

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday in Advent



Jesus Comes to Lift Up the Lowly



HOLY TRINITY
Lutheran Church

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 Evangelical
Lutheran
Synod

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Welcome to Holy Trinity

We're glad you came today to join us in worshipping the one true God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He has graciously created us, mercifully redeemed us, and freely gives us all the treasures of heaven through His Word and Sacraments!

If you are a visitor with us today, please sign the "GUEST" cards in the pews and give them to the ushers or pastor. If you want to find out more about what we teach, or are curious about church membership, please talk to our pastor.

A Parents' Room is located at the rear of the sanctuary if you need to temporarily leave to calm a child. Inside the Parents' Room you can still see, hear and participate in the worship service.

Wheelchair accommodations are found on the organ side of the church. If you do not use a wheelchair, be careful to leave space in these wheelchair accessible pews for the benefit of those who need them and their families.

HOLY TRINITY is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), a national church body headquartered in Mankato, Minnesota. We confess that we are saved by Grace Alone (Eph. 2:8) through Faith Alone (Acts 16:31) revealed in Scripture Alone (John 5:24). Though we are totally sinful from birth, Jesus Christ paid for our sins on the cross and gives us eternal life in heaven. We subscribe to the Lutheran Confessions (the Book of Concord, 1580) because they are a faithful and accurate summary of this Biblical doctrine. The ELS has been in fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) since 1872.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

Hymn • 137, “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*”

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. O little town of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie;
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by;
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth
 The everlasting Light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years
 Are met in thee tonight.</p> | <p>3. How silently, how silently
 The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts
 The blessings of His heav'n.
 No ear may hear His coming,
 But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him still,
 The dear Christ enters in.</p> |
| <p>2. For Christ is born of Mary,
 And, gathered all above,
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep
 Their watch of wond'ring love.
 O morning stars, together
 Proclaim the holy birth!
 And praises sing to God the King,
 And peace to all on earth.</p> | <p>4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin and enter in,
 Be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Immanuel!</p> |

Call to Worship

PASTOR *In the name of our Lord † Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we call on
 You, dear heavenly Father:*

CONGREGATION **Almighty Lord God, we stand in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word
 and to worship You with thanksgiving and prayer.**

Confession and Forgiveness

P *Rise up, O Lord! Save me, my God!*

C **For the sake of Your name, O Lord, preserve my life.**

P *Do not hide Your face from me. You have been my help.*

C **Do not reject me or forsake me, O God who saves me.**

P *O Lord, open my lips;*

C **And my mouth will declare Your praise.**

P *Hear us as we pray, O Lord:*

A **LL** **Almighty God, heavenly Father: I have sinned against You through my own fault, in thought, word, and deed. For the sake of the suffering, death, and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy upon me, forgive me all my sin, and bring me to everlasting life.**

P *Lift up your hearts! For the sake of the suffering, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, God has had mercy upon you, forgiven you all your sin, and brought you to everlasting life. Peace † be with you.*

Song of Praise • “Arise, O Christian People”

[CW93 14]

1. Arise, O Christian people!

Prepare yourselves today.

Prepare to greet the Savior,

Who takes your sins away.

To us by grace alone

The truth and light were given;

The promised Lord from heaven

To all the world is shown.

3. The humble heart and lowly

God raises up on high;

Beneath his feet in terror

The haughty soul shall lie.

The heart sincere and right,

That heeds God’s invitation

And makes true preparation –

It is the Lord’s delight.

4. Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;

Turn not from me aside,

And help me to receive you

This blessed Advent-tide.

From stall and manger low

Come now to dwell within me;

I’ll sing your praises gladly

And forth your glory show.

Prayer of the Day

☞ *Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

🗨 **Amen.**

-Be seated-

First Reading • Micah 5:2-5a

The lowly little town of Bethlehem would be lifted up. There a special son would be born who would bring spiritual peace to the ends of the earth.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,

though you are small among the clans of Judah,

from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel.

His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

³Therefore the Lord will give them up,

until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.

Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.

⁴He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the Lord,

in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵This one will be their peace.

☞ *This is the Word of the Lord.*

🗨 **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 85



I will hear what the Lord pro-claims: peace to his peo - ple.



You showed favor to your ^l land, O Lord; *
you restored the fortunes of ^l Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your ^l people *
and covered ^l all their sins.

Show us your unfailing ^l love, O Lord, *
and grant us your sal- ^l vation.

[Refrain]

I will listen to what God the ^l Lord will say; *
he promises peace to his people, ^l his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who ^l fear him, *
that his glory may dwell ^l in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet to- ^l gether, *
righteousness and peace kiss each ^l other.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son * and to the Holy | Spirit,
As it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | A-men.**

[Refrain]

Second Reading • *Hebrews 10:5-10*

We could not possibly raise ourselves up to God. So, the Son of God obeyed the law for us and by his sacrifice has made us holy. Christ has lifted up the lowly.

Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said:

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but you prepared a body for me.

⁶You were not pleased
with burnt offerings and sin offerings.

⁷Then I said, "Here I am.

I have come to do your will, God.

In the scroll of the book it is written about me."

⁸First he said:

Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law,
both burnt offerings and sin offerings,
you did not desire,
and you were not pleased with them.

⁹Then he said:

Here I am.

I have come to do your will.

He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.

☞ *This is the Word of the Lord.*

🗣️ **Thanks be to God!**

-Stand-

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

☐ *Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel. Alleluia.*



♩ Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel • Luke 1:39-55

<p style="text-align: center;">In Spirit-wrought humility, Mary knew she needed a Savior. God lifts her up, making her the mother of that Savior.</p>

In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰ She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" ⁴³ But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

⁴⁶ Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

P *Here ends the Gospel.*

G **Thanks be to God!**

Apostles Creed

A **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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there He shall 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.

-Be seated-

Sermon Hymn • 110, “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*”

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> | <p>5. O come, Thou 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> |
| <p>4. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse's stem;
From ev'ry foe deliver them
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> | <p>6. O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> |

Sermon • Luke 1:39-55**Have a Merry Christmas**

1. Recognizing your own lowliness.
2. Rejoicing in God's greatness.

Offering*-Stand-***Prayer of the Church****Lord's Prayer**

☩ 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.

*-Be seated-***Hymn • “Holy Is Your Name” (The Magnificat)***[CW21 956]*

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My soul is filled with joy
as I sing to God, my Savior.
You have looked upon your servant,
you have visited your people. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. I am lowly as a child,
but I know from this day forward
that my name will be remembered,
and the world will call me blessed. <i>Refrain</i> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Refrain:

**And holy is your name through all generations!
Everlasting is your mercy to the people you have chosen,
and holy is your name!**

3. I proclaim your pow'r, O God!
You work wonders for your servants;
you have scattered the proud-hearted,
you have lifted up the lowly. *Refrain*
4. To the hungry you give food,
send the rich away with nothing.
In your mercy you are mindful
of the people you have chosen. *Refrain*

**5. In your love you now fulfill
all you promised to your people.
I will praise you, God, my Savior,
everlasting is your mercy. Refrain**

-Stand-

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P *We give thanks to You, Lord God the Father, that You have given us Your only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

We give thanks to You, Lord Jesus Christ, that You have borne in Your sacred body all our sins, and by Your blood have blotted out all our transgressions.

We give thanks to You, Lord the Holy Spirit, that You have created in our hearts true faith, that we know of nothing to trust for our salvation except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

A **O God, grant us Your grace to remain in this saving faith until we see You face to face in life eternal. We ask it all in Christ's name. Amen.**

Blessing

P *The Lord bless you and keep you.*

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace †.

G **Amen.**

-Be seated-

Closing Hymn • 165, *“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”*

1. Let the earth now praise the Lord,
Who hath truly kept His word
And the sinners' Help and Friend
Now at last to us doth send.
2. What the fathers most desired,
What the prophets' heart inspired,
What they longed for many a year,
Stands fulfilled in glory here.
3. Abram's promised great Reward,
Zion's Helper, Jacob's Lord—
Him of two-fold race behold—
Truly came, as long foretold.
4. Welcome, O my Savior, now!
Hail! My Portion, Lord, art Thou.
Here, too, in my heart, I pray.
O prepare Thyself a way!
9. And when Thou dost come again
As a glorious King to reign,
I with joy may see Thy face,
Freely ransomed by Thy grace.

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