



**COMMUNITY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Sunday, December 19, 2021  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Holy Communion

#### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**SONG *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (ELW 257) Verse 7 (next page)**

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth.

*Light all four candles.*

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.  
**Amen.**

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (ELW 257) Verse 8 (next page)**

#### **WELCOME**

We welcome you to our worship service this morning. We pray that you will leave refreshed by the hearing of God's Word and the fellowship of this community.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and 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 holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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

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*

### GATHERING

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

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, whose forgiveness is sure and whose loves endures forever.

*Silence for reflection*

God for whom we wait, **in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us and assure us again of your saving grace.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, hear this glad news: in the name of + Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. May you be strengthened anew to follow the way of peace. **Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *The King Shall Come* (ELW 260)

**GREETING**

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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

**KYRIE (next page)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a**

A reading from Micah.

<sup>2</sup>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.

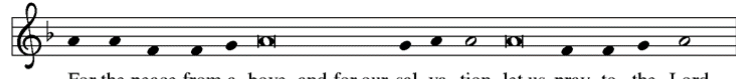
<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



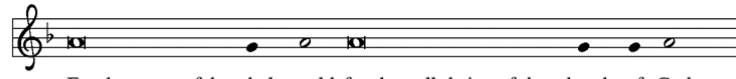
Lord, have mer - cy.



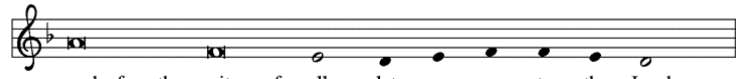
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



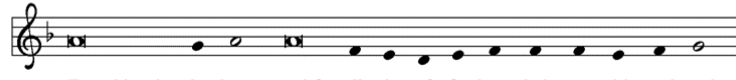
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



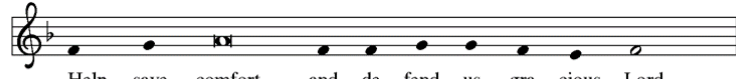
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

<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;  
<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**  
<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**  
<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**  
<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10**

A reading from Hebrews.

*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.*

<sup>5</sup>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.  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*Repeat alleluia*

## GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>39</sup>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.

### Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness* (ELW 251)

## **APOSTLE'S 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**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness (*especially*). Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace*

## **QUILT DEDICATION: MARY TYLER**

### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

### **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

We live by GOD's Grace, who gives us everything and asks that we give a portion back to him. It is for the church and its work in the community and world. There are many needs, so give to those the Holy Spirit inspires you to support.

**OFFERING SONG:** *Create in Me a Clean Heart (ELW 186)*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**God of our waiting and watching, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them we offer our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made.**

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

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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**

*The presiding minister continues:*

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.  
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
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

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrases marked with slurs.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER



Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we  
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al  
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Our congregation participates in and partakes of the Lord's Supper during our worship service each week. All who have been baptized and profess a faith in Jesus Christ as risen Lord are welcome to commune with us, regardless of denomination, age or church background. Children who may be too young to receive communion are invited to receive a blessing from the pastor. Grape juice is available in the center of our serving trays for those who prefer it.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God fills the hungry with good things.

*The assembly may be seated. The bread may be broken for the communion.*

### COMMUNION

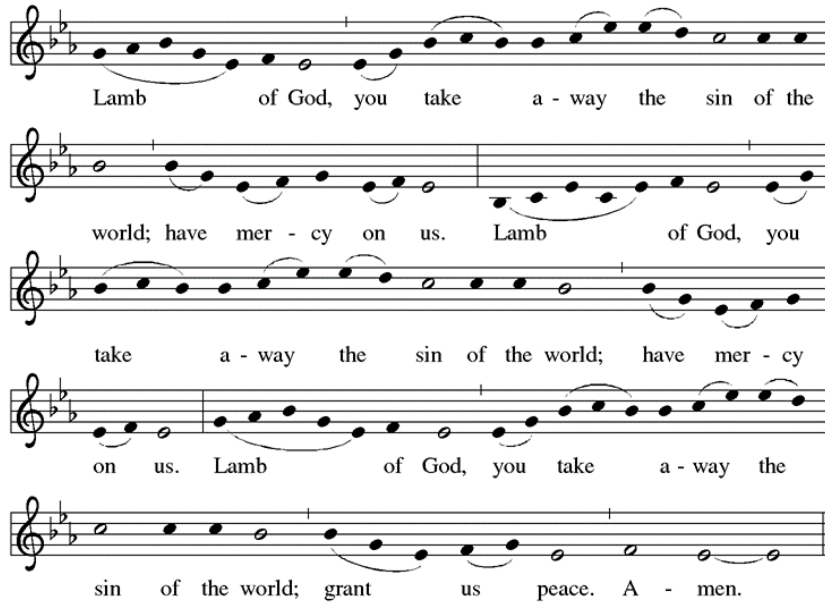
*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

**COMMUNION SONG** *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy  
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

**COMMUNION HYMNS** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* (ELW 275)  
*Came upon the Midnight Clear* (ELW 282)

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

**God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

The Creator of all bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the life-giving Spirit guide you in the way of peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**