

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Service of the Word
Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020

PRELUDE My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness | arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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.

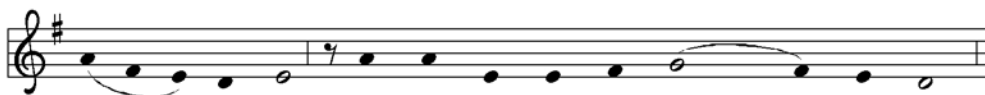
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the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

Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*Stanzas 1-5*)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far - and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

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*

APOSTOLIC 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.

KYRIE



1, 3	Ky - ri - e	e - lei - son.	Ky - ri - e	e - lei - son.
2	Chris - te	e - lei - son.	Chris - te	e - lei - son.
1, 3	Lord, . . .	have mer - cy.	Lord,	have mer - cy.
2	Christ, . . .	have mer - cy.	Christ,	have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e	e - le	-	i - son.
Chris - te	e - le	-	i - son.
Lord, . . .	have mer	-	cy.
Christ, . . .	have mer	-	cy.

Music: Russian Orthodox traditional

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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

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.

PSALMODY My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord (*Luke 1:46b-55*)



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; my spir - it
 2 For he a - lone who shows such might has done a -
 3 His arm is strong; his strength is great. He scat - ters
 4 He feeds the hun - gry as his own; the wealth - y



leaps for joy in him. He keeps me in his kind re -
 maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; his name like
 those of proud in - tent, and casts them down from high es -
 leave with emp - ty hands. He gives his help to Is - ra -



gard, and I am blest for time to come.
 light re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
 tate; then gives the low his nour - ish - ment.
 el; his gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

Text: Stephanie K. Frey, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: ICH HEB MEIN AUGEN SEHNLICH AUF, Heinrich Schütz, 1585–1672
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SECOND READING *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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL *Luke 1:26-38*

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

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY #258 Unexpected and Mysterious



1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle
 2 In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni -
 3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain -
 ty and time, Mar - y learned that she would car -
 com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



ing is the peace of God's em-brace. If we fal-ter
ry both the mor-tal and di-vine. Then she learned of
sion for each frag-ile hu-man life. God is with us



in our cour-age and we doubt what we have known, God is
God's com-pas-sion, of E-liz-a-beth's great joy, and she
in our long-ing to bring heal-ing to the earth, while we



faith-ful to con-sole us as a moth-er tends her own.
ran to greet the wom-an who would rec-og-nize her boy.
watch with joy and won-der for the prom-ised Sav-ior's birth.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961
Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984
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APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day, he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Lord in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER

Spoken by all.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

Sending

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN #259 Fling Wide the Door



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704
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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Toccata on Veni Emmanuel* | Andrew Carter

We thank Kirsten & Mike Heggseth, vocalists, for offering the Hymn of the Day today, and members of the Handbell Choir for providing the prelude. Note: the prelude was recorded in October, prior to our current cessation of in-person activities.

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Serving today

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Preaching	Pastor John Worzala Dumke
Organist	Andrew Schaeffer
Cantor	Andrew Stevens

Prayers of the Church provided by Mary Jean Huston

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