

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024 (9:00 a.m.)

WE ARE ONE CHRISTIAN FAMILY LED BY GOD'S WORD AND THE
HOLY SPIRIT INTO LOVING SERVICE.

Our values are

Bible Based Preaching, Spiritual Growth, Great Commission
(Go, Make Disciples...)

PRELUDE

GREETING

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN "Angels from the Realms of Glory" LW 50

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The use of an Advent wreath, a circle of evergreen branches with four candles plus a Christ candle in the center, originated in the time of Martin Luther for use in the home to prepare for the Christmas celebration. Eventually it came to also be used in the liturgical worship services of the church.

THE "O ANTIPHON" OF ADVENT: O Dayspring

Since the ninth century, the Church has used the "O Antiphons" in their Advent worship. The "O Antiphons" are Advent prayers that address Christ Jesus by one of His Old Testament prophetic titles. The hymn, "Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel" is based upon these "antiphon" titles. This Advent we join with our Old Testament brothers and sisters in Christ in recalling God's promises and celebrating their fulfillment at Christmas.

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Come, Gracious Lord, our hearts renew.

C: Come and shine into them with your healing and productive light.

P: Come, O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

C: Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

P: Hear the Word of the Lord; "Arise, shine, for your light has come, the dayspring of the morning star, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD, the Sun of Righteousness, rises upon you and his glory appears over you." *Isaiah 60:1-2*

P: The Word of the Lord;

C: Thanks be to God!

P: Come, Lord Jesus!

C: Come quickly, Emmanuel!

HYMN "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" LW 31 v 1, 6

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (1 John 1:8)

C: *But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our Sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* (1 John 1:9)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. (ref. Ps 32:5)

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. 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 you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I announce the grace of God to you: your sin is forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Ref. Matt. 18:18; John 20:22-23)

C: Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

**C*: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray... **C: Amen**

FIRST LESSON Psalm 111:1-4, 10

Praise the LORD. I will extol the LORD with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly. ²Great are the works of the LORD; they are pondered by all who delight in them. ³Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever. ⁴He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate.¹⁰The trust and fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE "Oh Come Let Us Adore Him" Sunday School Christmas Program

Processional Hymn: "Silent Night" LW 68 v. 1

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.**

Introduction: Galatians 4:4-7

Sunday School: "Children of the Heavenly Father" JS 8, v. 1

Scene 2: The Birth of Jesus Foretold: Luke 1:26-38

Scene 3: Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son: Matthew 1:18-24

Scene 4: The Birth of Jesus: Luke 2:1-7

Sunday School: "Away in a Manger" LW 64, v. 1-3

Scene 4 (continued): Luke 2:8-14

Sunday School: "Hark the Herald Angles Sing" LW 49, v. 1

Scene 4 (continued): Luke 2:15-20

Sunday School: "Go Tell It on the Mountain" LW 504, v. 1

RECESSIONAL HYMN: (Congregation and Sunday School)

"Joy to the World" LW 53 v. 1-4

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, Rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love.**

CONFESSION OF FAITH The 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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH - concluding with

P: Lord in your mercy...

C: Hear our prayer.

OFFERTORY

**C: Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence, And take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me The joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free spirit.**

THE SERVICE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift your hearts and hands in praise

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good, right, and helpful... evermore praising you and singing:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

PRAYERS AND THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Lord Jesus, 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.

P: Our Lord on the night he was betrayed . . .

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

AGNUS DEI

**C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

**C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name.
He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN "Welcome to Earth, O Noble Guest" LW38 v.1,2,6,7

**Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom this sinful world is blest!
You turned not from our needs away! How can our thanks such love repay?**

**O Lord, you have created all! How did you come to be so small
To sweetly sleep in manger bed where lowing cattle lately fed?**

**My heart for very joy now leaps; my voice no longer silence keeps;
I too must join the angel throng to sing with joy his cradle song:**

**"Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us His Son has given."
With angels sing in pious mirth: A glad new year to all the earth!**

Silent Prayer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE