

# **THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**December 20, 2020 – 10:00 a.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.

## **THE GREAT “O” ANTIPHONS**

**“My Soul in Stillness Waits” & “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”**

*Music Team:*

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, Truly my hope is in you.*

*O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,*

*Your radiance shines in all who look to you,*

*Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.*

**Oh, come, oh, 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!**

*Music Team:*

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, Truly my hope is in you.*

*O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage,*

*We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain, Open to us the pathway of your peace.*

**Oh, come, our Wisdom from on high, Who ordered all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go.**

**REFRAIN:**

**Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord of might,  
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times gave holy law, In cloud and majesty and awe. REFRAIN:**

### **CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:**

**L:** Let's receive God's Good News of forgiveness. Compassionate, forgiving God, we trespass on your mercy and take your favor for granted.

**C:** **We think only of ourselves.**

**L:** We forget the lessons of those who came before us, and ignore our responsibility to those who will follow us.

**C:** **We grow proud and seek power.**

**L:** We do not see the destruction of our actions and how it distances us from you.

**C:** **We do not recognize our hunger for what it is, or where it leads us.**

**L:** We grow faint.

**C:** **Forgive us, fill us, use us and bring us home to you, loving God. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**Oh, 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:**

### **FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED**

*Music Team:*

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, Truly my hope is in you.*

*O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits,*

*Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word,*

*Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.*

**Oh, come, our Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. REFRAIN:**

*Music Team:*

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits, Truly my hope is in you.*

*O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,*

*And in your advent, draw us all to you,*

*Our hope reborn in dying and in rising.*

**Oh, come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, From ev'ry foe deliver them**

**That trust your mighty pow'r to save;**

**Bring them in vict'ry through the grave. REFRAIN:**

**Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;**

**Oh, bid our sad divisions cease, And be yourself our King of Peace.**

**REFRAIN:**

*("My Soul in Stillness Waits" by Marty Haugen, copyright 1983 by GIA Publications, used with permission. OneLicense.Net #A-704112. "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, used with permission, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518)*

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:**

**L: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.**

**C: The light no darkness can overcome.**

**L: Let your light scatter the darkness**

**C: And illumine your Church.**

**L: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors**

**C: That the King of glory may come in. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**SONG: "We Light the Advent Candle"**

**We light the Advent candle And share the wondrous Word.**

**With love, we tell of Jesus Till all around have heard.**

**God's love is for each nation Throughout His whole creation.**

**We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!**

**We light the Advent candle And thank the Lord for rest.**

**With peace, we know our Jesus Has come to be our guest.**

**This peace beyond all knowing Within our hearts is glowing.**

**We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!**

**We light the Advent candle And sing with cheerful heart.  
With joy, we spread the message – A blessing to impart.  
Our joy is never ending; The Son to us is sending.  
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!**

**We light the Advent candle And wait for Christ to come.  
With hope, we trust the promise That He will bring us home.  
Our hope is in our Savior Who wins for us God's favor.  
We wait with growing light Till God makes all things right!**

*(Text: Lisa M. Clark. Copyright 2013 Concordia Publishing House, all rights reserved. Used with permission.)*

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**L:** Let us pray.

**C:** **We stop and gather in our own homes this morning, Lord, to spend much-needed time in your presence. We need the peace, hope, love and joy that this season brings to life. We need to listen again with wonder at the magnificent words of Mary as she proclaims her faithful participation in God's most miraculous gift. Open our hearts this day, Lord, to receive the words and the blessings, to be fed and then to be those who will share with others as you have shared with us. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

**+ NURTURE +**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you." But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: "Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is

what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. 'The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.'

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 16:25-27**

Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith—to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **HOLY GOSPEL:**

*(Please remain seated for the lesson)*

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

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

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. 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 said:

**RESPONSE:** "The Magnificat" – David Haas  
 St. Matthew Singers

**MESSAGE:** "Surprise!" – Pastor Bill Hugo

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** "Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
 4 Re - jice, re - jice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and

lives now in - side us for ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

*("Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn", by Marty Haugen, copyright 1983 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 SONG: "Now Unto the King Eternal"

Now un - to the King e - ter - nal, im -

mor - tal, in - vi - si - ble, The on - ly wise

God be glo - ry and hon - or for - ev - er and ev - er. A -

men, A - men, Be glo - ry and hon - or for -

Repeat Ending D. C.

ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Detailed description: This system contains two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics 'ev - er and ev - er. A - men.' are written below the vocal line. A box labeled 'Repeat Ending' spans the final two measures of the vocal line. The piece concludes with a double bar line and the instruction 'D. C.' (Da Capo).

Song Ending

men! A - men! A - men!

Detailed description: This system contains two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics 'men! A - men! A - men!' are written below the vocal line. A box labeled 'Song Ending' spans the first three measures of the vocal line. The piano accompaniment features a final chord with a fermata over it. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

("Now Unto the King Eternal" by Lorraine Sonnenberg, copyright 1972  
Dawn Treader Music, COLI Lic. #921494.)

+ + +

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:**

**Lay Minister:** Louise Roberts

**Altar Guild:** Pat & Duane Rosenberg