



**December 19, 2021**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**Christmas Comfort & Consolation Service**

*Called to proclaim and celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are nurtured,  
prepared, and sent to be the light of Christ in our world.*

# First Lutheran

*Called to proclaim and celebrate the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are nurtured,  
prepared, and sent to be the light of Christ in our world.*

Worship: Sunday at 10:00 am  
Broadcast Sunday mornings, 8:00-8:30, on KAPS Radio (660 am)

L = Leader; C = Congregation

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE:

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.  
*Silence for reflection and self-examination.* God of all time,

**C: we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us.  
We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory.  
Amen.**

L: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

**C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

*"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"* RED HYMNAL HYMN #256

## ADVENT LITANY

L: Love is what gives meaning to the Advent season: God's love for us and our love for God and one another. Without love all the gifts and get-togethers, all the busyness and trappings of Advent become meaningless. But, love makes us alive to the Spirit of God and to the spirit of the season. We light the fourth Advent candle, the Love Candle, because God came to us in love and is love. Prepare our Hearts  
O Emmanuel, and

**C: Surprise us by your coming.**

L: We gather together to let God's good news reorient our lives. O Emmanuel,

**C: Surprise us by your coming.**

L: We wait for the day when all the world will see the sign that God is with us. O Emmanuel,

**C: Surprise us by your coming.**

L: We are shocked by how God comes close, even at this very moment. O Emmanuel, **C: Surprise us by your coming.**

L: Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope, peace, joy and love. Grant us courage and faith, Lord, to embody your love for the world to all people, at all times, in all places and circumstances. C: **Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN "*Prepare the Royal Highway*" RED HYMNAL HYMN #264 Vs. 1, 2, 3, & 4

## THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY

L Let us pray, Stir up your power, ...

**C 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.**

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

<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.

<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 PSALM Luke 1:46b-55

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness <sup>1</sup> of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in <sup>1</sup> God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your <sup>1</sup> lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will <sup>1</sup> call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great <sup>1</sup> things for me  
and holy <sup>1</sup> is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on <sup>1</sup> those who fear you,  
from generation to <sup>1</sup> generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength <sup>1</sup> with your arm  
and scattered the proud in <sup>1</sup> their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty <sup>1</sup> from their thrones  
and lifting <sup>1</sup> up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry <sup>1</sup> with good things  
and sent the rich <sup>1</sup> away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your <sup>1</sup> servant Israel,  
to remember the prom- <sup>1</sup> ise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made <sup>1</sup> to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his chil- <sup>1</sup> dren forever.

## Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

*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 ALLELUIA



## **GOSPEL READING Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]**

*Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

<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."

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "Canticle of the Turning" RED HYMNAL HYMN #723 vs. 1,2,4

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L Hear us, O God. **C Your mercy is great.**

**WE SHARE THE MEAL**

OFFERING/MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Gracious God, you have done great things for us and holy is your name. Bless all we offer you – ourselves, our time, and our possessions – that through us your grace and favor may be made known to all the world. Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

LORDS 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.**

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, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION: RECEIVE CHRIST IN BREAD AND WINE

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

**WE SEND TO SERVE**

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN “*What Feast of Love*” RED HYMNAL HYMN #487

DISMISSAL

L Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

**What's Happening at F.E.L.C.**

**Annual Reports**

Boards & Committees, it is time to write your annual reports and e mail them into the church office. Please submit your reports before Jan.16th for publication. Thank you!

**Hymn Sing December 26**

Come a little early (9:45) to the service in the sanctuary on December 26 to join in a Hymn Sing. You are invited to look up & suggest your favorite hymns to sing out of the blue and red hymnals.

**Book Discussion Book**

The next book selected for discussion is *The Sparrow*, a novel by Mary Doria Russell. If you would like help accessing a copy please contact the church office. Office email-office@firstlutheranmv.org.

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