



# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 19, 2021  
11:00 A.M.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Plain text indicates a part of the liturgy led by a worship leader.  
**Bold text indicates the congregational response.**

Hymn numbers refer to their corresponding pages in the back of the  
cranberry-colored *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal.

Welcome

Prayer Requests

Prelude

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

arr. Flor Peeters

Blessing of the Advent Wreath

**L** We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time  
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.  
As we light the candles on this wreath,  
open our eyes to see your presence  
in the lowly ones of this earth.

**C** **Enlighten us with your grace,  
that we may sing of your advent among us  
in the Word made flesh.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord,  
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen**

## ENTRANCE RITE

*We stand as we are able.*

Hymn 263

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

Greeting

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the  
Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

*The Advent wreath, which probably originated among early Lutherans in Germany, is a symbol of waiting and watchfulness during the weeks of Advent.*

*Standing is the posture of the resurrection. We stand when we sing hymns and for other parts of the service as an expression of resurrection joy. It is a way of proclaiming that Jesus is powerfully alive!  
Colossians 3:14-18*

Kyrie is the Greek word for "Lord." The church has prayed this prayer seeking divine help since the 4th century.

## Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

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

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

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.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

*The Prayer of the Day is tied to the overall theme of the scripture lessons or, sometimes, to the theme of day if it is a special occasion in the church calendar.*

*The tradition of reading sacred scripture in worship is a tie to our roots in Judaism. 1 Timothy 4:13 reminds us of the importance of this practice.*

*The first lesson is normally from the Old Testament.*

*The second reading, usually from the New Testament letters, bears the witness of the early church.*

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

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.

**C Amen**

*We are seated.*



## LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

**L** A reading from Micah.

<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.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

**L** A reading from Hebrews.

<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.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

Hymn

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary



1. To a maid whose name was Mar - y, the an - gel Ga - briel came.  
2. "For you are high - ly fa - vored by God, the Lord of all,  
3. "How shall this be?" said Ma - ry, "I am not yet a wife."



"Fear not," the an - gel told her, "I come to bring good news.  
who e - ven now is with you. You are on earth most blest,  
The an - gel an - swered quick - ly "The pow'r of the Most High



Good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news."  
you are most blest, most bless - ed, God chose you, you are blest!"  
will come up - on you short - ly; your child will be God's child."

*The Gospel Acclamation is the congregation's response to the announcement and reading of the Holy Gospel. It gives special focus to the Gospel, the principal and climactic biblical reading in the liturgy.*

*The Liturgy of the Word culminates in the reading of the gospel and the sermon by which Christ comes among his people and speaks to us in our own context. Because of this we stand to listen to the good news of our Lord.*

The Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

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

<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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary

4. As Mar - y heard the an - gel, she won - dered at his words.  
 "Be - hold, I am your hand - maid," she said un - to her God.  
 "So be it; I am read - y ac - cord - ing to your word."

*We sit.*

Sermon

Pastor James Armentrout

*This hymn complements the day's scripture readings and sermon.*

*We stand as we are able and sing the hymn.*

Hymn 251

*My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*

*We join our hearts in prayer as we pray for the Church, for the well-being of creation, for peace and justice, for those in need. 1 Timothy 2:1-2*

The Prayers



*Each petition concludes:*

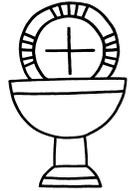
**P** Lord, in your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

Much more than a pleasant greeting—we do this to proclaim God's promise of peace. 2 Corinthians 13:11

Our gifts are received and dedicated to our Lord's service. These offerings support the ministries of this congregation, the Virginia Synod, ELCA, and our global mission partners.

As our gifts of offerings and tithes are brought forward we sing a canticle of thanksgiving for God's generous goodness.

# THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY



## The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*We greet one another from our pews, saying "Peace be with you."*

## The Offering

### Anthem

### *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

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!  
- Basque carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould

## Offertory

### *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*



Re-joice, re-joice, take heart in the night, though dark the win-ter and cheer-less,



the ris-ing sun shall crown you with light, be strong and lov-ing and fear-less.



Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end-less sto-ry;



may God fill ev-'ry day we share and bring us at last in-to glo-ry.

*Our prayer is modeled after the Jewish prayer of thanksgiving and dedicates the giver to a stewardship of all life.*

*The Thanksgiving Dialogue begins the part of our worship called the Great Thanksgiving.*

*The dialogue and the Proper Preface are ancient parts of the worship which proclaim our thanks for the gifts of God in the meal.*

*The Sanctus echoes the angels' cry in Isaiah 6:3 and the crowds of Mark 11:9 as Jesus entered Jerusalem. This reminds us that we are in the presence of a God identified both by holiness and humility.*

### Offertory Prayer

**P** Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching,  
**C** we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives  
to the service of all your people.  
Prepare the way before us  
as we meet you in this simple meal,  
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace Amen

### Thanksgiving Dialogue

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

### The Proper Preface

*The presiding minister continues:* "It is indeed right ..."  
*The proper preface concludes:* "we praise your name and join their unending hymn."

### Sanctus

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.

*The Eucharistic Prayer recalls God's saving acts throughout history and, particularly, the words and actions, the commands and promises of Jesus at the last supper with his disciples as recorded in scripture.*

### Eucharistic Prayer

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C Come, Holy Spirit.**

P All praise and glory are yours,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

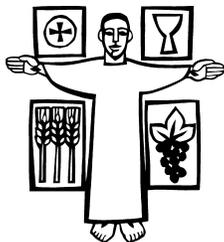
**C Amen**

*The Lord's Prayer brings the Great Thanksgiving to a conclusion. Prayed here, this familiar and beloved prayer becomes the table-prayer of the congregation. Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 6:5-15*

### The Lord's Prayer

- 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**

*We are seated.*



### COMMUNION WITH OUR RISEN LORD WELCOME TO CHRIST'S TABLE

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

We come forward by way of the center aisle, forming two lines to receive communion in front of the chancel steps. We return to our pews by way of the side aisles.



*Once we have all received the sacrament and returned to our seats, we celebrate the personal encounter with the risen Christ through blessing, prayer, and singing.*

### Post-Communion Blessing

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.  
C **Amen**

### Post-Communion Prayer

- P Let us pray. Most High God,  
C **you have come among us at this table.  
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,  
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,  
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. Amen**

### Blessing

- P May God, who gathers us in love,  
lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice.  
May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves,  
lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.  
May God, who fills us with good things,  
lead you in pathways of equity and abundance.  
The blessing of Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit  
be upon you and remain with you forever.  
C **Amen**

## Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap -  
 2. O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa -  
 3. O come, O Day - spring, come and cheer; O Sun of jus -  
 4. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide  
 5. O come, O King of na - tions, come, O Cor - ner - stone



- tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in low - ly ex - ile here  
 - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,  
 - tice, now draw near Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night  
 our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,  
 that binds in one: re - fresh the hearts that long for you;



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
 and death's dark shad - ow put to flight. Re - joice! Re - joice!  
 and close the path to mis - er - y.  
 re - store the bro - ken, make us new.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

*We are dismissed from worship knowing that our service does not end. Rather, having been in the presence of the risen Lord, we leave so that our service may truly begin.*

## Dismissal

**P** Go in peace loving the coming Lord and loving your neighbor.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

arr. Paul Manz



## Ministers and Staff

*Ministers:* Congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
*Secretary / Financial Administrator:* Kathy Bryant  
*Organist / Choir Director:* Jacob Gordon  
*Pastor:* James Armentrout

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