

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday – December 18, 2022 – 9:30 a.m. Worship

(In-Person & Live -Streamed)



Friends In Christ Lutheran Church

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† Call to Worship †

Greeting

Hymn #353 “Jesus Came the Heavens Adoring”

Zech. 9:9 {1}; Matthew 25:31-34 {4}; John 14:18 {3}; Luke 2:14 {2}



1 Je - sus came, the heav'ns a - dor - ing, Came with peace from
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candles. Today's candle is The Shepherds' Candle.

Exhortation

1 John 1:8–9 LSB 151

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 167

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23] LSB 151

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Stand

† Service of the Word †

Psalm 24

- P**¹The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
C the world and those who dwell therein,
P²for He has founded it upon the seas
C and established it upon the rivers.
- P**³Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
C And who shall stand in His holy place?
P⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
C who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.
- P**⁵He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
P⁶Such is the generation of those who seek Him,
C who seek the face of the God of Jacob.
- P**⁷Lift up your heads, O gates!
C And be lifted up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
- P**⁸Who is this King of glory?
C The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle!
- P**⁹Lift up your heads, O gates!
C And lift them up, O ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
- P**¹⁰Who is this King of glory?
C The LORD of hosts,
He is the King of glory!

Sit

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Epistle: 1 John 4:7-15

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 6:68 LSB 156

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the first staff, the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the" are written. The second staff continues the melody with quarter and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line. Below the second staff, the lyrics "words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." are written.

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:8-18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn #358 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (v. 1-3)



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Tune: Geistliche Lieder, Leipzig, 1539, ed. Valten Schumann
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon "Shock and Surprise for the Shepherds"

Sermon Text: Luke 2:15b-16a

^{15b} . . . the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ^{16a} *And they came with haste* . . .

Stand

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Responses:

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Final Petition:

- P** Hear us Father for we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

† Service of the Sacrament †

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136] LSB 160

- P** The Lord be with you.



- C** And al - so with you.

- P** Lift up your hearts.



- C** We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

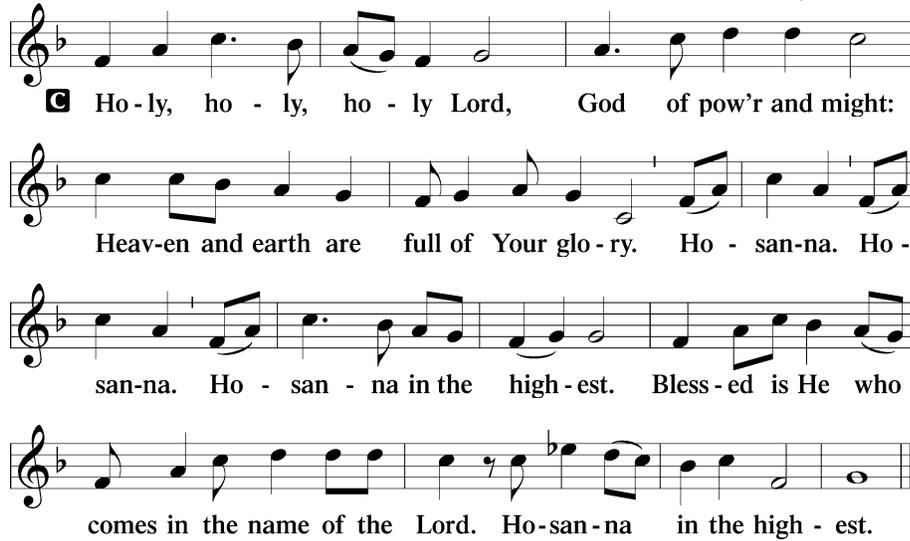


- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9 LSB 161



C 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.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 LSB 162

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C **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.**

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19 LSB 163

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29 LSB 163

C 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.

Sit Distribution

Stand Thank the Lord

[Psalm 105:1-3, 42-43]; [1 Chronicles 16:8-10] LSB 164

C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.
Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear His name.
He re-calls His prom-is-es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Post-Communion Collect

- P** Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26 LSB 202

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and \dagger give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Hymn #357 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”



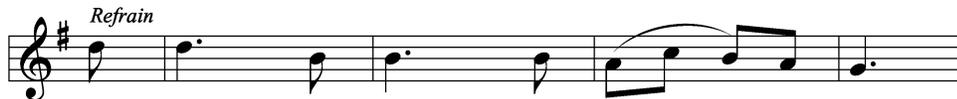
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.



Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Christmas Eve Candlelight Service– Dec. 24 (7:00 p.m.)

The Christ Candle – The “Wondrous Who-Gift” Candle

Sermon: “The Wait is Over; The Weight is Lifting”

Text: Luke 2:11, 14

Christmas Day – Dec 25 (9:30 a.m.)

The Christ Candle – The “Who We’ve Been Waiting For” Candle

Sermon: “The Righteous Rising of the Sun-Son”

Text: Mal. 4:2; Is. 9:6

Keep Christ in your Christmas . . .

