

# The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday – December 24, 2023 – 9:30 a.m. Worship

*(In-Person & Live -Streamed)*



Friends In Christ Lutheran Church

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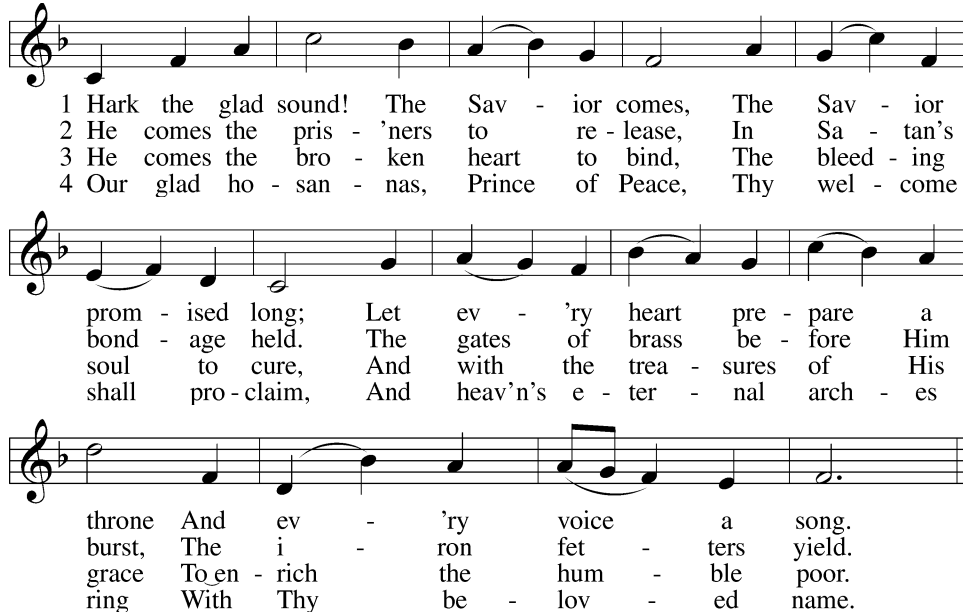
# † Call to Worship †

Pre-Service Music "Emmanuel"

Bonnie Nelson & Mark Stevens

Greeting and Opening Prayer

Hymn #349 "Hark the Glad Sound"



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820 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.

**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 151*

- 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.

## † Service of the Word †

### Responsive Reading: Psalm 89:1-4, 14-17, 26-28

**P** <sup>1</sup>I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;  
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

**C** <sup>2</sup>**For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;  
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”**

**P** <sup>3</sup>You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;  
I have sworn to David my servant:

**C** <sup>4</sup>**I will establish your offspring forever,  
and build your throne for all generations.”**

**P** <sup>14</sup>Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;  
**C** **steadfast love and faithfulness go before you.**

**P** <sup>15</sup>Blesséd are the people who know the festal shout,  
**C** **who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,**

**P** <sup>16</sup>who exult in your name all the day  
**C** **and in your righteousness are exalted.**

**P** <sup>17</sup>For you are the glory of their strength;  
**C** **by your favor our horn is exalted.**

**P** <sup>26</sup>He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,  
**C** **my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’**

**P** <sup>27</sup>And I will make him the firstborn,  
**C** **the highest of the kings of the earth.**

**P** <sup>28</sup>My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,  
**C** **and my covenant will stand firm for him.**

**ALL**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### Kyrie

*Mark 10:47 LSB 152*

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray  
to the Lord.



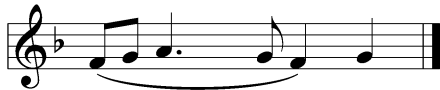
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day:

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might,

**C** that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy;

**ALL** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
now and forever. Amen.

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading: Micah 5:1-5a

<sup>1</sup> Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops;  
siege is laid against us;  
with a rod they strike the judge of Israel  
on the cheek.

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler 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 given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup> And he shall be their peace.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle: Romans 16:25-27

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

*John 6:68 LSB 156*



## Holy Gospel: Luke 2:8-20

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>When 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.” <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>**And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.** <sup>18</sup>**And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.** <sup>19</sup>**But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.** <sup>20</sup>**And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.**

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

*Sit*

## Sermon Hymn #358 (v. 1-6) "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"



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  
 5 "These are the signs that you shall mark: The swad-dling  
 6 How glad we'll be to find it so! Then with the

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  
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you will find the  
 shep - herds let us go To see what God for

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.  
 in - fant laid By whom the heav'ns and earth were made."  
 us has done In send - ing us His own dear Son.

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 "Rejoice; Proclaim; Re-rejoice"

*Text: Luke 2:17-20*

*Stand*

### Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
 The third day He rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy Christian Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen.**

Offerings are brought to the altar of the LORD as we sing:

## Offertory

*Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19 LSB 159*



**C** What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

*Sit*

## 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 has forgiven our sins, healed our diseases, will one day raise us from the dead and has taught us to pray:

## Lord's Prayer

**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.

*Stand*

## Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26 LSB 166

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.



## Closing Hymn #352 “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly  
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets,  
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of

kept His word And at last to us did send  
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,  
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—  
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me

Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

- 5 Bruise for me the serpent's head  
That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith,  
Safely kept through life and death.
- 6 Then when You will come again  
As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face,  
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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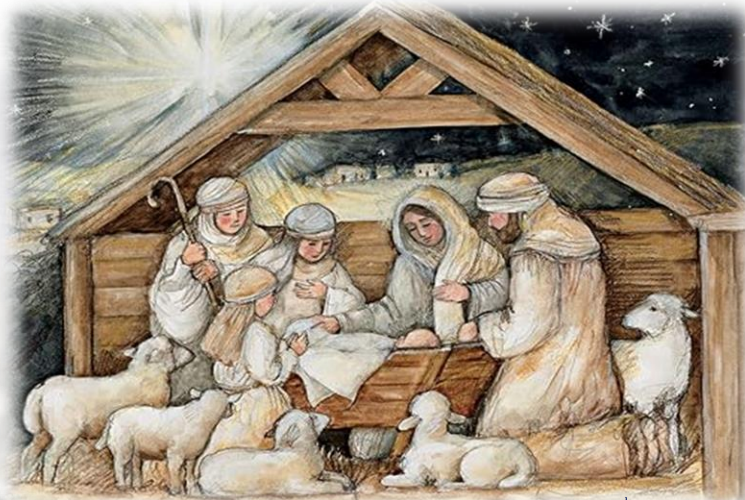


Tonight — 7:00 p.m.



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Tomorrow — 9:30 a.m.



*Christmas Day Worship*