

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Saturday, December 18, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES:

L: The mighty Lord has done great things and holy is His name.

C: We thank you, O Lord!

L: The Lord's mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

C: We adore you, O Lord!

L: The Lord has shown the strength of His arm.

C: We praise you, O Lord!

L: The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.

C: We worship you, O Lord!

OPENING MEDLEY:

"O, Little Town of Bethlehem" – Blue Hymnal #60

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.

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 the earth!

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.

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;

Oh, come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

“Emmanuel”

Em - man - u - el, _____ Em - man - u - el, _____
_____ His name is called _____ Em - man - u - el; _____
_____ God with us, _____ re - vealed in us; _____
_____ His name is called _____ Em - man - u - el. _____

(“Emmanuel”, by Bob McGee, copyright 1976 C. A. Music, CCLI Lic. #921494.)

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Let’s confess our sins to our loving God.

C: **Loving God, even in the midst of this season of goodwill, there is much to confess. In spite of holiday cheer, stress and anxiety rule our lives. We miss the reason for the season, focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists, and trying to get the shopping done.**

L: We fail to think about your reordered world—a world where the lowly are lifted up and the hungry are filled with good things.

C: **Help us adjust our Christmas priorities, that we might join with you, O God, in preparing a world that welcomes the one who brings us peace.**

(Prayer continues in silence.)

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

L: Let us pray.

C: **O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that you are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

CANDLELIGHTING SONG: “Light the Candle of PEACE”

(Advent 2) Light the can-dle of PEACE to-day, the Giv-er of peace is
here! _____ Wel-come the peace we fight and cry for, but

on - ly Christ can give. Flick - er and flame and
 glow _ with peace, light up the world a - round you.
 Flick - er and flame and glow _ with peace, light up the world a -
 round you.

("Light the Candle" by Jaroslav Vajda and Carl Schalk, copyright 1988 by Moming Star Music Publishers, OneLicense.Net #A-704112)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us pray: Holy God, your prophet Micah foretold with faith that a new ruler would come forth from Bethlehem:

C: Today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise;

L: Your daughter Elizabeth proclaimed with faith that her cousin was to be the mother of her Lord:

C: Today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise;

L: Your servant Mary proclaimed with faith that she would be called blessed by all generations:

C: Today we celebrate the fulfillment of your promise.

All: Make us bold enough to proclaim with faith—the coming of your kingdom, the coming of your justice, the coming of your peace. May we sing out the good news of your salvation, trusting in the fulfillment of your promises. All this we pray in the name of the One who comes. Amen.

GREETING TIME

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Micah 5:2-5

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE: "He Is Our Peace"

He is our peace who has bro-ken down ev-'ry wall, He is our
peace, He is our peace. He is our peace.
Cast all your cares on Him, — for He cares — for you,
He is our peace, He is our peace. Cast all your peace.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff includes first and second endings. The third staff features a triplet of eighth notes. The fourth staff also includes first and second endings and a triplet of eighth notes.

*("He Is Our Peace", by Kandela Groves, copyright 1975 Marantha! Music,
CCLI Lic. #921494.)*

EPISTLE LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.'" First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"—though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, chapter one.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" And Mary sang:

"The Magnificat"

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.**

("My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord", text copyright 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

MESSAGE: "When Mary's Song Becomes Ours" – Pastor Bill Hugo

SONG OF THE DAY: "Canticle of the Turning"



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



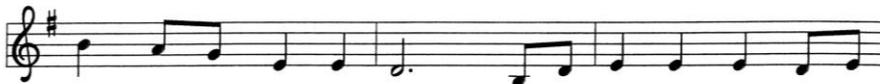
God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne. The
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This



fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
hun - gry poor shall . . . weep no more, for the
sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
 fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
 dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

*("Canticle of the Turning" by Rory Cooney, copyright 1990 GIA Publications,
 OneLicense.Net #A-704112)*

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will 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.

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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 INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: "Savior of the Nations, Come" – Blue Hymnal #13
 Savior of the nations, come, Show yourself the virgin's son.
 Marvel, heaven, wonder, earth, That our God chose such a birth.

No man's pow'r of mind or blood But the Spirit of our God
 Made the Word of God be flesh, Women's offspring, pure and fresh.

**Here a maid was found with child, Virgin pure and undefiled.
In her virtues it was known God had made her heart his throne.**

**Then stepped forth the Lord of all From his pure and kingly hall;
God of God, becoming man, His heroic course began.**

**God the Father was his source, Back to God he ran his course.
Into hell his road went down, Back then to his throne and crown.**

**Father's equal, you will win Vict'ries for us over sin.
Might eternal, make us whole; Heal our ills of flesh and soul.**

**From the manger newborn light Sends a glory through the night.
Night cannot this light subdue, Faith keeps springing ever new.**

**Glory to the Father sing, Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be Now and through eternity.**

("Savior of the Nations, Come", text copyright 1978 Concordia Publishing House, setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

+ + +

Lay Minister: Larry Betzold