



December 18, 2022

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist  
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

## Prelude

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

Show, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;

**Let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit; let the earth  
cause them both to sprout.**

*Isaiah 45:8a*

Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments!

**His heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. Praise the LORD!**

*Psalms 112:1b, 7b*

## Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“What Child Is This”

- ♪ What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?  
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!
- ♪ Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.  
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!
- ♪ So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 370-Text: William C. Dix 1837-98; Tune: English 16<sup>th</sup> cent.;  
Setting: John Stainer 1840-1901; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Confession and Absolution

O God, our Father, You have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son. We confess with shame our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

**Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love. We acknowledge our  
sinful nature and confess our sinful thoughts, words, and deed. Create in us clean  
hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.**

Upon this your confession and by the command of our Lord, I, a called and ordained servant of Christ, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **The Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come among us with Your abiding presence. By the power of Your Spirit, direct our lives to expressions of repentant joy. Bless our devotion and our prayers, and lead us in ways of faithfulness as we await Your final coming in glory; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Hymn of Praise** *Please Be Seated*

Handbell Choir

“An English Carol”

## **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 7:10–17

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: <sup>11</sup>“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Anthem**

Handbell Choir

“Savior of the Nations Come”

## **The Epistle**

Romans 1:1–7

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gradual**

Handbell Choir

“Christmas Lullaby”

## **Holy Gospel** *Please Stand*

Matthew 1:18–25

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

### **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **Response** *Please Be Seated*

Handbell Choir

“Prince of Peace”

## **Nicene Creed**

## **Anthem**

Handbell Choir

“Song of the Angels”

## **Children’s Message**

## **Anthem**

Handbell Choir

“Little Drummer Boy”

## **The Hymn**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

♪ O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:

~O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

♪ Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ~O come,...

♪ Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God In the highest: ~O come,...

♪ Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!  
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ~O come,....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 379-Text & Tune: John F. Wade c.1711-86; tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-80;  
Setting: The Hymnal 1940; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## Proclamation of the Word

“Resolutely”

Isaiah 7:10–17

## Hymn of Response

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v. 2)

♪ O come, Thou Wisdom from on high. Who ord’rest all things mightily:

To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. ~Rejoice....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 357-Text: Latin 12<sup>th</sup> cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Cathjolicarum, Koln 1710; tr. John Mason Neale 1818-66; Tune: French 15<sup>th</sup> cent.;  
Setting: C. Winfred Douglas 1867-1944; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

*Each petition is concluded with the following:*

With hope we pray:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

## Installation of Officers for 2023

## Offering and Musical Offering

## Admonition to Communicants

## Words of Our Lord

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## Lord’s Prayer

## Distribution Hymns *Please Be Seated*

“Once He Came in Blessing”

♪ Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing; Came in likeness lowly,  
Son of God most holy; Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

♪ Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us Precious food from heaven,  
Pledge of peace here given, Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.

♪ Soon will come that hour When with mighty power Christ will come in splendor  
And will judgment render, With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.

♪ Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us. Keep our hearts believing,  
That we, grace receiving, Ever may console You Till in heav’n we bless You.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 333 -Text: Johann Horn c.1490-1547; tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78 vv. 1&4,  
tr. Lutheran Service Book 2006 vv.2-3; Setting: Henry V. Gerike b.1948; ©2006 Concordia Publishing House;  
Tune: Michael Weisse c.1480-1534; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

“Once in Royal David’s City”

♪ Once in royal David’s city Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

- ♪ He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,  
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;  
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- ♪ For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;  
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.
- ♪ And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And He leads His children on To the place where He is gone.
- ♪ Not in that poor, lowly stable With the oxen standing by  
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.  
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 376-Text: Cecil F. Alexander 1818-95; Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett 1805-76;  
Setting: Arthur H. Mann 1850-1929; ©1957 Novello & Company Limited, London;  
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## Dismissal

### Benediction

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.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**Amen.**

### Recessional Hymn

“Now Sing We, Now, Rejoice”

- ♪ Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice; He from whom joy streameth  
Poor in a manger lies; Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!
- ♪ Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to Thee. Cheer my wearied spirit,  
O pure and holy Child; Through Thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
Draw me unto Thee! Draw me unto Thee!
- ♪ Now through His Son doth shine The Father's grace divine. Death was reigning o'er us  
Through sin and vanity Till He opened for us A bright eternity.  
May we praise Him there! May we praise Him there!
- ♪ Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'nly ground? Where the angels singing  
With all His saints unite, Sweetest praises bringing In heav'nly joy and light.  
Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 386-Text: Latin and German 14<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. Arthur T. Russell 1806-74; Tune: German;  
Setting: Richard W. Hillert b.1923; ©1969 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Postlude