
✠ Fourth Sunday of Advent ✠

ORDER OF WORSHIP • DECEMBER 21, 2025 • 9:00 AM

✠ Indicates the congregation should stand as able.

PRELUDE Christopher Ludwig, flute
 Vanessa Vaché, clarinet

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

✠ CHORAL ANTHEM DING, DONG, MERRILY ON HIGH

✠ INVOCATION

WL: In In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
 ✠ 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 sin in the presence of God and of one another.

a time of silence for reflection

WL: Long-expected God,

All: **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.

WL: Brothers and Sisters, the light of Christ has come into the world,
 bringing us salvation. In Christ ✠ you are freed and forgiven,
 empowered to serve, and called to be people of light.

All: **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

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

✠ GATHERING HYMN SAVIOR OF THE NATIONS, COME
LBW #28, STANZAS 1, 2, 3, 7

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 7:10-17

R: Our First Lesson on this Fourth Sunday of Advent is from the 7th chapter of the prophet Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.”

Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste. The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on the house of your father a time unlike any since Ephraim broke away from Judah—he will bring the king of Assyria.”

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 1:1-7

R: Our Second Lesson is from first chapter of St. Paul’s letter to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name’s sake. And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

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

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

✠ VERSE

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning

The Lord is drawing nigh. REPEAT ALL

✠ HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 1:18-25

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

All: Glory to You, O Lord!

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

WL: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to You O Christ!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

TODAY'S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN 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.

✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH *Nicene Creed*

WL: Together we confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

All: 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.

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

COMMUNION HYMN

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

LBW #40

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

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 HYMN

PEOPLE, LOOK EAST



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

✠ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY



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KINDLE A FLAME

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PRINCE of PEACE

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