Atonement Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 21st, 2025
Advent 4
1144 29th Avenue North
St. Cloud, MN 56303
(320) 252-6203

Pastor John Gabrielson
Pastor Tim Lindhorst
Director of Music Ministry Marcia Handahl
Associate Director of Music Eric Vollen
Worship Leader Jason Ploof
Handbell Choir Director Jordan Goodwater

PRELUDE

Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 4

GATHERING SONG (V.1,3,4) ELW 242

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less

geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and

lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: REJOICE, REJOICE, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW p. 94

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Almighty God…
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich…
Amen.

GREETING ELW p. 165

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE ELW p. 165

CHORAL ANTHEM *HOLDEN VILLAGE ANNUNCIATION & MAGNIFICAT*

LUKE 1:26-28, 30-32, 38

Leader: Angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 7:10-16

A reading from Isaiah.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

A reading from Romans.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 171

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 1:18-25

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY (V.1,2,4) *Prepare the Royal Highway* ELW 264

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.

Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain

Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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

…God of grace,
hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

CHORAL ANTHEM *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

Arr. Aaron David Miller
The Atonement Choir

OFFERING SONG *Create in Me a Clean Heart* ELW p. 172

Music: *Liturgy of Joy*, James M. Capers, b. 1948
Music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

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

PREFACE

SANCTUS *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* ELW 254

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER ELW p. 173

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION ELW p. 174

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God* ELW p. 174

COMMUNION HYMN *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly* WOV 634

1 Sing of Mar - y, pure and low - ly, vir - gin
2 Sing of Je - sus, son of Mar - y, in the
3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther; glo - ry

moth-er, wise and mild. Sing of God's own Son most ho - ly, who be -
home at Naz - a - reth. Toil and la - bor can - not wea - ry love en -
be to God the Son; glo - ry be to God the Spir - it; glo - ry

came her lit - tle child. Fair - est child of fair - est moth-er, God the
dur - ing un - to death. Con - stant was the love he gave her, though he
to the Three in One. From the heart of bless-ed Mar - y, from all

Lord who came to earth, Word made flesh, our ver - y
went forth from her side, forth to preach, and heal, and
saints the song as - cends, and the church the strain re -

broth - er, takes our na - ture by his birth.
suf - fer, till on Cal - va - ry he died.
ech - oes un - to earth's re - mot - est ends.

Text: Roland F. Palmer, 1891–1985
Music: RAQUEL, Skinner Chávez–Melo, 1944–1992

Music © 1985 Estate of Skinner Chávez–Melo

COMMUNION HYMN *Filled with Hope and Gratitude* ACS 907

1 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y
2 God's e - ter - nal mer - cy, meant for all of hu - man -
3 Hun - gry peo - ple eat good things and find an hon - ored
4 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y

God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -
kind, is giv - en as de - liv - 'rance from op -
place; the rich are sent a - way though they are
God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -

ta - tion, for God has smiled up -
pres - sion. The pow - er - ful and
hun - gry. The prom - ise to our
ta - tion, for God has smiled up -

on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her
haugh - ty find that they are now cast down, the
fore - bears God re - news for us to - day: the
on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her

own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.
low - ly raised be - yond this world's de - ri - sion.
world is filled with God's a - bun - dant mer - cy.
own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.

Text: Paul Damico-Carper, b. 1981, based on Luke 1:46-55
Music: ADVENT MAGNIFICAT, Paul Damico-Carper
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

SONG AFTER COMMUNION (VS 4) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* ELW 257

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG(V.1,2,5) *Christ, Be Our Light* ELW 715

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell.Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NEWS AND UPDATES:

PRAYER LIST

The Family of Earl Pederson	Mindy	Kitty R.	Wanda J.
The Family of Loren Krueger	Baby Kalha	Lainey M.	Angie L.
Debbie G.	Deon C.	Angie F.	
Christopher	Patsy M.	Pat & Brian R.	
Linda S.	Jane A.	Traci N.	
Bob E.	Jeffrey A.	Mark A.	
Tom K.	Eric P.	Stacey R.	

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Ed will not meet and will resume in January.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Atonement Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 10:00am after worship service. Please submit any agenda items for the church council to consider to Bruce Broman, Congregation President, by December 29, 2025.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Christmas Eve Services will be held at 3 pm and 6:30 pm at Atonement.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The Church office hours during the holidays are as follows:

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 – Closing at noon
Christmas Day, Dec. 25 – Holiday, Office Closed
Friday, Dec. 26 – Office Closed
Monday, Dec. 29 – Wednesday, Dec. 31- 8 am to 4:30 pm
Jan. 1 & 2 – Holiday, Office Closed

GENERAL FUND GIVING

Our General Fund keeps all of our ministries going—it pays for everything from the lights and heat being on for worship and Bible study, supports Wednesday youth programs and monthly mission outreach. It also ensures our building can provide a welcoming space for the many community organizations that support our neighbors.

If you are planning a year-end gift to the church, we ask that you please direct it to the General Fund. A gift made before the end of the current year will fill this immediate gap and allow us to start 2026 with confidence.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
21 **9 am Worship-Advent 4** 10 am Coffee Hour	**22**	**23**	**24** 12 pm Office Closed **3 pm Worship** **6:30 pm Worship**	**25** Office Closed Merry Christmas	**26** Office Closed	**27**
28 **9 am Worship-Lessons & Carols** 10 am Coffee Hour	**29**	**30**	**31** No Worship	**1** Office Closed Happy New Year!	**2** Office Closed	**3**