

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent



AS WE GATHER

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

+ +

(Quiet Entry)

PRELUDE "Do You Hear What I Hear" "Carol of the Bells" Shirley Murray

(Please stand as you are able)

ADVENT DIALOGUE

P Blessed is the one who comes as sovereign, who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.**

P I will hear what the Lord God has to say—

C **a voice that speaks for peace.**

P Peace for all people and for friends of God,

C **And those who turn to God in their hearts.**

P God's help is near for those who stand in awe of God,

C **And God's glory will shine around us.**

P Blesses in the one who comes as sovereign, who comes in the name of the Lord.

C **Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.**



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

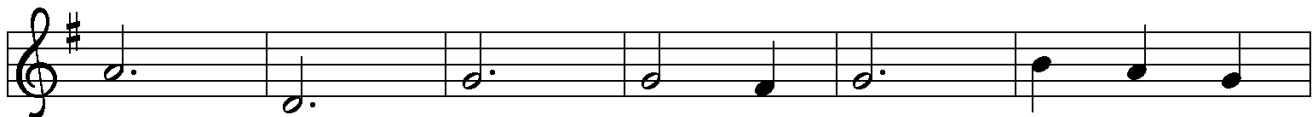


your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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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 Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

C **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. Amen**

(Please be seated)

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE - THE ANGELS' MESSAGE: Obey

During Advent we remember God's faithfulness shown to us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God's humility set before us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God's commands, spoken to us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

During Advent we remember God's incredible love shared with us.

Help our lives to reflect your ways, O Lord.

Today we light four candles. The **first candle** reminds us that during Advent we hear again the good news of ultimate hope offered through Jesus Christ. The **second candle** calls us to believe that just as God fulfilled the promise to the Israelites, God's plan continues to unfold in our world today. The **third candle** calls us to accept that with God nothing is beyond possibility, for we serve a God who can do all things. We light the **fourth candle** as a call to faithful obedience to the ways of God. As we continue our Advent journey, let us hear what God has spoken, believe what God has promised, accept what God has revealed, and obey what God has commanded.

P Gracious God, open our eyes to the wonders you have done, open our ears to the promises you have spoken, and open our hearts that we might become the people you have called us to be. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen**



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



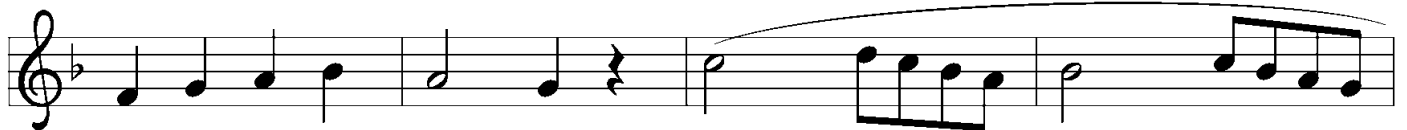
and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain

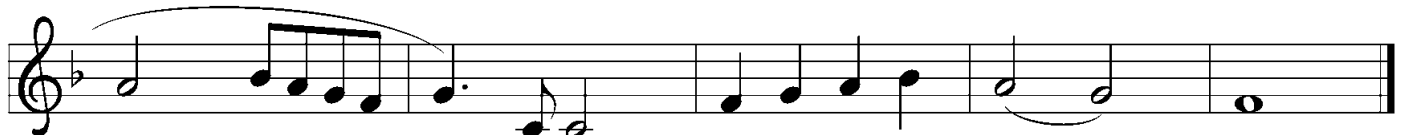


Glo

ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
 Music: GLORIA, French carol

SHARED MINISTRY REMINDERS

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

A A reading from 2 Samuel

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² the 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.” ³ Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.” ⁴ But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵ Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the

one to build me a house to live in? ⁶ 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 and a tabernacle. ⁷ Wherever 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?” ⁸ 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 to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ And 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, ¹¹ 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. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

A Word of God, Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

A A reading from Romans

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

A Word of God, Word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² 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 ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴ Mary

said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"³⁵ The 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."³⁶ And 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.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God."³⁸ Then 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.

(Please be seated)

REFLECTION

Pastor Tom O. Miller

(Please stand as you are able)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW 239

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

APOSTLES' CREED

P Let us profess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(After each petition concludes with ***"Lord, in your mercy"***, the congregation responds, ***"hear our prayer"***)

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P I invite you to share the Peace of Christ with one another.

(Please be seated)

GIFTS OF OFFERING

“Mary Did You Know”

(Please sign the red welcome roster and pass it on as a ritual of friendship. Then pass it back noting the names of those you’re worshipping with today.)

(Please stand as you are able)

OFFERING PRAYER

P Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 God thanks and praise.**

P It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ whose coming the prophets and John the Baptist announced with great joy. And so, with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C **Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God most high. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.**

P Make us bold, O merciful God, to address you as our Abba as we pray:
(Abba is an intimate word used by Jesus to address his Father – as we might say, Daddy)

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

(Please be seated)

**“Come to the Table”
Christmas Carols**



(Please stand as you are able)

P May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood,
strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever.

C Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P God for whom we wait,

C you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready
always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people
in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

P May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from
before your path. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and
forever.

C Amen



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Refrain
 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Joy to the World"

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lector: Len Merkel

Communion: Val Bryan, Linda Nugent,
Gib Hertler

Greeters: Beverly Riveness, Gene Lakey

Ushers: Charlotte Humphries, Jeff Potts

Altar Guild: Lorraine Wells

NOTES ON TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 - Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the Lord's anointed.

Romans 16:25-27 - Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

Luke 1:26-38 - In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little known places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.

COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK:

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Tuesday, December 26, 2017

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

John, Apostle and Evangelist

Wednesday, December 27, 2017

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel of John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Thursday, December 28, 2017

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.