
✠ Fourth Sunday of Advent ✠

ORDER OF WORSHIP • DECEMBER 22, 2024 • 9:00 AM

✠ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

✠ OPENING HYMN

THE ADVENT OF OUR KING
LSB 331

The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.

The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.

O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.

As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.

Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

✠ INVOCATION

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, ✠ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

All: Amen.

✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Let us confess our sins to God, who loves us with an unending love, who is patient and full of compassion, and who calls us to return from our wandering and come home in this Advent season.

a time of silence for reflection

WL: God of compassion, we confess to you and to one another our sins in thought, word and deed; what we have done, and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Come, Lord Jesus.

All: Lead us home.

WL: God of unending love, we pray weekly that *YOUR* kingdom come, yet we so often work, and watch, and wait for our own kingdom to come. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us. Come, Lord Jesus.

All: Lead us home.

WL: God of surpassing peace, we confess that we have not always followed your way. We have responded to violence with more violence, to hatred with more hatred. Lead us in paths of justice and call to us to lives of service. Teach us to share with all in need, to turn our swords into plowshares, to forgive others as you forgive us. Come, Lord Jesus.

All: Lead us home.

WL: Sisters and brothers, enter God's house with joy!
Siblings in Christ, God is our home!
Come now and hear God's life-giving Word:
God's divine love is powerful. Our sin is washed away!
New life takes root to grow!

WL: I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

WL: Let us sing together as we light our Advent candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. God comes to bring us peace, to enlighten us, to dwell in us, and to finish his new creation.

The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd and 4th Advent candles are lighted as we sing.

✠ WREATH LIGHTING

KINDLE A FLAME

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark and take all fear away.

FIRST LESSON

MICAH 5:2-5A

R: Our First Lesson on this Fourth Sunday of Advent is from the prophet Micah, the fifth chapter.

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

HEBREWS 10:5-10

R: Our Second Lesson is from the 10th chapter of Hebrews.

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.’”

First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

✠ VERSE

COME, O PRECIOUS RANSOM
LBW #24, STANZAS 1 & 2

**Come, O precious Ransom, come, only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world; Open are to you all portals.
Come, your beauty let us view; anxiously we wait for you.**

**Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and never leave, though I am but poor and lowly.
What vast riches will be mine when you are my guest divine!**

✠ HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

LUKE 1:39-56

WL: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

All: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

WL: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You O Christ!**

TODAY'S MESSAGE

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
 that the God of my heart is great,
 and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
 that you bring to the ones who wait.
 You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
 and my weakness you did not spurn,
 so from east to west shall my name be blest.
 Could the world be about to turn?

REFRAIN My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
 Let the fires of your justice burn.
 Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
 and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
 and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
 to the end of the age to be.
 Your very name puts the proud to shame,
 and to those who would for you yearn,
 you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
 for the world is about to turn. *REFRAIN*

From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
 not a stone will be left on stone.
 Let the king beware for your justice tears
 ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
 The hungry poor shall weep no more,
 for the food they can never earn;
 there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
 for the world is about to turn. *REFRAIN*

Though the nations rage from age to age,
 we remember who holds us fast:
 God's mercy must deliver us
 from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
 This saving word that our forebears heard
 is the promise which holds us bound,
 till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
 who is turning the world around. *REFRAIN*

✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

WL: With the church throughout the ages, let us boldly confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

All: 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

✠ PAX DOMINI

WL: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

LBW #54

✠ DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

All: Amen.

✠ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: Let us pray. Generous God, you are our peace. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

✠ BLESSING

WL: 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 + give you peace.

All: Amen.

✠ SENDING SONG GOD REST YE MERRY, GENTLEMEN

**God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.
Remember, Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas Day;
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace,
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

✠ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God.

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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KINDLE A FLAME

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CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

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