



FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

**Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church
Sunday, December 22, 2024 9:45 am**

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Waiting for Bethlehem's Light

St John Choir

CONFESSION AND FOREGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

C: Amen.

(Silence for reflection)

P: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

P: Everlasting God,

C: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

P: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

Hymn # 251

3 verses

GREETING and KYRIE

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

(Tune of Come Thou Long Expected Jesus)

Piano $\text{♩} = 100$

2 3 4

5 Lord, have 6 mer - cy 7 on your 8 peo - ple,

9 Christ have 10 mer - cy 11 on 12 us.

13 Shine your 14 light in 15 to our 16 dark ness,

17 Fill us 18 with your 19 ho - ly 20 love.

21 Be our 22 strength in 23 times of 24 trou - ble,

25 Set us 26 free from 27 chains that 28 bind.

29 Breathe 30 new life in 31 to our 32 spir - its.

Pur - i - fy our hearts and minds.

GLORY TO GOD *(Tune of Angels We Have Heard on High)*



Glo-ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shine on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed



joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.



- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -



- - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

P: The Lord Be With You. **C: And also with you.**

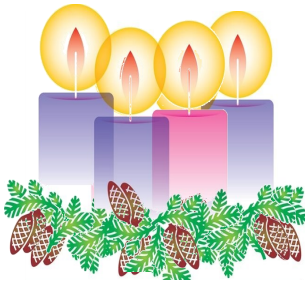
PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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

LIGHTING OF THE 4th ADVENT CANDLE RESPONSIVE LITANY

During Advent we see God’s love for us embodied in our Savior’s birth. Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love Advent calls us to love others with patience and kindness. Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love Advent reminds us to be slow to anger and quick to forgive. Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love. Advent reminds us that Christ commanded us to love as he loved. Christ is our light and the source of everlasting love.



CANDLE LIGHTING

L: This morning, we light four candles: the candles of hope, peace, joy, and today’s candle – love. This candle reminds us that God so loved the world, he sent his only son, so that whoever believes in him should not perish but have life everlasting. Today we celebrate God’s gift of love and remember that we have been commanded to love others as God loves us. **C: Amen**

CLOSING PRAYER

L: Gracious God, as we continue our Advent journey, we are reminded that “Love came down at Christmas – love amazing, love divine.” You loved the world enough to send your Son, and now it’s up to us to love others as you loved us. Remind us that Christ is our light, and the true source of infinite, everlasting, pure love. **C: Amen.**

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord... **C: Thanks be to God**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

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)." 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), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. 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.... **C: Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for

joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, 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**

SERMON

Rev. Shawn O’Brien

HYMN

Unexpected and Mysterious

Hymn # 258

3 verses

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Lord, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**



HOLY BAPTISM of Annabelle Marie Hill

Presentation

P: People of God, do you promise to support this child and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C: We do.

Profession of Faith

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

Welcome

P: Through baptism you have been received into the household of God entrusted with the good news of Jesus Christ, and strengthened to serve by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Creator God,

C: you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

What Child is This (for Advent)

E Minor: Em D G D B⁷ Em Am/C

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

B Em D G D B⁷

here be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

Em Am B Em Bm G

Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. This, this is

D B⁷ Em Am/C B

Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;

Bm G D B⁷ Em Am B Em (or E Major)

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

P: 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:

Piano

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lo - rd, God of Pow er, God of Might.

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One - God of mer - cy, God of light.

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the One who comes, Bless - ed in the name of God.

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**All: 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**

Lamb of God

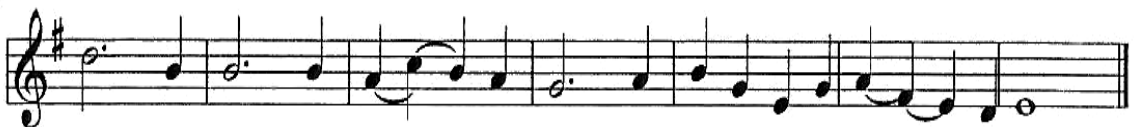
(Tune of O Come, O Come Emmanuel)



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give... us your



peace. Pre- pare us to re- ceive... your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-



joice! Re-joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra - el.

THE DISTRIBUTION

Welcome!

St. John practices "open communion". All who are baptized and instructed are welcome to share the Lord's Supper with us today. Starting with the right side of the church, followed by the left when they are finished, the Pastor will distribute the bread and the communion assistant will serve the wine. We will also have pre-sealed elements available for those who would prefer the more hygienic option (or those who wish to receive grape juice instead of wine). Indicate to the Pastor that you would like pre-sealed elements and skip the wine server. Those who wish to receive a blessing should indicate their wishes to the Pastor by crossing their arms over their chest.

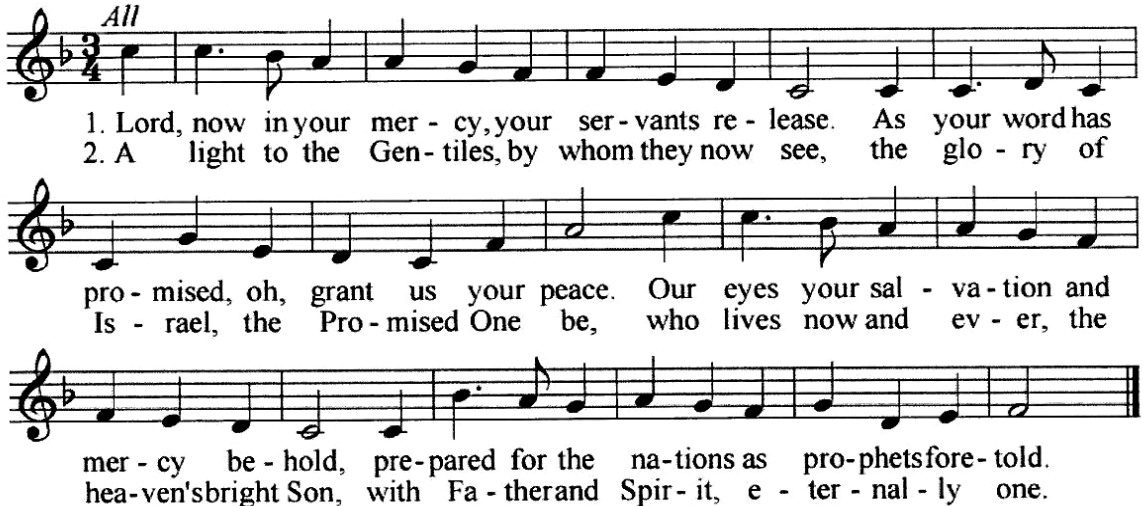
TABLE BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen**

POST COMMUNION SONG

(tune of Away in a Manger)

All



1. Lord, now in your mer - cy, your ser - vants re - lease. As your word has
2. A light to the Gen - tles, by whom they now see, the glo - ry of
pro - mised, oh, grant us your peace. Our eyes your sal - va - tion and
Is - rael, the Pro - mised One be, who lives now and ev - er, the
mer - cy be - hold, pre - pared for the na - tions as pro - phets fore - told.
hea - ven's bright Son, with Fa - ther and Spir - it, e - ter - nal - ly one.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.
C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit remain upon you now and forever.
C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Fling Wide the Door

Hymn # 259

4 verses

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.