



LIVING WORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Growing Family of Faith

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PASTORAL GREETING

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (please rise as you are able)

Please read in unison: Luke 2:8-14

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

P. Let us pray, **C. Dear God, we light the fourth candle of Advent, the Candle of the Angels. As our Advent pilgrimage draws to completion, grant us the sense of awe, holiness, and worship that the Angels have taught us by their example. Let us, with all the Angels of Heaven and the Saints who have gone before, bow down now and worship the Newborn Savior. Amen**

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

P: We are called together to worship today in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen!**

P. Lord Jesus Christ, we await your coming.

C. We wait filled with hope,

P. Knowing Your light will shine in the darkness.

C. We wait with joy,

P. Filling us in expectation of Your birth.

C. We wait anticipating Your peace,

P. Believing that one day it will fill our world.

C. We wait embracing Your love,

P. May we reach out to share it with our neighbors.

All: Lord, we wait. Come soon and fill us with Your life.

GATHERING SONG "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 1 and 5

PRAYER OF CONFESSION TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

P: Most merciful God,

C. Father God, it is never easy for us to confess our sins. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Look with grace upon us and prepare us for His return. May we open our hearts to Him and receive the gifts of hope, joy, peace, and love which You offer. Amen

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Congregational response: **AMEN**

(Please be seated)

WORSHIP SONG “Angels We Have Heard on High”

SCRIPTURE LESSONS **FIRST LESSON**

R. The first lesson is from the book of Romans 16: 25-27:

²⁵ Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore.

R. This is the word of the Lord ***C. Thanks be to God.***

RESPONSIVE PSALM R. The responsive Psalm is Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26:

R. ¹ I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

C. ² For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

R. ³ You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

C. ⁴ ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’”

R. ¹⁹ Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said: “I have granted help to one who is mighty; I have exalted one chosen from the people.

C. ²⁰ I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him,

R. ²¹ so that my hand shall be established with him; my arm also shall strengthen him.

C. ²² The enemy shall not outwit him; the wicked shall not humble him.

R. ²³ I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

C. ²⁴ My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him, and in my name shall his horn be exalted.

R. ²⁵ I will set his hand on the sea and his right hand on the rivers.

C. ²⁶ He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’

R. Here ends the reading of the Psalm. Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL LESSON (Please rise as you are able)

P. The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke 1:26-38:

C. Glory to you, O Lord

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P. This is the Gospel of the Lord. ***C. Praise to you, O Christ.***

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through Him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Please be seated)

SERMON SONG “Here I Am Lord”

MESSAGE Pastor Michael Birnbaum

OFFERING PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

P. Let us pray.....**C. God of Grace, in the midst of a season so focused on shopping and finding the right gift, we give our gifts now to You. May what we give today, and in the days to come, be bathed in the knowledge that Yours is the most perfect gift and the one we need the most. We pray in the holy name of the Christ Child, the Prince of Peace.**

Following general prayers, you are encouraged to share other prayer concerns out loud. Please close your prayer concern with “Lord in your mercy”.

HOLY COMMUNION

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.**

P. It is indeed right and salutary.....we praise your name and join their unending proclamation: **C. (singing) Holy, holy, holy,**

My heart, my heart adores you!

My heart is glad to say, the words:

You are holy, Lord!

Communion Prayer, Consecration of Elements, Lord’s Prayer

(Please be seated during distribution of communion)

We welcome everyone to the Lord’s Table who shares the Biblical belief that He is present (1 Cor. 10:16) and our sins are being forgiven as He promises (Matt.26:28). This sacrament is a truly wonderful opportunity to share this miracle and our oneness as the Body of Christ together! (1Cor. 10:17-18)

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE *(please rise as you are able)*

Thank the Lord and sing His praise

tell ev-ery-one what He has done

Let all who seek the Lord re-joice

and proud-ly bear His name.

He re-calls His prom-is-es

and leads His pe-ople forth in joy

With shouts of thanks-giv-ing

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING/ BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG “How Majestic is Your Name”

P. Watch out! Be alert! **C. Christ comes when you least expect it!**

God Bless You! See you next week. Bring a friend or relative!

- **Dec. 24-CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 6:30 PM JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL WORSHIP OF CAROLS, CANDLELIGHT AND COMMUNION. WHO ARE YOU BRINGING WITH YOU??**



COMING UP:

Dec. 27-First Sunday of Christmas Worship
Jan. 1-HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

O Come O Come Emmanuel (v. 1 and 5)

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O Come O Key of David come
And open wide our heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

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Angels We Have Heard on High (Gloria)

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountain in reply
Echo back their joyous strains
Chorus Gloria in excelsis Deo (2X)

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song
Chorus

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King
Chorus

See within a manger laid
Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
With us sing our Savior's birth
Chorus

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Here I Am Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky
I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in dark and sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night
I will make the darkness bright
Who will bear my light to them
Whom shall I send?

Chorus Here I am Lord, Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night
I will go Lord, if you lead me
I will hold your people in my heart.

I the Lord of wind and flame
I will tend the poor and lame
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide,
'Til their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them.
Whom shall I send?

Chorus

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How Majestic Is Your Name

Oh Lord our Lord how majestic is
Your name in all the earth
Oh Lord our Lord how majestic is
Your name in all the earth
Oh Lord we praise Your name
Oh Lord we magnify Your name
Prince of Peace Mighty God
Oh Lord God Almighty

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