

# The Divine Service

## The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 20, 2020



### 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.

### Call to Worship / Check In

### Words of Welcome / Theme of the Day

### Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the (✝) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

### Confession and 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.

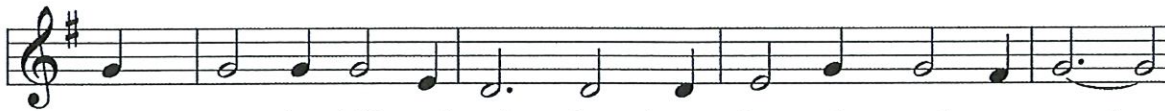
People: **Amen.**

## Processional Hymn "Prepare the Royal Highway"

LSB 343. Verses 1,3,4



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!  
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!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should 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:  
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!  
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

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### Greeting

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

### The Old Testament

2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

Reader: <sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."  
<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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?" <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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, <sup>11</sup>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. . . . <sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle**

*Romans 16:25-27*

Reader: <sup>25</sup>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 <sup>26</sup>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— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Children’s Message**

*Jeremy Becker*

**“The Candle Carol”**

**Light a candle for the bright Son  
 God sent down from above.  
 Advent news with joy we share  
 In the Spirit we love. Chorus.**

**Chorus:  
 Christ is in our family  
 Alleluia Sing!  
 Aren’t you glad  
 He came to be  
 Our Brother and our King.**

## Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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.

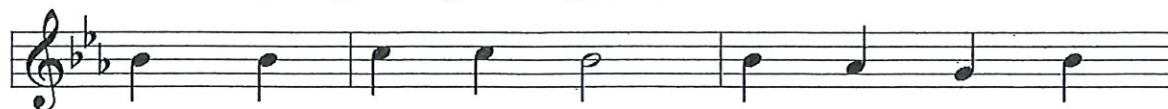
Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn of the Day "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" *LSB 345, verses 1,4,5*



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is  
4 So, when next He comes in glo - ry And the  
△ 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion To the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the  
world is wrapped in fear, He will shield us  
Fa - ther and the Son With the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, All you chil - dren of the day!"  
with His mer - cy And with words of love draw near.  
liv - ing Spir - it While e - ter - nal a - ges run!

**Sermon**      **"Mary...Hello? I Have Something to Tell You."**

*Pastor Scott Henze*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**People:**      **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**

*Petitions end, "Lord in your mercy" Congregation responds, "**Hear Our Prayer**"*

## **Gathering of Gifts**

### **Offertory Prayer**

**Pastor:**      Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**People:**      **Amen.**

***A word about Holy Communion:** We welcome to the Lord's Table all baptized Christians who believe in the Real Presence of Christ in this sacrament and believe that in this eating and drinking, we receive the forgiveness of sins and the power to amend our sinful lives. Children who have not yet been instructed may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over the chest thus indicating they will not receive the elements.*

## **Service of the Sacrament**

*Stand as you are able.*

### **Preface**

**Pastor:**      The Lord be with you.

**People:**      **And also with you.**

**Pastor:**      Lift up your hearts.

**People:**      **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

## Proper Preface

### Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:  
People: **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.**

## Words of Institution

### Peace of the Lord

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
People: **And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another with the peace of the Lord.*

## Agnus Dei



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## Distribution Hymn

### "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

*Ben & Karla Kalinsky, Instrumental*

## Dismissing the Table

## Post Communion Canticle



Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what



He has done. Let ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re -



joice and proud - ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-



es and leads His peo - ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks -



giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia.

## Post-Communion Collect

Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## Announcements

## Benediction

### Recessional Verse "Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB 348



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, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

## Dismissal

Pastor: Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

**People: Disciples making disciples.**

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**



## **Christmas Eve - Thursday, December 24**

- 5:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service (No Communion)
- 6:30 PM Candlelight Communion Service (New Time)
- 8:30 PM Candlelight Communion Service (New Time)
- 10:30 PM Candlelight Communion Service

## **Christmas Day - Friday, December 25**

### **The Nativity of Our Lord**

10:00 AM (New Time)

Worship with Holy Communion



### **ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL**

Rev. Scott Henze

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

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Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for children and Youth at 9:45 AM—Via Zoom

Adult Bible Study in person or livestreamed at 10:00 AM