

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20 2020, 9:00 am

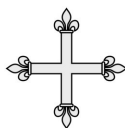


Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."



Gathering

Prelude

Three Chorale Preludes on "Savior of the Nations, Come," BWV 559-661

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.
Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
☩ comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

ELW 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Greeting

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

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light the fourth candle, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,
let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

Response

Please sing the following to the tune HANOVER.

The candle of hope we light in this hour
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.

The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.

The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.

The candle of love tells what we are worth:
God loves us so much, God came to the earth!
An angel brought news of a child who would be
The one who would save us and set us all free.

Text: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Music: HANOVER, William Croft (1678-1727)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

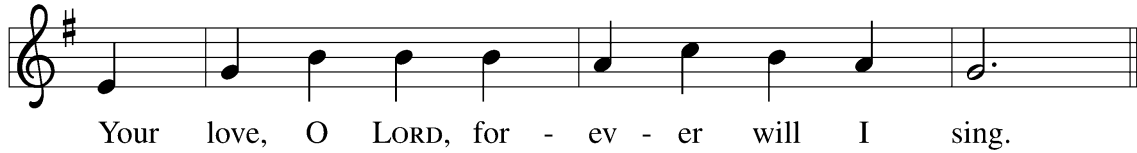
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

*The choir introduces the refrain; the congregation repeats it. Verses are sung by the choir. Subsequent refrains are sung only once by all, at the places indicated by **R**.*



- ¹Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- ²For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- ³“I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- ⁴“I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.’” **R**
- ¹⁹You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:
“I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- ²⁰I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- ²¹My hand will hold him fast
and my arm will make him strong. **R**
- ²²No enemy shall deceive him,
nor shall the wicked bring him down.
- ²³I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate him.
- ²⁴My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him,
and he shall be victorious through my name.
- ²⁵I will set his hand on the sea,
and his right hand on the rivers.
- ²⁶He will say to me, ‘You are my father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.’ **R**

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



Choir Alleluia, alleluia.

All Alleluia, alleluia.

Choir Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word. (Luke 1:38)

All Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

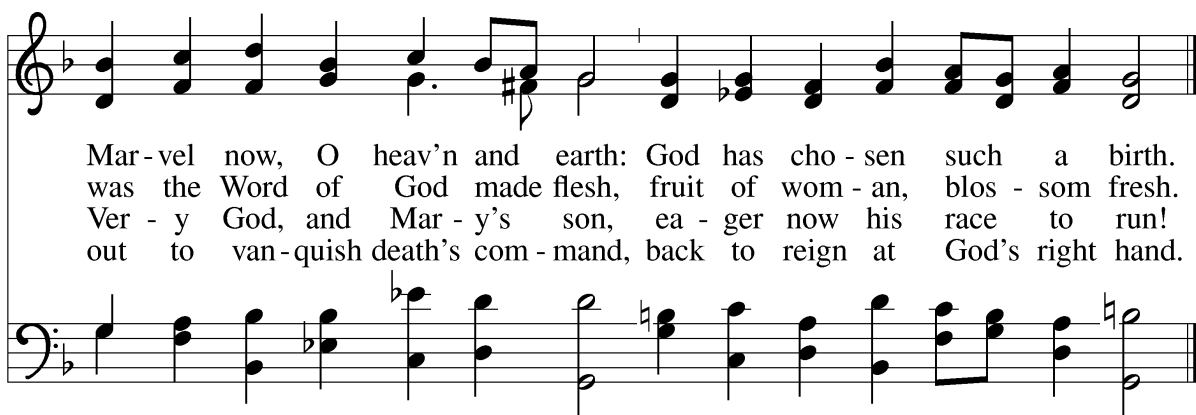
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Miller



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
 hallows night with newborn light.
 Night cannot this light subdue;
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!
 To the holy Trinity
 praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
 Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

Prayers of Intercession

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

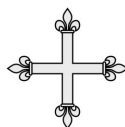
Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.



Thanksgiving

Offering

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us

You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Music at the offering

*Magnificat anima mea Dominum.
Magnificat anima mea Dominum.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise of made to our forebears, to Abraham
and his children for ever.

Glory 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.

Magnificat on the Fifth Tone
Text: Luke 1:46b-55
Music: Kevin Vogt (b. 1966)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of hope and generosity, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We open our hands and return to you what you have first given us. Empower us to share our time, talent and possessions. Use them to bring peace, justice and comfort to the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Let us pray.

Holy One, Jesus Christ, we know that you are as truly present in our reaching out to one another as in the sacrament of the table. We love you at the heart of all things, and long for you in our souls. Since we cannot gather together to receive you in that sacrament, come and abide spiritually in our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace. Never let us fear that we are ever separated from you, from one another, from your creation. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and the life to come. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Please pray in your own preferred language.

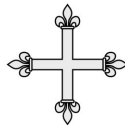
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos
Santificado sea tu Nombre
Venga a nosotros tu Reino
Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia
Perdona nuestras ofensas
Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen**



Sending

Blessing

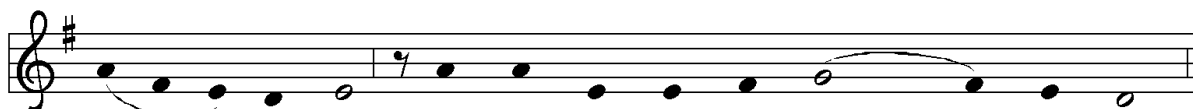
The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey.

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.



- 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
- 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
- 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
- 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,
 and open wide our heav'nly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come,
 O Cornerstone that binds in one:
 refresh the hearts that long for you;
 restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel,
 that mourns in lonely exile here
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Dismissal

Go in peace.
Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Toccata on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Andrew Carter (b.1939)



WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTERS

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

Members of the Schola Cantorum

Sarah Pfanz, *soprano*

Jenny Farrar, *alto*

Ralph Watkins, *tenor*

Jeff Jox, *baritone*

Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright © 2006, administered by Augsburg Fortress.

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 3174-W.

Reprinted from Sundays and Seasons, Year C 2018-2019, copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress.

Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 4182-C.