

Joy of Christ Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 19, 2021

MUSIC PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME

GATHERING PRAISE SONG

MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS

RED BOOK, #251

My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.

To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud, their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside, the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things, the rich sent off unfed.

To Israel, your servant blest, your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One, give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all adored.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept 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, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace.

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✠ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise,

and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

Amen.

ADVENT WREATH

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah (vs 4) **Red Book, #240**

Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

LESSONS

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah.

²But 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Glory be to the Creator God, and to the Son Jesus Christ and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

A reading from Hebrews.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸When 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), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Emmanuel

PURPLE BOOK, #36

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel,
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-55

Announcement Response: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷**and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹**for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.**

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹**He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

P: The gospel of the Lord. Response: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SONG: O COME, O COME (VS 4) RED BOOK, #257

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

CHILDREN’S SERMON & BLESSING

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: OF THE FATHER’S LOVE: RED BOOK, #295 (1, 2&5)

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory
evermore and evermore! Amen.

THE 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 GOD’S PEOPLE

After the petition: Hear us, O God. ...

The Congregation responds: ... Your mercy is great. Amen.

PEACE Response: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC OFFERING:

Monnette Forte

(Offerings Brought Forward)

RESPONSE: The Queen's Prayer

'O kou aloha no Aia i Ka Lani,
A 'o kou 'oia'io, He hemolele ho'i.

Nolai la e ka Haku, Ma lalo Kou 'e heu,
Ko makou maluhia. A mau loa aku no. Amene

Translation: Your loving mercy is as high as Heaven
And your truth, so perfect.

And so, O Lord protect us beneath your wings
And let peace be our portion. Now and forever more. Amen

BLESSING OF THE OFFERINGS

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

THE 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

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:

SANCTUS

HOLY, HOLY

RED BOOK, pg. 144

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest,
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung)

**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 the kingdom, and the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

ADMINISTERING OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

LAMB OF GOD

PURPLE BOOK, #83

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy on me.
Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, have mercy on me.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. Amen.

SENDING SONG

A STORY FOR ALL PEOPLE

PURPLE BOOK #2

As people wait in darkness, in fear of endless night,
send forth your word of comfort, a message of great light.
The world stands proud before you, conflicted, hungry, poor.
Come, scatter pride and foolishness, and mend all souls with Savior love once more.

Refrain A story for all people, old story new today.
A song of love and healing, a light to show the way.

Renewed by this encounter, we'll go out and proclaim.
We'll tell of your salvation, and magnify your name.
The servant words of Mary will swell the faithful soul,
and you will bring your children home that day when all creation will be whole. **Refrain**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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Of the Father's Love Begotten: Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite