

Concordia Lutheran Church & St. Mary's Episcopal Church
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020

Topic: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Time: December 20, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82324470555?pwd=Z3dCRVpwSlpjaTRZWlQvRHp-maUhXdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 2447 0555

Password: 0000

Use your telephone to call this number and enter the ID and Password.

You will be able to speak and to hear the service.

+16468769923,,82324470555#,#,0000# US (New York)

PRELUDES: *My Soul Praises the Lord (Magnificat)*

Johann Pachelbel, J.S. Bach
Organist John Anderson

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES - Fourth Week of Advent

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

The four candles are lighted

As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, stanza 1*

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

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reverend Johnson

Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Pastor Marschhausen

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Pastor Marschhausen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ **✝**, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Pastor Marschhausen

TRISAGION *Repeated three times*

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.

Reverend Johnson

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

Reader from St. Mary's

LESSON 2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, 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." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; 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: Are you the one to build me a house to live 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 and a tabernacle. 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?" 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; 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 live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers 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. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor Marschhausen

PSALM Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

Your love, O LORD, for ever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**'I will establish your line for ever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.'**"

You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: "I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

**I have found David my servant;
with my holy oil have I anointed him.**

My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong.

**No enemy shall deceive him,
nor any wicked man bring him down.**

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

**My faithfulness and love shall be with him,
and he shall be victorious through my Name.**

I shall make his dominion extend from the Great Sea to the River.

**He will say to me, 'You are my Father,
my God, and the rock of my salvation.'**

Reader from St. Mary's

LESSON ROMANS 16:25-27

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 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-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 2 "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady." Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name." Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Deacon Winzler proclaims

THE GOSPEL LUKE 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." 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.

The Gospel of our Savior.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Reverend Johnson

THE NICENE CREED

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

We 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.

We 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.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. **Amen.**

Reader from Concordia leads

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths (*Nearby churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues may be named*). Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence especially those on our parish prayer lists. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Intercessions and Thanksgivings follow.

Now I invite your prayers for all the needs of the world God so loved, silently or aloud.

*After each petition we pray, Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our Prayer.***

Reverend Johnson

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you; *N. and N.*. God mercifully grant you the riches of grace, that you may please God both in body and soul. God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, and, living together in faith and love, may receive the blessings of eternal life. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Marschhausen

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

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, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reverend Johnson

THE BLESSING

My friends, life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us, so be quick to love and make haste to be kind, and the blessing of God Almighty + Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

1 Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

2 Ev'ry eye shall now behold him robed in glorious majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall their true Messiah see.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!

4 Yea, amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory, claim the kingdom as thine own.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

Deacon Fedorchak dismisses the assembly

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

NOTES:

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DAILY READINGS FOR DECEMBER 21 – 26

Monday, December 21

Luke 1:46b-55
1 Samuel 1:1-18
Hebrews 9:1-14

Tuesday, December 22

Psalm 96
Zephaniah 3:8-13
Romans 10:5-13

Wednesday, December 23

Psalm 96
Zephaniah 3:14-20
Romans 13:11-14

Thursday, December 24

Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 9:2-7
Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]

Friday, December 25

Nativity of Our Lord

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4 [5-12]
John 1:1-14

Saturday, December 26

Psalm 148
Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15
Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60