



"The Annunciation" by Ludovico Carracci, 1584

# The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Divine Service 3

December 24, 2023 9:30am

## Scripture of the Day

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Romans 16:25–27

Luke 1:26–38

## A Prayer before Worship

*O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter, as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth, I humbly pray that You would open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.*

**Prelude:** GABRIEL'S MESSAGE ("The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"), P. Manz

*Please stand and face the Processional Cross.*

### Processional Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LSB 356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.  
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."  
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Text and tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Confession and Absolution

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. *[Hebrews 10:22]*

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 124:8*

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *Psalm 32:5*

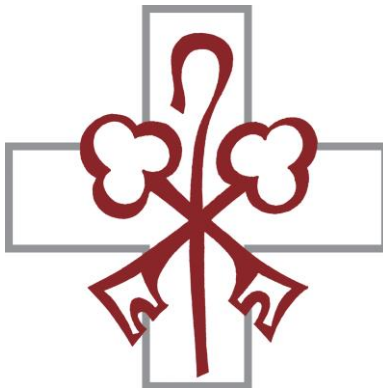
*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *[John 20:19-23]*

**C** Amen.



## ✠ Service of the Word ✠

Introit *Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b*



- P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;\*  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.
- C** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.\*  
In them he has set a tent | for the sun,
- P** which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,\*  
and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy.
- C** Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,\*  
and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.
- C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- P** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;\*  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

Kyrie

*Mark 10:47*



- C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

  
*Kyrie Eleison*  
LORD, HAVE MERCY

## Salutation and Collect of the Day



**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*



**G** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Let us pray.

**P** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**G** A - men.

*Sit*

## The Old Testament Reading *2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup>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 for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’” <sup>8</sup>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, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>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.

<sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as

formerly, <sup>11</sup>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. . . .

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### The Epistle Reading *Romans 16:25–27*

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

### Alleluia



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

### The Holy Gospel *Luke 1:26–38*

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



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you



have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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 father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**G** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.



## Nicene Creed

**☩ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

*Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6  
Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3  
Genesis 1:1; John 1:1  
Colossians 1:16*

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
Who for us men and for our salvation  
came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory  
to judge both the living and the dead,  
Whose kingdom will have no end.**

*Romans 10:9  
John 3:16; Matthew 16:16  
John 1:2  
John 17:22; John 8:12; John 1:1  
Colossians 2:9  
John 1:2  
John 10:30  
Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3  
Matthew 20:28; Galatians 4:4-5  
John 3:13, John 6:38  
Luke 1:34-35  
John 1:14  
Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18  
John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53  
1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6  
Acts 1:9  
Acts 7:55  
Matthew 26:64  
Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12  
2 Peter 1:11*

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
Who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
And I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✠ of the world to come.  
Amen.**

*John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38  
Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:3  
John 15:26  
Mt. 3:16-17; Lk. 2:14  
Ezekiel 11:5; 2 Peter 1:20-21  
1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22  
Ephesians 4:5; Acts 2:38  
1 Corinthians 15:35-49; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18  
Isaiah 65:17-19; Revelation 21:1-4  
Psalm 106:48*

*Please remain standing for the Hymn of the Day.*



# Hymn of the Day: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
 2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest  
 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy  
 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

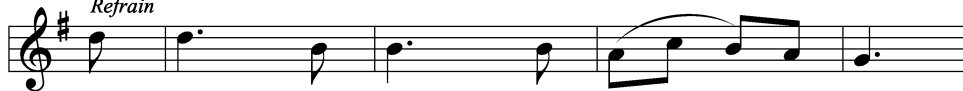


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
 all things might - i - ly; To us the path of  
 tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.  
 give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

*Refrain*



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 O come, Thou 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
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind, in one the hearts of all mankind;  
 Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.  
 Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

*Sit*

*Stand*

**Prayer of the Church**

**P** Lord, in your mercy.

**C** Hear our prayer.

*Thank you for continuing to support the Lord's Work here at Bethany. Offering plates are available at the back of the sanctuary, or consider giving through the Vanco Mobile app or online at [www.bethanylcs.org](http://www.bethanylcs.org).*

**Offertory**

*Psalm 51:10-12*

**C** Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

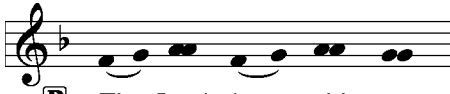


## ✠ Service of the Sacrament ✠

### About Receiving the Lord's Supper at Bethany

As we receive the Lord's Holy Supper according to His institution, we receive the salvation, forgiveness, and life eternal won for us on the cross. Also, we believe that when a person communes at an altar, one confesses unity with the teachings of that church. Therefore, if you are not in fellowship with the teaching of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, we ask that you refrain from communion until you have had opportunity to speak with one of the pastors about Christ's bodily presence and the forgiveness of sins given in this meal. However, all are welcome to receive a blessing, for the forgiveness of Jesus is still yours. Please indicate this as your intention by crossing your arms over your chest when the pastor comes by.

### Preface



**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*



**G** And with thy spir - it.



**P** Lift up your hearts.

*[Colossians 3:1]*



**G** We lift them up un - to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.

*[Psalm 136]*

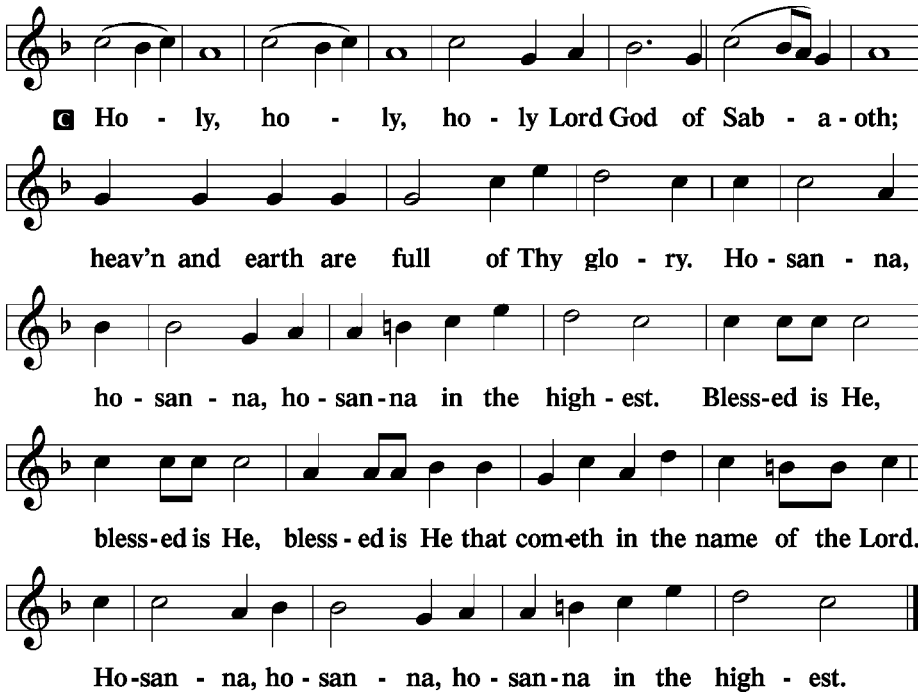


**G** It is meet and right so to do.

**P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

*Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,  
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.

The  
**L**ORD'S  
Prayer

## The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{✝}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{✝}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

*John 20:19*



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**G** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

*John 1:29*



**G** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



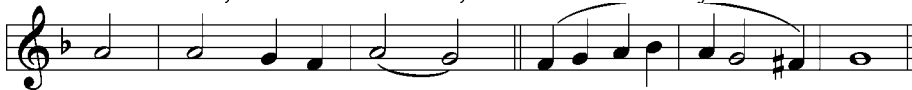
world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit*

## A Prayer for Right Reception of the Lord's Supper

*Dear Savior, at Your gracious invitation I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

### Distribution Hymn: Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

LSB 353



1 Je - sus came, the heav'n a - dor - ing, Came with peace from  
2 Je - sus comes a - gain in mer - cy When our hearts are  
3 Je - sus comes to hearts re - joic - ing, Bring - ing news of  
4 Je - sus comes in joy and sor - row, Shares a - like our



realms on high; Je - sus came to win re - demp - tion,  
worn with care; Je - sus comes a - gain in an - swer  
sins for - giv'n; Je - sus comes with words of glad - ness,  
hopes and fears; Je - sus comes, what - e'er be - falls us,



Low - ly came on earth to die; Al - le - lu - ia!  
To an ear - nest, heart - felt prayer; Al - le - lu - ia!  
Lead - ing souls re - deemed to heav'n. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Cheers our hearts and dries our tears; Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Came in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Comes to save us from de - spair.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Com - forts us in fail - ing years.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt. Tune: Geistreiches Gesang-Buch, 1698, Darmstadt Text and tune: Public domain



## Distribution Hymn: Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

LSB 900



1 Je - sus! Name of won-drous love, Name all oth - er names a - bove,  
2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the maid-en moth - er told,  
3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the fall - en of the earth  
4 Je - sus! Name of mer - cy mild, Giv - en to the ho - ly Child



Un - to which must ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
Kneel-ing in her low - ly cell, By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.  
For the prom - ise that it gave, "Je - sus shall His peo - ple save."  
When the cup of hu-man woe First He tast - ed here be - low.

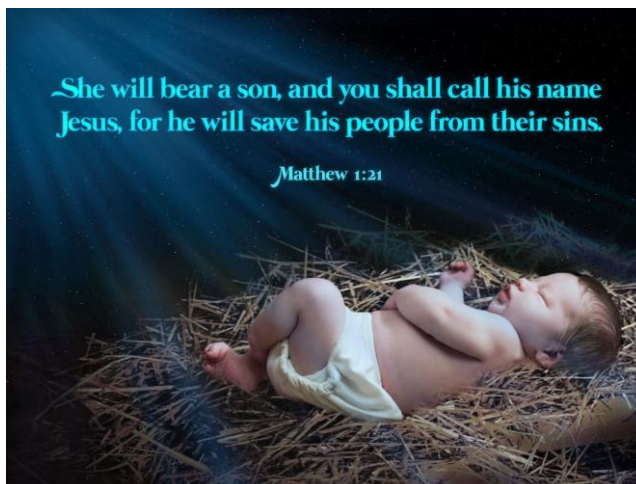
5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
Under all the mighty heav'n  
Whereby those to sin enslaved  
Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee  
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt. Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*





## Thanksgiving after Receiving the Sacrament

*Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send Your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament, I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

### Dismissal

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

**C** Amen.

### Nunc Dimittis

*Luke 2:29-32*

**C** Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

### Thanksgiving

*Psalm 107:1*

**A** O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,  
**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

### Post-Communion Collect

**A** Let us pray.  
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** A - men.

### Salutation and Benedicamus

**P** The Lord be with you.

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**C** And with thy spir - it.



**A** Bless we the Lord.

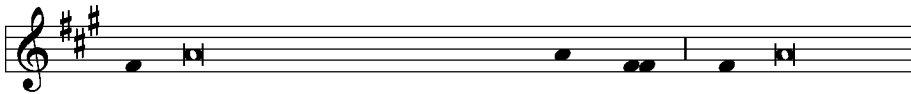
*[Psalm 103:1]*



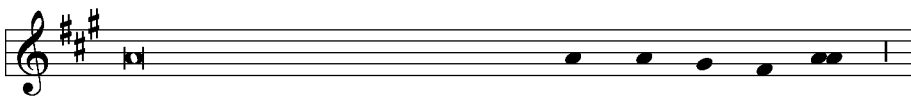
**G** Thanks be to God.

### Benediction

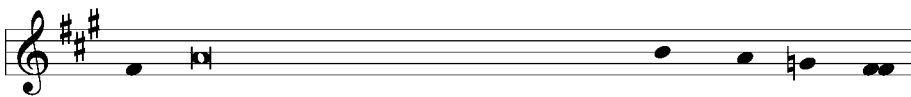
*Numbers 6:24-26*



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



**G** A-men, a-men, a - men.



# Hymn to Depart: The Night Will Soon Be Ending

LSB 337



1 The night will soon be end - ing; The dawn can -  
 2 The One whom an - gels tend - ed Comes near, a  
 3 The earth in sure ro - ta - tion Will soon bring  
 4 Yet nights will bring their sad - ness And rob our  
 5 God dwells with us in dark - ness And makes the



not be far. Let songs of praise as - cend - ing Now  
 child, to serve; Thus God, the judge of - fend - ed, Bears  
 morn - ing bright, So run where God's sal - va - tion Glows  
 hearts of peace, And sin in all its mad - ness A -  
 night as day; Yet we re - sist the bright - ness And



greet the Morn - ing Star! All you whom dark - ness  
 all our sins de - serve. The guilt - y need not  
 in a sta - ble's light. As old as sin's per -  
 round us may in - crease. But now one Star is  
 turn from God a - way. But grace does not for -



fright - ens With guilt or grief or pain, God's ra - dian  
 cow - er, For God has rec - on - ciled Through His re -  
 ver - sion Is mer - cy's vast de - sign: God brings a  
 beam - ing Whose rays have pierced the night: God comes for  
 sake us, How - ev - er far we run. God claims us



Star now bright - ens And bids you sing a - gain.  
 demp - tive pow - er All those who trust this child.  
 new cre - a - tion—This child its seal and sign.  
 our re - deem - ing From sin's op - pres - sive might.  
 still as chil - dren Through Mar - y's in - fant Son.

Text: Jochen Klepper, 1903–42; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

Tune: Welsh

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Tune: Public domain

**Postlude:** LLANGLOFFAN (“The Night Will Soon Be Ending”), J. Bleresch

## A Prayer after Worship

*Almighty and merciful God, I have again worshiped in Your presence and received both forgiveness for my many sins and the assurance of Your love in Jesus Christ. I thank You for this undeserved grace and ask You to keep me in faith until, with all Your saints, I inherit eternal salvation; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

## Those Serving You Today

**Preacher and Celebrant:** Rev. Rev. Emmett Bartens

**Assisting Pastors:** Rev. Seth Clemmer, Rev. Stephen Schumacher

**Organist:** Kantor Jonathan Swett

**Live Stream Tech:** James Blasius

**Acolytes:** Jackson Lugay, Emmy Ryan

**Sacristans:** Rick Krock, Glenn Luehrsen, Keith Luhrs, volunteer needed

**Ushers:** Bill Cade, John Campbell, Jonathan Knussman, Rich Tatara

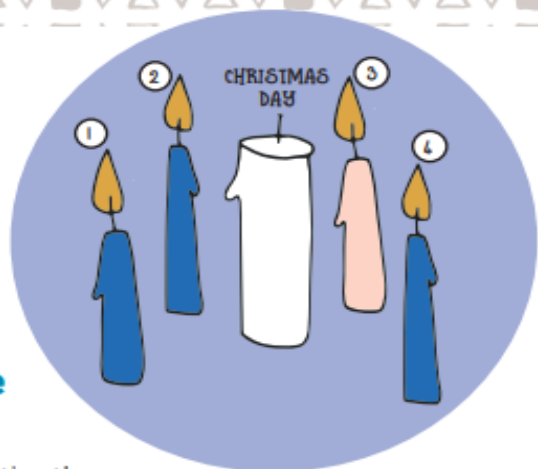
**Communion Care:** Sheila Bell

The flowers adorning our Lord's altar today are placed to the glory of our Triune God by Bob and Cheryl Airhart.



## Fourth Sunday in Advent

# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



## What does it mean when four candles have been lit on the Advent wreath?

You've been preparing and patiently waiting for that wonderful day of celebration. When four of the candles on the Advent wreath have been lit, it means that Christmas is almost here! That's right! The day on which we remember the birth of our Savior is right around the corner!

## What does this mean to me?

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Today is the last Sunday of preparation for the birth of Jesus. Next week the Church will celebrate Christmas Day, one of the most important days of the whole year. As you can see, Advent has prepared us for the coming of Jesus, our wonderful Savior from sin!



### Parents:

Remind your children of the important part that Advent plays in the lives of all Christians. This is the time in the Church Year that prepares us for the coming of our Savior. Be sure to bring your children to both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.



## Prayers

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- Austin Eisemon, recovery from knee replacement surgery
- Aiden Goldbeck, infant heart and neurological issues
- Betsy Goldbeck, recovering
- Shirley Grudzien, for healing and strength
- Paul Reimer, recovering from ulcer surgery
- Thamary Robert, ill health
- Mary Schiltz, breast cancer
- Bennett, whose parents are friends to the Hawleys, born at 21 weeks
- Beth Dhuse, sister to Steve Lindenmeyer, strength and healing
- Donna Journey, aunt to Erin Gavin, aggressive cancer
- Joe LaMartina, husband to Maria LaMartina, back and knee healing
- Rochelle Shapland, friend to Maria LaMartina, breast cancer treatments
- Rob Skoda, friend to Maria LaMartina, health issues
- Andy Vickers, friend to the Koopmans, preparing for bone marrow transplant
- The family to Doris Luhrs, mother to Keith Luhrs, who was called to glory on December 14
- The family to Kirk Kasicki, uncle to Jennifer Moses, who was called to glory on December 15

Mothers with child:

Jaimie Bartens, Emily French, Susan Keller, Sarah Lieb, Amanda Bowman (daughter-in-law to Dwight and Pat Bowman), Kelli Lynch (niece to Sue Sreniawski), Brooke Schmidt (niece to Becky McBroom)

Those celebrating wedding anniversaries this month:

Jeffrey and Mercy Gustis, Mikey and Kelleigh Tito, Ryan and Lori Ulferts



Those who serve in the Armed Forces and their families:

Quinn Parlier, Jacob Wilson, Andrew Bear (nephew to Beth Hawley), Matthew and Michael Hinze (sons to Don Hinze), Peter Johnson (son to Dennis and Ina Johnson), Savanna Lugay (daughter to Joe and Bethany Lugay), Conor L. McGavern (nephew to Becky McBroom), Aaron Mock (nephew to Debbie Kokaska), Kyle G. Schmidt (nephew to Becky McBroom), Ryan Skarin (grandson to Muriel Skarin), Scott Slown (husband to Jennifer Slown), Nicholas Camm-Williams (friend to Nada Salvino)

Those who are shut in or in need of ongoing care:

John Coniglio, Roger and Charlene Fiene, Richard and Marilyn Groth, Bruce Janken, Alberta Kobialka, Solomon and Thamary Robert, Muriel Skarin, Nancy Skibinski, Chuck and Monika Werner, David and Ann Zielke

A Note on the Prayers of the Church: On the 1st weekend of the month, we pray for those celebrating a wedding anniversary. On the 2nd, we pray for those we know in the Armed Forces (by name). On 3rd, we pray for those in long-term or ongoing care and our shut-ins (by name). On the 4th, we pray for mothers with child. If you have someone you would like to have remembered in the prayers, please leave the name with the church office or send an email to: [office@bethanylcs.org](mailto:office@bethanylcs.org). Names on the prayer list will be updated each week and removed after approximately four weeks, unless the office is otherwise notified. We will renew prayers when requested.



## This Week at Bethany

- **December 24, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:30pm – Christmas Eve Divine Service**
- **December 25, 9:30am – Christmas Day Divine Service**
- December 26, 1:00pm – Bible Reading Group
- **December 27, 11:00am – Midweek Divine Service**
- December 28, 7:00pm – Evening LifeLight
- December 29, 12:00pm – Knitters and Crafts Group

## Looking Further Ahead

- **December 31, 8:30am and 11:00am – Divine Service**
- December 31, 10:00am – Bible Study, NO Sunday School or Confirmation Class
- January 2, 1:00pm – LWML
- January 3, 9:00am – Women's LifeLight
- January 4, 9:00am – Bethany Guild
- January 6, 8:00am – Men's Bible Breakfast
- **January 6, 6:30pm – Epiphany Divine Service**

For information on activities and updates at Bethany, please subscribe to the "Week at a Glance" by emailing [office@bethanylcs.org](mailto:office@bethanylcs.org). If you prefer, some paper copies are available at the Welcome Center.



[www.bethanylcs.org](http://www.bethanylcs.org)

630-355-2198

Pastor Seth Clemmer

Pastor Stephen Schumacher

Pastor Emmett Bartens

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