

Sanctuary Worship Service
Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21, 2025 8:00 AM

PRELUDE

SPECIAL MUSIC

BOB TANNER

There is a Great Joy A Coming

There is a great joy a coming,
There is a great joy a coming,
There is a great joy a coming
To the whole people my Lord.

Glory, glory! Glory Glory!
Glory be to God in the highest,
Peace, good will toward men.

Buryl Red | Ragan Courtney © 1972. Renewed 2000 Van Ness Press, Inc. (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI License#708394

WELCOME

PASTOR

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

PASTOR

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.**

**We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✠ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory **ELW 275**

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4, One License A-731020

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW 251 (tune ELW 282)

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.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat, Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. One License A-731020

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

Amen.

Light four candles

Light One Candle

Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress., Inc. One License A-731020

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PASTOR

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.

FIRST READING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned up- on the cherubim.
² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**
³ Restore 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?**
⁵ You 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.**
⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
¹⁷ **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
¹⁸ And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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 up lifted 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.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, © 1990, 2016 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved., One License A-731020

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 1st chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

PASTOR

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Angel Gabriel ELW 265

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;

thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, One License A-731020

APOSTLES' CREED

PASTOR

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 THE PEOPLE

ASSISTING MINISTER

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

OFFERING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Ways to digitally give:

- Text: "ILC" to 73256 and fill out the form
- Online at www.ilcpville.org
- Realm app

SHARING OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD

OFFERTORY HYMN

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory - ELW 561

Joyous light of heav'nly glory,
Loving glow of God's own face,
you who sing creation's story,
shine on ev'ry land and race.
Now as evening falls around us,

we shall raise our songs to you.
God of daybreak, God of shadows,
come and light our hearts anew.

In the stars that grace the darkness,
in the blazing sun of dawn,
in the light of peace and wisdom,
we can hear your quiet song.
Love that fills the night with wonder,
love that warms the weary soul,
love that bursts all chains asunder,
set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven's splendor,
ev'ry dancing star of night,
make us shine with gentle justice,
let us each reflect your light.
Mighty God of all creation,
gentle Christ who lights our way,
loving Spirit of salvation,
lead us on to endless day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission., One License A-731020

OFFERING PRAYER

PASTOR

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 206

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

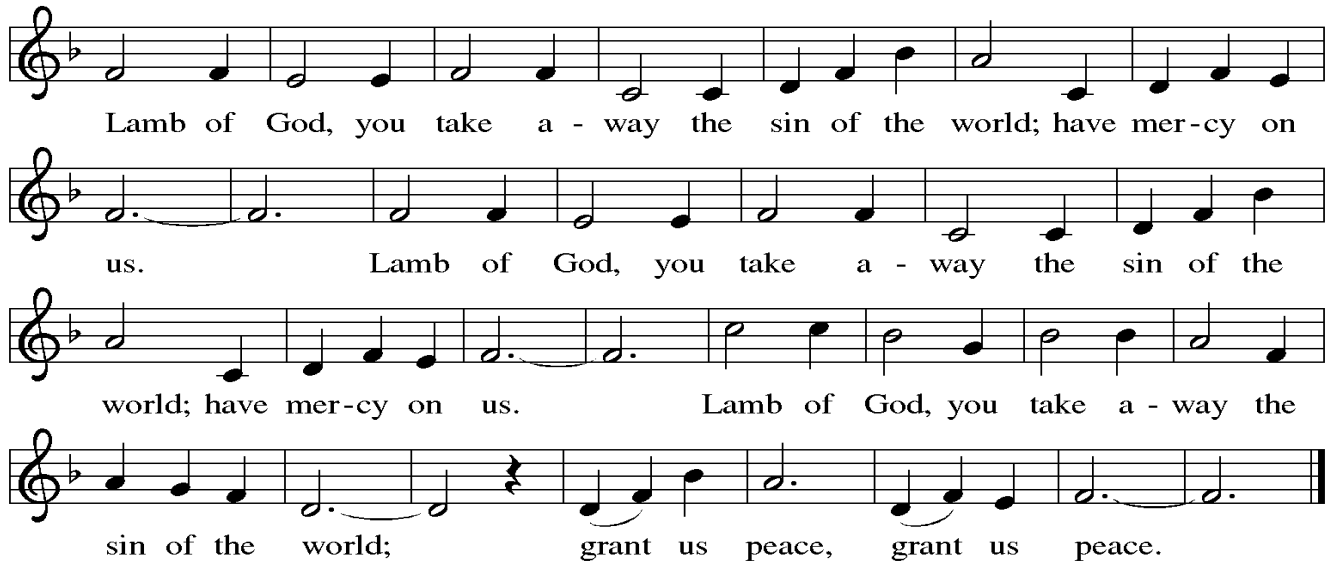
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PASTOR

THE 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.



COMMUNION

PASTOR

COMMUNION HYMNS

O Come O Come Emmanuel - Solo by Kaileigh Mullin

Lo How a Rose E're Blooming - ELW 272

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True man, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves us

and lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory,
who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and into endless day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4, One License A-731020

From Heaven Above - ELW 268

"From heav'n above to earth I come
to bear good news to ev'ry home!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to all the world, and gladly sing:"

"To you this night is born a child
of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
this newborn child of lowly birth
shall be the joy of all the earth."

"This is the Christ, God's Son most high,
who hears your sad and bitter cry,
who will himself your Savior be
and from all sin will set you free."

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy child,
prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
a quiet chamber in my heart,
that you and I may never part.

My heart for very joy now leaps;
my voice no longer silence keeps;
I too must sing with joyful tongue
the sweetest ancient cradle-song:

"Glory to God in highest heav'n,
who unto us the Son has giv'n."
With angels sing in pious mirth
a glad new year to all the earth!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. One License A-731020

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PASTOR

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

BLESSING

PASTOR

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly - ELW 276

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the child is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging, angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you!
Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933, alt., One License A-731020

GOOD NEWS

ASSISTING MINISTER

Soon and Very Soon - ELW 439

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Text & Music Andrae Crouch, b. 1845 Text & Music C 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, adin. EMI Christian Music Publishing, One License A-731020

DISMISSAL

ASSISTING MINISTER

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.