



Fourth Sunday of Advent Love

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

You are created uniquely by God and you are welcome here.

Your Abilities· Age· Culture· Economic Status· Gender Expression/Identity· Life Circumstances· Marital Status· Questions· Race· Sexual Orientation· are welcome here

December 20

GATHERING

PRELUDE “In the Bleak Midwinter,” by Gustav Holst, David Jones on cello, Pete Olson on piano

WELCOME

CONFESSON 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

People, Look East, ELW 248 (Bulletin Pg. 6, vs. 1-4)

ADVENT LITANY

L: On the first Sunday of Advent we lit a candle for hope.

Our second candle was lit for Peace. Our third candle was lit for Joy.

This week we light our candle for the last Sunday of Advent, the candle for Love. This is the Love we search for:

C: the Love that gives without counting the cost, the Love that weaves

compassion and justice together, the Love that endures when the going is rough, the Love that was revealed in the life and sacrifice of Jesus,

L: the Love that lights up the family circle, the Love that searches out and defines our faith community,

C: Love that hugs a family close, Love that shows itself in caring and encouragement at work and school. Love that breaks out in laughter and is felt in the silence of friendship.

L: Love within us,

C: Love around us,

L: Love that builds us up,

C: A Love that shines out as we act for the powerless and the innocent, and work for a world renewed in the spirit of Christ. Amen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN *"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"*



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Prayer of the Day:

Leader: Let us pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. ...

All: 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.

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.



Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.

From this day all generations will | call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
and holy | is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on | those who fear you,
from generation to | generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength | with your arm
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty | from their thrones
and lifting | up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made | to our forbears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now 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 ²⁶but 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—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Offertory Music “*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus,*” W. Walker, arranged by Anne Krentz Organ
Madelynn Jones on flute, Pete Olson on piano

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.”

³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn of the Day: *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*, ELW 251 (Bulletin Pg. 7)

Baptism of Luca Barron

Creed:

Leader: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

All: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit. *Ephesians 1:13-14)*

Leader: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

**He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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**

Leader: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

All: pray in the Holy Spirit. (*Jude 20*)

Leader: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

All: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Jude 21*)

Leader: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

All: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

HOLY MEAL

Words of Institution

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers of Intercession: Each petition will end with, “Lord in your Mercy”,
and the response will be: “**Hear our Prayer.**”

Blessing:

Leader: 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.

SENDING

Hymn: *Savior of the Nations, Come*, ELW 263 (Bulletin Pg. 8, vs. 1-4)

Dismissal:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude “Breath of Heaven (Mary’s Song),”

by Amy Grant and Chris Eaton, arranged by Carol Tornquist

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People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

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1 My soul pro - claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

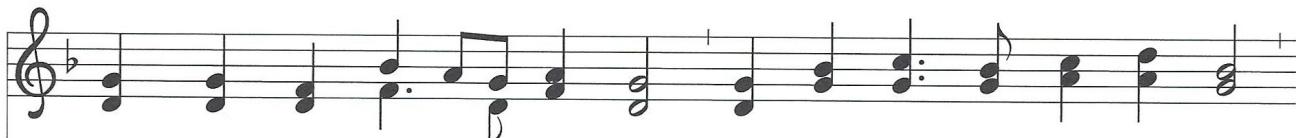
You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim -
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

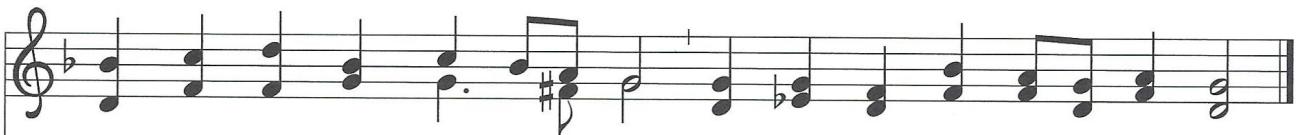
great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Savior of the Nations, Come

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- 1 Savior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.



- 5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!