



+ Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
304 Morewood Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
St_andrewELCA@verizon.net
www.standrewpittsburgh.org

+ Fourth Sunday of Advent
Order for Worship

*God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne.
The angel Gabriel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus.
She is perplexed by the angel'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 goes to the cross still find it a mystery hard to fathom,
but today, with Mary, we hear the good news of what God is up to
and once again have the opportunity to say, "Count us in."*

Prelude *Oh, Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel*

Welcome

Gathering Hymn **Savior of the Nations, Come** ***ELW 263***
v. 1-2, 6

**1 Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.**

**2 Not by human flesh and blood,
but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh,
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.**

**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. Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
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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.

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 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.

C: Amen.

Reading – 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the 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.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I 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. ⁷Wherever 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?” ⁸Now 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; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹from 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. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Luke 1: 46b-55 **My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness, Lord** *Following Page*

Luke 1: 46b-55 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness, Lord ELW 251



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer - cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem - ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth - less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune
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Second Reading – Romans 16: 25-27

²⁵Now 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 ²⁶but 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—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

P: Alleluia. Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.
Alleluia.

Gospel – Luke 1: 26-38

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Word

Children's Song Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah ELW 240
v. 1-4

1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel,

God fulfills the promise.

2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,

gently lead them homeward.

**3 Light three candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.**

**Lift your heads and lift high the gateway
for the King of glory.**

**4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.**

**He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!**

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954. Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-722139.

Sermon

*To lift up the poetic imagery of our hymnody,
the Hymn of the Day will be spoken during the season of Advent.*

Hymn of the Day Unexpected and Mysterious

ELW 258

**1 Unexpected and mysterious
is the gentle word of grace.
Everloving and sustaining
is the peace of God's embrace.
If we falter in our courage
and we doubt what we have known,
God is faithful to console us
as a mother tends her own.**

**2 In a momentary meeting
of eternity and time,
Mary learned that she would carry
both the mortal and divine.
Then she learned of God's compassion,
of Elizabeth's great joy,
and she ran to greet the woman
who would recognize her boy.**

**3 We are called to ponder myst'ry
and await the coming Christ,
to embody God's compassion
for each fragile human life.
God is with us in our longing
to bring healing to the earth,
while we watch with joy and wonder
for the promised Savior's birth.**

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961. Text © 2002 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

Prayers of the People

P: God of power and love, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world, as we offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all creation.

After each petition

P: Hear us, O God;

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Benediction

P: The Creator of the heavens and the earth
bless you in your Advent waiting,
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,
the sustaining Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever.
C: Amen.

Dismissal

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

Sending Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
v. 1-2, 6-8

ELW 257

**1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way. *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***

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
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Abbreviations

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

L: Lector

C: Congregation

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal

Those serving in worship today

Prelude	Jimmi and Timothy Kocher-Hillmer
Welcome	Chris Atwood
Gathering Hymn	Jimmi Kocher-Hillmer, Organ Richard Krug, Vocals
Lector	Lester Prince
Luke 1: 46b-55	Richard Krug, Vocals Sue Gaugler, Piano
Children's Song	Asplin Family, Vocals Maria Mangano, Clarinet
Hymn of the Day (Spoken)	Jimmi and Timothy Kocher-Hillmer
Sending Hymn	Richard Krug
Director of Faith Formation	Christopher Atwood
Presiding Minister	Pastor Ross Carmichael

Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements

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