



Blessed Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2020



Fourth
Sunday of Advent

**HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED AT BOTH OUR
5:30PM SATURDAY AND 9AM SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE**

Oneness at communion presupposes oneness in doctrine. For this reason we practice close communion, and ask guests desiring to commune to speak with the pastor before the service. To those communicants with dietary needs we offer gluten free wafers.

AS WE GATHER

We stand at the threshold not only of an old and familiar story but also that of an old yet familiar mystery, the greatest mystery ever told. It doesn't appear on any list of greatest novels or plays written by earthly authors. It is the mystery of God. More specifically, it is the mystery of His love for the salvation of the world. But as we prepare to review the mystery of God—the Son of God becoming incarnate in our human flesh and born of the Virgin Mary—the greater mystery is that He, Jesus, looks over your shoulder now in the retelling and hearing of Christmas. The greater mystery is that you not only know the old, familiar story but also that you believe it. And believing brings about the best mystery of all—that your sins are forgiven, that you have a new, eternal life, that you are forever a child, a son, a daughter born of God. The Gospel—the wisdom and mystery of God—is no longer a secret. For it is told by your own mouth singing of God's love and salvation in Jesus Christ.

THE VAJDA HYMN SERVICE

WORDS OF WELCOME

Elder of the Day

EXPLANATION & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

OPENING HYMN

“From East to West”

LSB 385

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

Pastor: Blessed is the fruit of Mary's womb!

People: He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord!

Pastor: His flock shall dwell secure.

People: And He will be their peace.

Pastor: My soul magnifies the Lord,

People: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

People: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!

KYRIE

(Sung to the melody “Amazing Grace”)

Tune LSB 744

Look down in mercy on us, Lord,

Receive our prayers and praise,

Eternal Father, Spirit, Word,

For your amazing grace.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: That our eyes and our ears may be open to receive the mystery of God's love, let us first empty ourselves of everything that has closed our hearts to God, confessing our sin and need of forgiveness and life.

People: At the Lord's own invitation and command, I confess all my sins to God, the very thoughts, words, and deeds with which I have offended Him and hurt my neighbor. I come now in the sincere hope and faith of the forgiveness of God made known to the whole world in the mystery of His Son, Jesus Christ, who has sacrificed His own flesh and blood for me. Remove my sin and guilt for His sake, and restore a right spirit within me. Amen.

Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

GLORIA (Sung to the melody "Hark the Herald Angels Sing") *Tune LSB 380*

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| <p>1. Angels, sing, and earth, reply:
"Glory be to God on high!"
God who flung the stars in space,
God who formed the human race,
God the mind and God the cause,
God the source of nature's laws,
God of wisdom, power, and love,
God of gods, all gods above.
Angels, sing, and earth, reply:
"Glory be to God on high!"</p> | <p>2. Angels, sing, and earth, reply:
"Glory be to God on high!"
God who saw your creatures fall,
Loved them still, and loved them all,
Gave your only Son to prove
What is mercy, what is love;
And the Spirit, given free,
Recreates your family.
Angels, sing, and earth, reply:
"Glory be to God on high!"</p> |
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SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: 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. Amen.

✠ READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, 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: Would you build me a house to dwell 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 for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges 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, that you should 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 dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men 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. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM ~ Read Responsively

Psalm 89:1-5

Leader: I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;

People: with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

Leader: For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;

People: in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

Leader: You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

People: I have sworn to David my servant:

Leader: 'I will establish your offspring forever,

People: and build your throne for all generations.'"

Leader: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,

People: your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

All: Glory be 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.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 16:25-27

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 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—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And 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. And 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." And 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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON HYMN

"Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring"

LSB 353

SERMON

"A Promised House"

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

CREED

(Sung to the melody "Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise")

Tune LSB 802

1. Great God, our Creator, from whom all receive
Their being and blessing, in You we believe
Almighty, all-knowing, all-gracious, all-true,
Provider and Father, our trust is in You.
2. And You, Jesus Christ, we affirm as our Lord,
True Son of the Father, by angels adored;
Redeemer incarnate, You paid for our sins,
And, joined in Your rising, our new life begins.
3. Free Spirit of wisdom, of power and love,
On us, as on Christ, You descend from above;
You call us, You cleanse us, You open our eyes,
You keep us in peace, You restore paradise.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Pastor: Almighty God, as we draw closer to the grand celebration of the incarnation and birth of Your beloved Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we thank You for making known the mystery of Your love from the very first promise to Adam and Eve, through the continued witness of the holy prophets, apostles, and evangelists, and finally through Your living voice through the ministers of Your Church to this day.

People: Grant that Your living Word ever call us and all sinners to repentance and faith in Your only-begotten Son.

Pastor: Keep all You have called to preach and teach and care for Your people in true faith, guard them against the attacks of the evil one, and give them health and joy in their ministry.

People: Send Your Spirit over the whole world that those who lead in the authority of government acknowledge Your laws and will, making for times of peace that we may live faithfully in safety.

Pastor: By Your Holy Word and Sacrament, strengthen us to obedient living. Send Your grace, mercy, peace, and love to surround our families, inspire those of various vocations in the world, comfort, defend, and heal all those in times of illness or distress. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: (Special Petitions ending in...“Lord, in Your mercy”),

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: By the mystery of our Lord’s incarnation, His life of obedient faith, and His substitutionary death on the cross,

People: establish us in the one true faith, and strengthen us in lives obedient to Your holy will.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

OFFERING

LORD’S PRAYER

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† SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT †
(5:30PM SATURDAY & 9:00AM SUNDAY)

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

(*Sung to the melody "Holy, Holy, Holy"*)
 "Holy, Holy, Holy!" all the saints in glory
 Fill Your temple with their song around Your golden throne;
 "Holy, Holy, Holy!" with them we adore You;
 God in three Persons, all in Christ as one.

Tune LSB 507

WORDS OF INSTITUTION**AGNUS DEI**

(*Sung to the melody "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"*)

Tune LSB 702

Meek, slaughtered Lamb of God,
 You bore the sinner's load
 To buy our peace:
 Now risen and enthroned,
 With life and glory crowned,
 To all the lost and found
 Please grant Your peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:**HYMN****"Still Still Still"**

CM 10

Traditional Austrian Folk Carol

1. Still, still, still, He sleeps in this night so still. His mother's caring arms enfolding, Warm and safe the baby is holding, still, still, still, He sleeps in this night so still.
2. Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in a slumber deep. While angel hosts from heav'n come winging, Sweetest songs of praise they are singing, Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in a slumber deep.

HYMN**"The Holly and the Ivy"**

CM 7

Traditional English Carol; Public Domain

1. The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown,
 Of all the trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown: *Refrain.*

Refrain:

The rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
 The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.

2. The holly bears a blossom, As white as lily flow'r,
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, To be our dear Savior: *Refrain.*
3. The Holly bears a berry, As red as any blood,
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, To do poor sinners good. *Refrain.*
4. The holly bears a prickle, As sharp as any thorn,
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, On Christmas in the morn: *Refrain.*
5. The holly bears a bark, As bitter as the gall,
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, For to redeem us all: *Refrain.*

HYMN

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

LSB 393

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”

LSB 390



OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

SATURDAY

Alan Carlson
Elder
Kris Deardoff
Organist

SUNDAY

Bill Erck
Elder
Bella Reif
Karlee Small
Acolytes
Kris Deardoff
Organist

Mike Beyer
Congregational Chairman
Rick Melius
Head Elder
Tom Jass
Head Trustee



**Have a
Blessed
Christmas**