lutherans will lead St. Paul's in our Wednesday night Advent worship services. Everyone is invited to join us at 7 pm on

December 2, 9, 16, and 23, as we gather virtually via Zoom, together with our undergraduate and graduate students who've returned to their homes for winter break. As we pray and sing Evening Prayer (*Vespers*), we will also hear Advent Scripture texts paired with excerpts from Dietrich Bonhoeffer's writings and sermons.

ZOOM Information:

Topic: Advent Wednesday Worship

Time: Dec 2, 7:00 PM, Dec 9, 7:00 PM, Dec 16, 7:00 PM, **Dec 23, 7:00 PM** Join Zoom Meeting:

https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85274119536?pwd=WTJpKothdEoyWFlEbHBESUhPWGFkZzoo

Meeting ID: 852 7411 9536 - Passcode: 439129

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,85274119536#,,,,,0#,,439129# US (Washington D.C)

Meeting ID: 852 7411 9536 - Passcode: 439129

Find your local number: https://uso2web.zoom.us/u/kbEE7ZBKo3

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- ★ **3:00 pm Children and family service** in the back parking lot, limited to 50 people in person and overflow can listen on the local FM channel 87.9. Holy Communion will be available to those at the service and drive-through immediately after the service.
- **★** 7:00 pm Live outdoor worship in the back parking lot, limited to 50 people in person and overflow can listen on the local FM channel 87.9.
- ★ **Recorded** We will have a recorded Christmas eve service on Vimeo

The church offices will be closed December 25 through January 3. We wish everyone a blessed Christmas and happy New Year.





- 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;

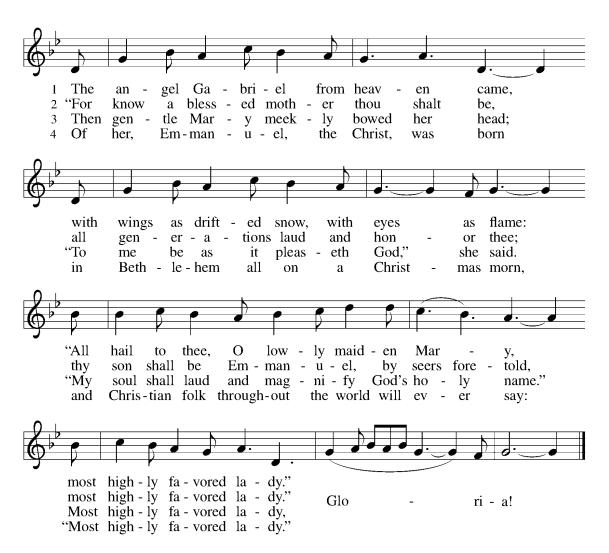


0 heav'n and Mar-vel now, earth: God has cho-sen such birth. a was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh. Mar - y's Ver - y God, and son, ea - ger now his race to run! van-quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

- 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!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version Music: Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



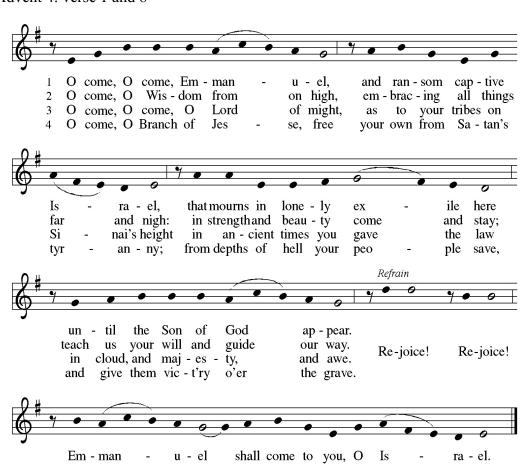
Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Advent 1: verse 1 and 2 Advent 2: verse 1 and 4 Advent 3: verse 1 and 6 Advent 4: verse 1 and 8



- 5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 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*
- 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: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 \otimes 1997 Augsburg Fortress.