



CROSS OF CHRIST  
Lutheran Church

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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**December 20, 2020  
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

# GATHERING

**PRELUDE**

Noel

Claude Daquin

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## OPENING HYMN

### People, Look East

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major, 2/4 time. The top staff uses a treble clef, the second and third staves use bass clefs, and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the flow'r may flour ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the moon to - geth - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and Lord is com - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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## **GREETING**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
our Prince of Peace,  
our mighty God, our Wonderful Counselor,  
Emmanuel, God with us,  
who is, and was, and is to come. **Amen.**

## **ADVENT WREATH INTRODUCTION**

*In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of faith, peace, new life, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.*

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US IN LOVE**

Gillies Family

## ADVENT WREATH HYMN

### O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive

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

tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Re-joice! Re-joice!

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'ly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

*Refrain*

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.

*Refrain*

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: French processional, 15th cent.  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

VENI, EMMANUEL  
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## **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**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

#### **Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Pastor Kathleen Armstrong

### **FIRST LESSON**

Luke 1: 46b -55

The reading is from the book of Luke.

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

God comes to us in the word.

**God comes to us where we are.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,  
pon - der noth-ing earth-ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
Christ our God to earth de-scend - ing comes full hom-age to de - mand.  
he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav'n-ly food.  
"Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: French folk tune, 17th cent.

PICARDY

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## GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1: 26-38

The Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

**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.**

Painting by Tim Okamura



## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.



Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

## **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 THE PEOPLE**

### **Prayer Response**

Hear us O God,

**Your mercy is great.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always  
**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

## **OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC**

*We invite you to give online at [www.cross-of-christ.org/give](http://www.cross-of-christ.org/give) or through texting at 1-866-601-2815 with \$(amount).*

## **OFFERING MUSIC**

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Barbara Wollan, soprano  
arr. David Willcocks

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Generous God,  
you have created all that is,  
all you provide for us in every season.  
Bless all that we offer,  
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.  
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

**Amen.**

## **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 God 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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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

1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
lives now in - side us for - ev - - er.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

REJOICE, REJOICE

98 98 87 89

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*All are welcome at Jesus' table. He gives of himself in the bread and wine, and invites us to receive it for the forgiveness of sin. We invite you to share in your homes the sacrament of the Lord's table.*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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."

## **THE 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**

## **WORDS OF DISTRIBUTION**

Give to one another the bread, "Body of Christ given for you."

Give to one another the wine, "Blood of Christ shed for you."

## **COMMUNION MUSIC**

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

arr. Jim Brickman

### **BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless you and keep you always in God's grace.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER**

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

### **BENEDICTION**

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love,  
the unexpected Spirit guide your journey,  
☩ now and forever.

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

### Christ Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell

Musical notation for the first stanza of the hymn, featuring a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. The lyrics describe various longings: for light, peace, food, shelter, and gifts.

1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for  
2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for  
3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for  
4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for  
5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the

Musical notation for the second stanza, continuing the theme of longing with references to truth, hope, water, warmth, and hearts.

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone  
wa-ter, man-y still-thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,  
hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants

Musical notation for the third stanza, which contrasts earthly needs with divine promises of salvation and provision.

your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.  
bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.  
shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.  
to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.

Musical notation for the Refrain, starting with a treble clef, one sharp, and common time. The lyrics call for Christ to be the light of the world.

Refrain  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the

Musical notation for the continuation of the Refrain, continuing the call for Christ to be the light of the world.

dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your

Musical notation for the final part of the Refrain, concluding the hymn.

church gath-ered to-day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: Bernadette Farrell

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

9896 and refrain

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE**

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Gordon Young

## **WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

Assistant Ministers

Gryboski Family

Audio & Visual Ministers

Scott Elvington & Rick Bobbitt

## **PROCLAIM**

Kathy Pierce

Emily Chesnic

Sue Carter

Chris Dietz

Tina Ramey

Alec Scheele

Kurt Headrick

Tim Armstrong

Ian Ross

Eetung Rauh

## **PASTORS AND STAFF**

Lead Pastor

Kathleen Armstrong

Pastor of Congregational Ministries

Will Johnson

Minister of Music

Andrew Halladay

Director of Youth Ministry

Laura Anderson

Director of Children's Ministry

Amy Pallas

Congregational Life Coordinator

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