

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020



St. John's Lutheran Church of Parkville

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December 20, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME

PRELUDE

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Robert Lau

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ELW 257 (vv. 1, 5)

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.

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**

(Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Kohl, 1710; Music: French processional, 15th cent. Text st. 2 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress)

GREETING

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.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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.

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.

He Came Down

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He came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
he came down that we may have hope;
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.

(Text: Cameron traditional; Music: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell. Arr. (c) 1986 GIA
:Publications, Inc.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

Now 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

My Soul Does Magnify the Lord

ELW 882 (vv. 1-4, 7)

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| 1 My soul does magnify the Lord;
my spirit sings of God, my Savior,
for he has looked with love and favor
on his lowly servant. | 2 From this day all will call me blest,
from now through all the coming ages.
The Lord has done great things for me and
holy is his name. |
| 3 His mercy touches those who love,
and those who serve one another.
And with great strength he has scattered all
the proud in their conceit. | 4 He cast the mighty from their thrones,
and he has lifted up the lowly.
He fills the hungry with good things while
others turn away. |
| 7 Just as it was, it is today,
and it shall last through all tomorrows,
and so my soul magnifies the Lord; praise
God forever. Amen. | |

(Text and Music: Grayson Warren Brown, based on the Magnificat. © 1992 Grayson Warren Brown, admin. OCP Publications.)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each petition

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

A PRAYER IN THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERING

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

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, forever and ever. Amen.

(The elements that are consecrated in the service will be distributed after the service at 11:30 am and 12 noon in the church parking lot.)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing. | 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy. |
| 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found. | 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love. |

(Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872.)

Announcements

A few friendly reminders:

- If you would like to attend our Outdoor Family Christmas Eve service at 4 pm, please call the church office to make a reservation. If your family would like to participate in the service, please contact Martha at mrequard1@gmail.com.
- We will continue to live stream our worship services at 10 am on our YouTube Channel at <https://bit.ly/3nzgAWy> but services will be available any time after the live streaming.
- On December 21st we will be offering The Longest Night Service (A pre-recorded service of remembering our losses, acknowledging the darkness and celebrating the hope and light of Jesus.) This service will be available on our YouTube Channel.
- We are suspending in-person worship through the MLK Jr. holiday with the exception of a planned outdoor family service Christmas Eve at 4 pm in the church parking lot.
- Join us online for a Christmas Eve Worship Service on our YouTube Channel.



The beautiful flowers gracing our worship service today are given in honor of Joshua Hills' 18th birthday by his family.

We are taking altar flower dedications for 2021. The dates available are: January 3rd, 17th, 24th and 31st, February 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, March 7th, 14th and 21st, April 4th, 11th and 18th, May 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd.



Zoom Bible Studies with Pastor John

- January (tba) – The Year of St. Mark: An Overview

Contact the church office at office@stjohnsparkville.org to sign up and we will send you the Zoom link.

Doing Any Shopping Online for Christmas? Support St. John's when you shop. Go to: smile.amazon.com/ch/52-6012034 and Amazon donates to Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Parkville Inc



We are excited to announce that the clothing shed is back open. All donations must be bagged. Acceptable donations are: All clothing, shoes, belts, purses, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, drapes, and stuffed toys. Thanks for your cooperation!

DISMISSAL

Now that we have heard the story and know the story...

Let us go into the world to tell the story and live the story!

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on "Joy to the World"

Robert J. Powell

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A few notes from your Financial Secretary:

I hope everyone has been staying well during these challenging times!

As we continue worshipping online through the end of 2020, I just wanted to send along these friendly reminders to you:

- Please make sure that any final 2020 contributions you wish to make to St. John's are received by the church office no later than Thursday, December 24th. Our final count and deposit for the year will be done the morning of Monday, December 28th. All contributions received in 2020 will be included on your 2020 Contribution Report. Reports will be generated and mailed to you in mid-January.
- Our Simply Giving program continues to be available to you in making contributions to St. John's. If you are interested in signing up, you may do so at any time. Please feel free to send me an email at haackefamily@comcast.net or give me a call at 410-661-8970 and I will send a form to you for you to complete. If you have any questions about filling out the form or the program, please let me know. I'm happy to help.

On behalf of St. John's Lutheran Church, thank you for your continued support and generosity!

Stay safe and be well!

Debra Haacke



Prayer List

Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.

For health & healing: Richard Bauer, Bill Carroll, Vernon & Elaine Reid, Lee Krieger, Suzanne Lindsay, Janine Stevens, Joan Kraft, Patty Schwab, Tom & Marion McDonough, Ardi Scarborough, Gerry Steg, Shirley Watkins, Betty Hedgepeth, Kathi Peck, Bett Murphy, Vickie Jasinski, and Cynthia Kraemer

For family & friends: Pam Harmon, Delphine Peck, Jessi Powers, Margaret Iovino, Bill Johnson, Wayne Zopp, Karen Alban, Karen Ehrenberg, Randy Powell, Linda Fliegel, Cheryl Aydelotte, Mary Jo Rother, Doug Adams, Bill Eubert, Doris Klug, Olivia Route, John Miller, Norma Weber, Marie Pilachowski, Charles & Pat Frank, Mike Fischer, Joann Kloby, Nancy Snyder, John & Patty Bowman, Kathy Amos, Farron Steel, Darlene Koch, Roxann Kelly, Terri Busby, Ms. Linton, Pam Harmen, Linda Asplin, Anna Meyers, and Barb Collins

For the military and their families: Jacob Verble, Lance Corporal Justin Ferro, Sgt. Stephen Peck, Staff Sgt. Brandan Hartmann, Michael Anthony Tucker, Chaplain A. J. Striffler and all those in harm's way

For those grieving family & friends of: Paul Huber, Wayne Zopp, Mary Hohne and Thomas Madden

For St. John's Caring Friends: Trudy Anderson, Alma Arnold, Agatha Biensach-Daniels, Gladys Downs, Margaret Eubert, Betty Glassband, Betty Hedgspeth, Leroy Hohne, Philip Kramer, Audrey Lentz, John Lotterer, Patrick O'Connell, Ann Powell, Arthur Pulket, Mary Ann Reek, Patricia Sollanek, Cass Tracey, Emma Volz, Doris Warfield, and Clara Westphal