

WELCOME TO



GLORIA DEI
LUTHERAN CHURCH
GATHERING IN CHRIST † SHARING HIS LOVE

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

We welcome all who worship with us. If you are a guest, we are especially glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Our worship is always enhanced by new faces and voices. If you are already a part of our church family, welcome home.

www.gloriadeielca.com

Prelude: Voluntary

WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

P: CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

**We trust earthly powers and human authority
alone.**

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through ✝ Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.

The service continues with gathering song.

**GATHERING SONG HYMN: ELW 265 "The Angel
Gabriel from Heaven came"**

P: GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

ADVENT WREATH PRAYER

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,
**let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel,
comes to be with us. Amen.**

**Advent Wreath Song: ELW 240 "Light One Candle
to Watch for Messiah" v1-4**

Kyrie: ELW 247 "Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

P: PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray....

A brief silence is kept for our own intentions.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*All respond: **Amen.***

The assembly is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

Sing: ELW 251 "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 253 "He Came Down" v 1-2

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

The holy gospel according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ELW 253 "He Came Down" v 3-4

SERMON

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 250 "Blessed be the God of Israel"

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

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 INTERCESSION

Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.
The assembly is seated.*

MEAL

OFFERING

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church,
including the care of those in need.*

Corinthians 8:3 "For I testify that according to their ability and beyond their ability they gave of their own accord."

OFFERTORY: ACS 905 "We Are Waiting for Jesus"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

*After the table is set, the assisting minister leads in prayer.
Please stand at the invitation to pray:*

Let us pray.

Creator God,
you made the whole world,
even the farthest stars,
and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.
Strengthen us with this food
that we may live in expectation
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: ELW 239 "Hark the Glad Sound" v4

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

*The presiding minister leads the Eucharistic Prayer
At the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, all say:*

Amen.

***The Lord's Prayer (Spoken)**

(Those who wish may hold hands as a sign of Christian unity).

**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

God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.

**HYMN: ELW 254 "Come, Thou Long Expected
Jesus"**

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All Baptized Christians are welcome to commune. Those who do not wish to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing (fold your arms over your chest).

The Body is available as bread or gluten-free Host.

The Blood is available as wine (large chalices) or non-alcoholic juice (small chalice). Worshipers may receive Communion via "intinction," dipping the Host into the Chalice, or by common cup, on the PULPIT side of the Altar. If you're on the Pulpit side, you may also feel free to intinct. The other chalice is for intinction ONLY.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The appropriate response is:

Amen.

During the distribution, please pray silently or join in singing.

**Hymn: ELW 257 "O come, O come, Emmanuel" v1-8
ELW 262 "Wait for the Lord"
Susan & Bob Pierce will sing
"Mary Did You Know" by Kathy Mattea**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand at the invitation to pray:

Let us pray.

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✝ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN: ELW 723 "Canticle of the turning"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Voluntary

*The end of Worship –
The beginning of Christian Ministry.*

Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright 2006
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license number #14240-ELW

SERVING TODAY

Pastor:		Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara
Music Director:		Len Cremisio
Asst. Ministers:	9:30 a.m.	
Reader:		Arleen Kelly
Crucifer:		Julian Menchaca
Communion Assistant:		
Assisting Minister:		Patricia Bressler
Ushers:	9:30 a.m.	Crystal Kirkpatrick, Byron Kirkpatrick Craig Carlson, John Kelly
Altar Care:		Crystal & Byron Kirkpatrick, Craig Carlson
Post Worship Sec.:	9:30 a.m	Bess King
Counters:		Linda Steege Janet Braun
Greeters:	9:30 a.m.	
Fellowship:		

Communion Wine: for December is given to the Glory of God

Presence Candle: for December is given to the Glory of God

Altar Flowers: for December is given to the Gory of God.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
www.gloriadeielca.com
130 South Lone Oak Drive
Leesburg, Florida 34748

Pastor Lynn M. Fonfara
Evelyn Rollins, Administrator
Leonard Cremisio, Music Director

pastorgdclcesburg@gmail.com
c. 352-787-3223
c. 352-638-3695

