



+ Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021



St. Andrew Lutheran Church
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+ Fourth Sunday of Advent Order for Worship

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in Holy Communion – with high delight – "we proclaim the Lord's death."

A few notes on precautions and protocols, which apply to everyone regardless of vaccination status, as St. Andrew returns to worship in the sanctuary:

- Face masks that fully cover both your mouth and nose are required at all times for everyone over the age of two (2) – the only exception being the brief moment of moving mask aside to partake in Holy Communion.
- Outside food and drink are thus not permissible during worship.
- Physical distancing of at least six (6) feet will be observed at all times for people not from your household.
- We invite the congregation to voice responses and prayers during worship. A cantor will sing the hymns with a mask on, and the rest of the congregation is encouraged to follow along silently.
- We ask that everyone use hand sanitizer, either your own or from the bottles throughout the sanctuary, especially prior to Holy Communion.

***Worship Services are live streamed to multiple online platforms.
By attending worship, you agree that your image and voice may be broadcast.***

Welcome

Prelude

Gathering

Please rise as you are able.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in God's tender mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God for whom we wait,

**C: In the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.**

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

**We falter in our call to tend your creation
and to care for our neighbors.**

We fear those different from ourselves.

We seek identity and security through material wealth.

**We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.**

Amen.

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

✝ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,

inheritors of the eternal promise,

and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C: Amen.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

One of the best-known customs for the season of Advent is the Advent wreath. The wreath and winter candle-lighting in the midst of growing darkness in the Northern Hemisphere strengthen some of the Advent images found in the Bible. The unbroken circle of greens is intended as an image of everlasting life, a victory wreath, the crown of Christ, and/or the wheel of time.

Christians use the wreath as a sign that Christ reaches into our time to lead us to the light of everlasting life. The four candles mark the progress of the four weeks of Advent and the growth of light. In many homes, the family gathers for prayers around the wreath – as we gather in worship as a congregation each week, we progressively light the candles of the wreath and pray together.

P: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God our Savior, for you have done great things for us and holy is your name. In the promise of your son, you have assured us of your presence with us, lifted up the lowly, and filled the hungry with good things.

As we light this candle, turn us again to the promise you made to our ancestors; that we may trust in you to restore us, and that by your mercy we shall be saved.

C: Amen.

P: O house of David, come,

C: Let us rejoice, for the Son of the Most High is coming soon.

*We ask that those present in the church sanctuary refrain from singing the hymns aloud.
The assembly gathered from afar is encouraged to sing!*

Gathering Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

ELW 257

v. 1-2

**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***

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 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.

Please be seated.

Word

First Reading – Micah 5: 2-5a

²But 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80: 1-7

*The psalm will be led by the lector,
with congregation responding with the verses indicated in bold.*

- ¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- ²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- ³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- ⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**
- ⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- ⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- ⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading – Hebrews 10: 5-10

- ⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
- ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
- ⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”
- ⁸When 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), ⁹then he added,
“See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And
it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ
once for all.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation *(Spoken)*

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

Gospel – Luke 1: 39-45 [46-55]

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

Luke's Gospel continues with the Magnificat, Mary's song of celebration, proclaimed through the words of the hymn "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness."

Hymn

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

ELW 251

1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;

I sing my Savior's praise!

**You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.**

**Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.**

2 To all who live in holy fear

your mercy ever flows.

**With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.**

**The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;**

**the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.**

3 To Israel, your servant blest,

your help is ever sure;

**the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.**

**Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,**

**and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.**

Text: *With One Voice*, based on the Magnificat. Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958. Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

At the conclusion of the hymn

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Please rise as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

**Savior of the Nations, Come
v. 1-3, 6**

ELW 263

- 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.**
- 3 Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—
from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son,
eager now his race to run!**
- 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, 1483-11546; tr. hymnal version. Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524. Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under Onelicense.net # A-722139.

Prayers of the People

P: Strengthened by God's promises through Jesus Christ,
we pray for all people and places who yearn for God's presence.

After each petition

P: Hear us, O God;

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of new life, you come among us in places we least expect.

Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Focus on All God's Gifts and Our Response

While Mary is expecting her child, she goes to visit her relative Elizabeth, who is filled with the Holy Spirit and pronounces a blessing on Mary and the fruit of her womb, especially praising her faith in the fulfillment of God's promise. Mary responds by singing a song of joy, the Magnificat: "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." She proclaims that God the Almighty, has done great things for her, and she celebrates God's faithfulness to generations past as well as what God will do for God's people in the future.

Over the past two weeks, we have considered God's work among us at St. Andrew and the joy that comes from God's presence with us in this community. Today in the spirit of Mary, we are invited to respond: What shall I return for all that God has done? We are invited today to dedicate our gifts as a grateful response to God's gifts and an offering before God for the year ahead. If you have brought your Estimate of Giving sheet from home, please have it ready at this time. If you do not have an Estimate of Giving card, but would like to make a commitment, an usher will provide you with one. A basket is available at the front of the worship space for those who would like to offer their commitments. Participation is voluntary and we understand that this may not be applicable to visitors who are here today. If you are not in a place to make a commitment but would like to write down God's gifts for which you are thankful, please do so and bring them forward as your offering of thanksgiving.

Music as Commitments and Offerings Are Dedicated

We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW 686

Dedication of Gifts

P: People of God, rejoice and give thanks for God's work and presence among us!

P: Blessed are you, Almighty God,

C: for you have done great things for us and holy is your name.

**We thank you for your many blessings in our lives and in this community,
and for the joy of your presence through our coming Savior Jesus Christ.**

P: O God, you have fulfilled your promises to your people throughout the generations,
bringing joy and hope to the world you love. Your gifts change us. And so,
our giving of your gifts changes us, too.

**C: In our giving, we are blessed. Inspire us by your grace and love through Jesus Christ,
and lead us to respond generously in our lives and vocations. Strengthen us in the
commitments we make today, that we may join in your good works and share your
redeeming love with all the world.**

P: Amen. Thanks be to God!

C: Thanks be to God!

*We offer ourselves, our gifts, and our faithful service to God.
An offering plate is available at the back of the sanctuary
for those who would like to offer gifts as you leave worship today.
The table is prepared for Holy Communion.*

Meal

Please rise as you are able.

Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray. God of our watching and waiting,

**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.

Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...
... and join their unending hymn.

Sanctus

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life ...
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 look with hope for Christ's coming.
C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit ...
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours ...
one God, now and forever.
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.**

Fraction and Invitation

Agnus Dei / Lamb of God

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated.

Holy Communion

- *Please use hand sanitizer prior to receiving Communion.*
- *We will not be kneeling at the altar rail due to the need for physical distancing.*
- *Worshippers from the pulpit side will proceed forward first, followed by the center section, and then the lectern side.*
- *The Communion wafers (regular and gluten-free) have been thoughtfully prepared using the gifts of the congregation by a member of St. Andrew's altar care team, with a drop of wine or grape juice on each. The presiding minister will distribute one to each communicant from the ciborium using sanitary tongs.*
- *When you reach the presiding minister, please indicate if you would like grape juice or a gluten-free wafer.*
- *A blessing will be provided for anyone who does not yet receive the sacrament, following physical distancing guidelines.*
- *Everyone is asked to wait until you return to your place to consume the elements, and then promptly replace your mask.*

Hymn during Holy Communion

Toda la tierra / All Earth Is Hopeful

ELW 266

English

- 1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
this, the labor of people who struggle to see
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;
new highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

- 4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

Spanish

- 1 Toda la tierra espera al Salvador
y el surco abierto, la obra del Señor;
es el mundo que lucha por la libertad,
reclama justicia y busca la verdad.

- 2 Dice el profeta al pueblo de Israel:
"De madre virgen ya viene Emmanuel,"

será "Dios con nosotros," hermano será,
con él la esperanza al mundo volverá.

- 3 Montes y valles habrá que preparar;
nuevos caminos tenemos que trazar.
Él está ya muy cerca, venidlo a encontrar,
y todas las puertas abrid de par en par.

**4 En una cueva Jesús apareció,
pero en el mundo está presente hoy.
Vive en nuestros hermanos, con ellos está;
y vuelve de nuevo a darnos libertad.**

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946. Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé. Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

When all have returned to their places, please rise as you are able.

Blessing

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

Prayer

P: Let us pray.
God for whom we wait,
in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things.
Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

Sending

Benediction

P: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

P: The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.
C: Thanks be to God!

Abbreviations

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

L: Lector

C: Congregation

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal

Those serving in worship today

Piano

Cantor

Lector

Director of Faith Formation

Presiding Minister

Lily Cai

Richard Krug

Lester Prince

Christopher Atwood

Pastor Ross Carmichael

Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements

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