

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Forever and Forever

December 20 & 21, 2014

5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

The final Sunday of Advent is the last “little Easter” before the Church celebrates the birth of the Savior at Christmas. As an angel shared the good news of Jesus’ resurrection, so the angel Gabriel shares with Mary the good news of the Savior’s coming birth. God has promised to be present with His people, and now that presence is fully “in person” in the person of Jesus. The presence of God among and for His people is certain and everlasting. His kingdom endures forever and ever!

WELCOME

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8, NIV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #338 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

OPENING SEQUENCE *Psalm 24:7*

Pastor: Throughout the Scriptures, our God is acclaimed and worshiped as the King of kings. In a psalm specially associated with the Advent season, the

psalmist exults, “Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.” In our time and place, we welcome our Advent King with the words of an ancient antiphon of the Church:

All: O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

ADVENT HYMN “Come, O Lord, We Wait in Hope”

Come, O Lord, we wait in hope, Prayer, and expectation.
Make our hearts to know the peace Of Your blest salvation.
Come, O Lord, our Morning Star, Light of light forever.
May our lives reflect the glow Of Your grace, O Savior.

Come, Lord Jesus, as the King Long anticipated,
Witnessed in prophetic Word, Joyfully awaited.
Come, Lord Jesus, and subdue Foes that would distress us.
Be our true and lasting joy; By Your advent bless us.

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

People: Merciful Father, our Lord and King, we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have left undone those things we ought to have done; we have done those things we ought not to have done. We have not always made your kingdom of first importance in our lives. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of your holy name.

Pastor: God is gracious and forgiving. He shows His kingly power in ways that are merciful. To each of us our Lord says, “Fear not!” and promises pardon, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: 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.

HYMN #357 **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** Stanzas 1, 6 & 7

During the singing of the hymn, all four candles on the Advent wreath are lighted.

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 thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. **Refrain**
(Be seated)

✕ WORD ✕

OLD TESTAMENT READING *2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16* (A house that lasts forever is promised.) After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you." That night the word of the Lord came to Nathan saying: "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, 'Why have you not built me a house of cedar?' " ' "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all

your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. " 'The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.' "

EPISTLE *Romans 16:25–27* (Glory is ascribed to God forever.)

Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him - to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:26–38* (The Annunciation to Mary of the birth of the Savior)

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #900 **“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love”**

Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Name all other names above,
Unto which must ev'ry knee Bow in deep humility.

4 continued

Jesus! Name decreed of old, To the maiden mother told,
Kneeling in her lowly cell, By the angel Gabriel.

Jesus! Name of priceless worth To the fallen of the earth
For the promise that it gave, "Jesus shall His people save."

Jesus! Name of mercy mild, Given to the holy Child
When the cup of human woe First He tasted here below.

Jesus! Only name that's giv'n Under all the mighty heav'n
Whereby those to sin enslaved Burst their fetters and are saved.

Jesus! Name of wondrous love, Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

SERMON

"How Will This Be?"

Luke 1:26-38

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, ***please sign our attendance book*** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

After each petition:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #350 "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come"

Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!

Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.

Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.

Enter now my waiting heart, Glorious King and Lord most holy.

Dwell in me and ne'er depart, Though I am but poor and lowly.

Ah, what riches will be mine When Thou art my quest divine!

My hosannas and my palms Graciously receive, I pray Thee;

Evermore, as best I can, Savior, I will homage pay Thee,

And in faith I will embrace, Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

Hail! Hosanna, David's Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!

Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, Bring us blessing and salvation,

That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King.

HYMN #934 "My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord"

My soul now magnifies the Lord; My spirit leaps for joy in Him.

He keeps me in His kind regard, And I am blest for time to come.

For He alone who shows such might Has done amazing things to me.

His mercy flows; His name like light Remains in time perpetually.

His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scatters those of proud intent
And casts them down from high estate, Then gives the low His nourishment.

He feeds the hungry as His own; The wealthy leave with empty hands.
He gives His help to Israel: His gracious promise always stands.

HYMN #516 “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

“Wake, awake, for night is flying,” The watchmen on the heights are crying;
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!” Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices: “Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take!
Alleluia! With bridal care Yourselves prepare
To meet the Bridegroom, who is near.”

Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom. For her Lord comes down all glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious; Her star is ris’n, her light is come.
Now come, Thou Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God’s own Son,
Hail! Hosanna! We enter all The wedding hall To eat the Supper at Thy call.

Now let all the heav’ns adore Thee, Let saints and angels sing before Thee
With harp and cymbals’ clearest tone. Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, joining with the choir immortal, We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might
Of Thy glory; Therefore will we Eternally Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give thanks to you, heavenly Father and King eternal, for you have
once again fed and nourished us at your Table through the body and
blood of your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. Strengthen us through this
gracious Meal that we may live without fear and confidently show forth
your love through acts of mercy. Support us in this life and bring us at last
to the unending feast in your eternal kingdom, where you live and reign
with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you
peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #333 “Once He Came in Blessing”

Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.

Soon will come that hour When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.

Come, then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You Till in heav’n we bless You.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist
Music Coordinator

Pastor Gregg Stanton
Pastor Harold Bender
Marc Stefanic, Bob Reynolds
Thomas Quigley, Brian Schaber
Roger Gottschalk
Kim Woller