

December 19, 2020 ~ 5:00 p.m.

Fourth Sunday in Advent



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

*Our Mission:
To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 19, 2020 ~ 5:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

The final Sunday of Advent is the last “little Easter” before the Church celebrates the birth of the Savior at Christmas. As an angel shared the good news of Jesus’ resurrection, so the angel Gabriel shares with Mary the good news of the Savior’s coming birth. God has promised to be present with His people, and now that presence is fully “in person” in the person of Jesus. The presence of God among and for His people is certain and everlasting. His kingdom endures forever and ever!

PRESERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Candle of Love.

The time to feel the hope, peace, joy and love given to us in the greatest gift from God, God’s Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Pastor: ⁷ Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. *(1 John 4:7-8 New International Version (NIV))*

Pastor: “We light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope,

People: **to remind us of the hope that the people of Israel had for the coming of the Messiah.”**

(The first candle is lit)

Pastor: “We light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace,

People: **to remind us of the peace that enters our lives when we experience the presence of Jesus Christ.”**

(The second candle is lit)

Pastor: "We light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy,
People: **to remind us of the joy the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born."**

(The third candle is lit)

Pastor: "We light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love,
People: **to remind us of the love that God shares with the world through the birth of God's Son.**

(The fourth candle is lit)

Pastor: ⁹This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. (*1 John 4:9-12 New International Version (NIV)*)

Pastor: O God, creator of Love, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to model true unconditional love for us.

People: **May all that we say and do be done in love and to the glory of Your Holy name. Amen.**

HYMN

"Come, O Precious Ransom, Come"

[Johann Olearius / August Crull. Public Domain]

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!

My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray you;
Evermore, as best I can,
Homage I will gladly pay you,
And in faith I will embrace
Life eternal by your grace.

Hail! Hosanna! David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let your kingdom, scepter, crown
Bring us blessing and salvation
That forever we may sing:
Hail! hosanna to our king!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

People: Merciful Father, our Lord and King, we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not always made Your kingdom of first importance in our lives. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

Pastor: God is gracious and forgiving. He shows His kingly power in ways that are merciful. To each of us our Lord says, "Fear not!" and promises pardon, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Strengthen Your gift of faith in us, and keep us by Your power to be Your own; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: **2 Samuel 7:1–11,16** *(The Lord's covenant with David)*

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent."

³Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling.

⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”

⁸ “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:

¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Pastor: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

People: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Pastor: Behold, your king is coming to you;

People: righteous and having salvation.

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: From the house of the Lord we bless you.

EPISTLE: Romans 16:25–27 (Doxology)

²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:26–38 (The birth of Jesus foretold)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary.

²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

"A Great and Mighty Wonder"

(v 1, 2, 4, 5)

[John M. Neale / St. Germanus. Public domain]

A great and mighty wonder,
A full and holy cure:
The virgin bears the infant
With virgin honor pure!

REFRAIN:

**Repeat the hymn again:
"To God on high be glory
And peace on earth to men!"**

The Word becomes incarnate
And yet remains on high,
And cherubim sing anthems
To shepherds from the sky. **(Refrain)**

Since all he comes to ransom,
By all be he adored,
The infant born in Beth'lem,
The Savior and the Lord. **(Refrain)**

All idol forms shall perish,
And error's arguing,
And Christ shall wield his scepter,
Our Lord, our God, our King! **(Refrain)**

SERMON: "The King's House," *2 Samuel 7:1–11,16*

APOSTLES' CREED

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us come before our Lord in prayer, asking Him to hear our prayer and grant us love.

Pastor: Lord of love, during this season of Advent, prepare our hearts that we would be made ready to receive Your Son as He comes in His incarnation and birth,. Make us ever ready for His final coming on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us love.

Pastor: Lord of love, You have called Your Church to bear witness to Christ's redeeming work. Grant that we boldly proclaim the Good News of the One who brings joy to the world through His life, death, and resurrection, that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us love.

Pastor: Lord of love, You have instructed us to pray for workers in your harvest field. Raise up faithful and loving teachers of Your Word so that Christ may be proclaimed near and far. Make us Your instruments to encourage and equip individuals for work in Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us love.

Pastor: Lord of love, we ask that You stretch forth Your almighty arm to protect the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces of our land. Support them, granting them courage and loyalty. Strengthen them to serve with integrity and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us love.

Pastor: Lord of love, (Special petitions). Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer and grant us love.

Pastor: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy and Your promise to hear us for the sake of the One in whose name we come, Your Son, Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN

"Let Us All With Gladsome Voice"

[Catherine Winkworth. Public Domain]

Let us all with gladsome voice
Praise the God of heaven,
Who, to make our hearts rejoice,
His own Son has given.

To this place of fears he came,
Servant, healer, mender;
Through his death we heaven claim,
There to reign in splendor.

We are rich, for he was poor;
Is not this a wonder?
Therefore praise God evermore
Here on earth and yonder.

Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,
Oh, be ever near us.
Be our joy throughout each year.
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

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Serving Us Today

Pastor ... Rev. Dennis Krueger

Organist ... Katherine Herman

Singer ... Mark Ganschow, Marie Thompson

Reader ... Joan Sullivan

Altar ... Judy Boersch

Deacon ... Mark Ganschow