



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20, 2020 - 10:00 AM



Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of the Church staff and volunteers by Richard and Gail Moose.

## SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister & Preaching  
Assisting Minister  
Pianist

Susan J. Crowell  
Mandi Whitley  
Jim Parham

Cantor

Jeff Rehm

Lectors

David Crigler  
Angie McCormack

Video Direction and Production

Henry Wilcox

# GATHERING

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

*Stand as able*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,  
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**  
**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.**  
**We have not welcomed the stranger;**  
**we have not loved our neighbor;**  
**we have not been Christ to one another.**  
**Restore us, O God.**  
**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**  
**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:  
by God's endless grace  
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.  
May you be strengthened in God's love,  
† comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear.**

*Refrain*

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

**O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way.** *Refrain*

**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*

**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*

#### GREETING

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.**

#### BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen**

*Refrain*

***Be strong, fear not. Here is your God. Be strong, fear not. Here is your God.  
Be strong, fear not. Here is your God who comes to save us.***

**The desert shall bloom with flowers,  
The rivers flow freely again,  
The earth be abundant and fruitful,  
All glory shout out!** *Refrain*

**The poor will be judged with justice,  
The lowly be lifted high,  
The hungry will laugh in gladness,  
In freedom cry out!** *Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. 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.**

*Sit*

## WORD

## FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A reading from Second Samuel.

<sup>1</sup>When David finally settled into the palace, and the LORD gave him rest from enemies on every side, <sup>2</sup>he said to the prophet Nathan, “Here I am living in this house of cedar while the Ark of God sits in a tent!” <sup>3</sup>Nathan replied to David, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup> That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, and said: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: “Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a Temple? <sup>6</sup>I have been without a Temple from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a Tent as my dwelling place. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have traveled with the people of Israel, did I ever say to the governors whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, Why have you not built me a Temple made out of Cedar?” <sup>8</sup>Now then, tell my servant, David, “This is what the LORD Omnipotent says: I took you from the pastures and from following sheep to be the ruler of my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you went, and destroyed all your enemies in your path. I will give you fame like the fame of the great ones on the earth. <sup>10</sup>I will provide a place for my people Israel. I will plant them where they will have a home of their own – a place where they will never be disturbed. Never again will the sinners oppress them as they did in the past <sup>11</sup>ever since the time I appointed judges to lead my people Israel. I will give you security from all of your enemies. <sup>16</sup>Your family and your dynasty will last forever.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm  
Refrain



You, Lord, have lift-ed up the low - ly.

Psalm  
Tone



PSALM

Luke 1:46b-55

*The refrain is introduced by the cantor  
Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.*

- <sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will | call me blessed:**  
<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me  
and holy | is your name.  
<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on | those who fear you,  
from generation to | generation. R**  
<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength | with your arm  
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,  
<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty | from their thrones  
and lifting | up the lowly.**  
<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry | with good things  
and sent the rich | away empty.  
<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,  
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**  
<sup>55</sup>the promise made | to our forbears,  
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

A reading from Romans

<sup>25</sup>Now 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  
<sup>26</sup>but 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—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.  
The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand as able*

## 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.

## GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>Upon arriving the angel said to the Mary, "Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!" <sup>29</sup>Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel's greeting meant. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The 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. <sup>36</sup>And 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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.***Sit*

*Stand as able*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*The Magnificat*

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,  
and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here,  
and blessed me all my life through.  
Great and mighty are you O Holy One,  
strong is your kindness evermore.  
How you favor the weak and lowly one,  
humbling the proud of heart.**

**You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,  
and uplifted the humble of heart,  
You have filled the hungry with wondrous things,  
and left the wealthy no part.  
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,  
strong is your justice strong your love,  
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham,  
kindness forever more.**

**My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,  
and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here,  
and blessed me all my life through.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we are gathered in our homes on this fourth Sunday of Advent, let us pray that God come quickly to this weary world.

O God, Emmanuel, we pray: be with us. Bless our national church and our own congregation. Bless also our neighbors of other denominations and faiths, that strengthened by your presence we may support one another in love and together serve those in need. Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, the Wisdom of the world, as tomorrow the earth's north tilts back toward the sun, preserve vegetation and wild animals during winter. Form us into a people who honor your creation. Make of our decorated Christmas trees signs of our thankfulness for the earth.

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**



O God, King of nations, bring peace and justice to the countries of the world. Lead the nations of the Middle East toward peace with one another and justice for the Palestinians. Guide our elected leaders toward honest and compassionate policies that serve all the people. Preserve our nation from discord and violence. Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Key of David, look with mercy on all who are locked into despair, who fear the darkness, who live brokenhearted. Open windows to those who are isolated. Abide with all who are incarcerated. Give shelter to the homeless and the refugees.

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Root of Jesse, nurture our community. Connect us with one another across all barriers, and bring an end to historic prejudices. Bless the work of food pantries and relief agencies, and inspire our holidays with your spirit of benevolence. Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Ruler of might, send your healing power to all in bodily need. Curb the coronavirus, and strengthen medical workers. For those with COVID-19 we pray: . . . Guide all world health organizations and governmental officials in the distribution of the vaccines, and calm the fears of those who are reluctant to receive the vaccine. Bring pregnant women to successful births. We pray especially for . . . .

Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, our Savior, dwell within us; make us your home, and receive the prayers of our hearts. Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Dayspring everlasting, we remember all who have died and now live in your light, especially Katharina von Bora Luther and those we name here before you: . . . Gather us to yourself, when we join with all the faithful of every time and land to sing Mary's hymn of praise. Hear our prayer, O God:

**Come and save us soon.**

We cannot thank you enough, O Emmanuel, for your ongoing presence among us. Remain with us, and receive our prayers, for the sake of the Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Peace be with you.

☒ **Peace be with you.**

*Worshippers are invited to use their phones to text now or make a call later today  
to extend a message of peace to someone you love and care about.*

*Sit*

OFFERING AND ANTHEM

*Online giving is available by texting TLCGIVE to 73256,  
or by following the link on the homepage of the website, [www.trinitylutheran.ws](http://www.trinitylutheran.ws).  
Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 North Main St., Greenville, SC 29601.*

*Unexpected and Mysterious ELW 258  
Jeannette M. Lindholm*

OFFERTORY HYMN

*What Feast of Love*

#487

**What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the King, the bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!**

**What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?  
This, this is Christ the King, the sun come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!**

**What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven?  
What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given?  
This, this is Christ the King, the sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!**

*Stand as able*

Let us pray. Generous God,  
**you have created all that is,  
and you provide for us in every season.  
Bless all that we offer,  
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.  
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.  
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.**

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:



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. Ho -



san-na. 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.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

*Sit*

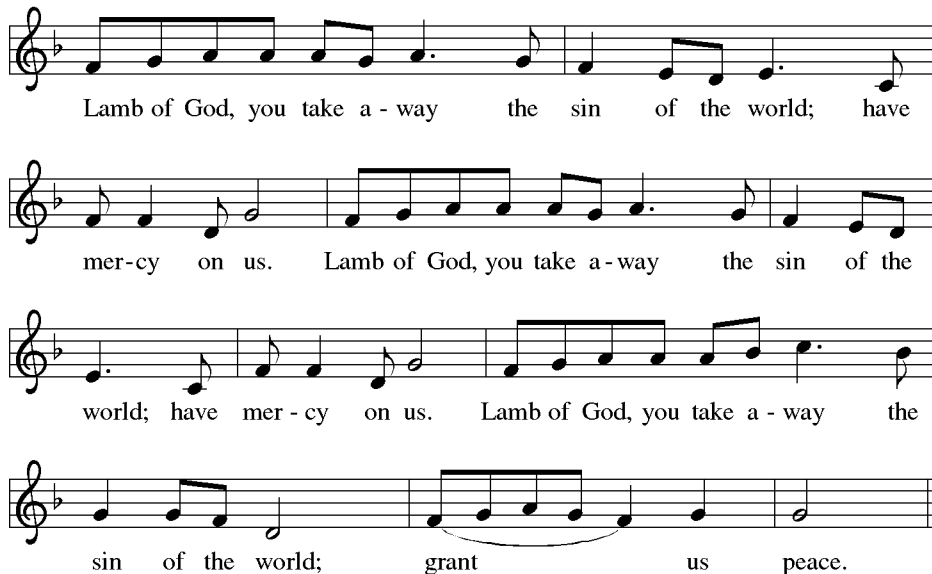
#### COMMUNION

*All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.*

*Worshippers who gather with family at home are invited to share the bread and wine with each other using these words spoken directly to each person, "The body of Christ given for you," and "The blood of Christ shed for you."  
Worshippers who are gathering with the community from their individual homes are invited to receive the bread and wine while saying these words, "The body of Christ given for me," and "The blood of Christ shed for me."*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

*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.

COMMUNION HYMN

*Love Has Come*

#292

**Love has come--a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**

**Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

*Stand as able*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious and abundant God,  
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.  
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world's needs,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
✚ now and forever.

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

*Joy to the World*

#267

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth  
receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him  
room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and  
nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their  
songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hill, and  
plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding  
joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns  
infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the  
nations prove the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

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## CHURCH STAFF

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Director of  
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Karen M. Craig  
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook  
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald  
Nursery Attendant

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