

Fourth Sunday in Advent



10:00 am (online)
December 20, 2020
Zion Lutheran Church
Camas, Washington
360-834-4201 Office

Susan Dollinger, Associate Pastor

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

P: 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.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Most merciful God,

C: ***we confess that we are in bondage 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.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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" v. 5, 6, 7 & Number 257

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: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

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*

7. O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

8. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Steve & Nancy Vargo

The greatest gift of all came that first Christmas. It was not wrapped in a beautiful package and set under a decorated tree. The greatest gift came wrapped as a baby and laid a manger. Our perfect gift would later be wrapped in the scars of our sin and nailed to the wood of a cross all because of love. God, during this final week of Advent, fill our hearts and minds with the significance of that truth. Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us. He is a sign of your great love. Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent, as we wait and prepare for his coming.

Light four candles

Lord Jesus, you come to us now. You come to us through other people and through their love and concern for us. You come to us through people who need our help, mercy and love. Teach us to show kindness, teach us

to love others as ourselves. Lord God, we welcome you, the God who comes. We welcome you, Emmanuel. Teach us to see you in all corners of life, in the joy and in the pain. Help us stand patiently waiting for you, and yet knowing you are always here. **Amen.**

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

v. 4 Number 240

- 4 Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

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, ²the 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." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I 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. ⁷Wherever 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?" ⁸Now 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; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹from 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. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalms Reading

Luke 1:46b-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: ⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name. ⁵⁰You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation. ⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit, ⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly. ⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy, ⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears, to Abraham and his children forever.

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 ²⁶but 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—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C: ***Glory to you, O Lord.***

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the

angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

Message

Pr. Susan Dollinger

Hymn of the Day "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Number 272

- 1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.
- 2 Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.
- 3 This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fill the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.
- 4 O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know: bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.

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 Church

God of power and might, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence, especially those we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Peace

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you as you journey into this season. ***Amen.***

Please share a time of peace online with one another using the chat comments or with someone next to you or spend this time in prayer.

Special Music *"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"*

Prayer of Preparation

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them as we gather around your feast to give thanks for all that you have made. Prepare our hearts for this offering that we may share in this meal of grace, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. ***Amen.***

Words of Institution

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.

Invitation to Communion

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and

give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. ***Amen.***

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, in the name of the Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer. ***Amen.***

SENDING

Sending Hymn *"Hark, the Glad Sound!"* Number 239

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long; let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.
2. He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held. The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.
3. He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.
4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim, and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

Dismissal

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Our thanks to this morning's musicians:

Pat Hagensen, Gary Ritter, Judy Swanson

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"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln; sts. 2,6,7 @1997

Augsburg Fortress; Music: French processional

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" Text: Wayne L. Wold;

@1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress Music: TIF IN VELDELE,

Yiddish folk tune

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Text: German carol; tr. Theodore Baker sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth st.3;
John C. Mattes, st. 4

Music: ES IST EIN ROS; Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln;
arr. Michael Praetorius

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould; Music: GABRIEL'S
MESSAGE; Basque carol; arr. C. Edgar Pettman and John Wickham;
Arr. @1955, 1983 E.H. Freeman, Ltd, admin. Glenwood Music Corp.

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

Text: Philip Doddridge; Music: Thomas Haweis; CHESTERFIELD