

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 2023  
10:30 a.m.

The angel answered her,

**"THE HOLY SPIRIT  
WILL COME UPON YOU,  
and the power of  
THE MOST HIGH  
WILL OVERSHADOW YOU."**

LUKE 1:35, NRSV



*"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"*

444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778  
[www.martinlutherchapel.org](http://www.martinlutherchapel.org)

*With Mary, the church hears these words: Do not be afraid, you have found favor with God. You, the people of God. You, the baptized Christian. In an anxious and uncertain world, you need not be fearful, the Lord is with you. With these words of consolation, we also hear Mary's response: I am the servant of the Lord. Baptized into the Lord's death and resurrection, and strengthened by his body and blood, we are sent into the world to witness to God's favor for all creation.*

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

### OPENING SENTENCES

**P** The Spirit and the Church cry out:

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** All those who await His appearance pray:

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** The whole creation pleads:

**C** **Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, the true hope who comes into the world to give hope to everyone, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming, and so enkindle our hearts with the fire of Your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

*(as we sing the hymn, the candles on the Advent wreath are lit.)*

*Stand*

### GREETING OF PEACE

*Introduce yourself to those around you, greeting them with the greeting of peace.*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive

Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

*Refrain*  
Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!

Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!


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*

### GREETING

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

## KYRIE

 **A** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

A Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

## GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

**C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;

2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;

3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.

**Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!**

O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.

For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;

We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,  
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,  
Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.  
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—  
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ly.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**[P]** The Lord be with you. **[C]** And also with you.

**[P]** Let us pray. **[P]** Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **[C]** Amen.

*Sit*

*Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.*

## FIRST LESSON 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the Lord's anointed.*

**[R]** Now when David the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the 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." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 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 and a tabernacle. Wherever 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?" 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 to be prince over my people Israel; 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. And 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, 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. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON Romans 16:25-27

*These final words from Paul's letter to the Romans offer a doxology, or prayer of praise to God, whose wisdom and strength are the basis for hope in the gospel.*

**R** 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 but 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--to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE



**HOLY GOSPEL** [P] The Holy Gospel of Luke, chapter 1, beginning at verse 26. [C]  
**Glory to You, O Lord.**

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little-known places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.*

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

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The 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. And 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold I am the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

[P] This is the Gospel of the Lord. [C] **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator 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 again 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.

*Sit*

**MESSAGE**

**It's a Miracle**

*Stand*

**HYMN**

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

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."  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,"

Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol, para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924  
 Music: Basque carol, arr. C. Edgar Petman, 1865-1943, and John Wickham  
 Arr. © 1955 E.H. Freeman, Ltd., ren. 1983, admin. Glenwood Music Corp.

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE  
 10 10 12 10

OneLicense.net A-703166.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy," to which the congregation responds, "Hear our prayer."*

*The prayers conclude:*

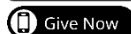
**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## OFFERING

*You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.*



## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*Stand*

**P** Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## PREFACE

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

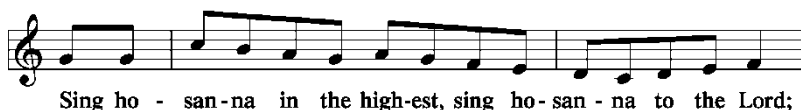
**C** We lift them to the Lord.

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

**C** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, the very Word made flesh who came to dwell among us, fulfilling Your Word and bringing to earth the peace of heaven. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**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 body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

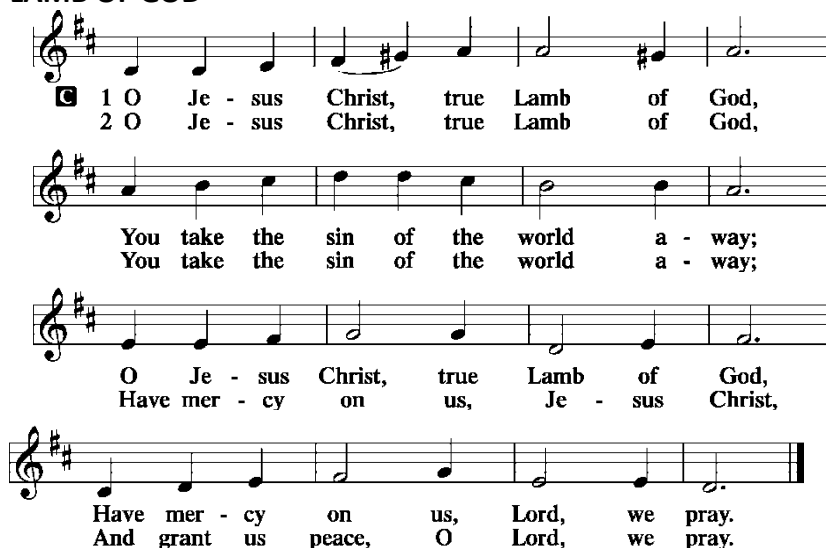
**P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## LORD'S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

**☐ 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.**

## LAMB OF GOD



1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,

You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

**THE DISTRIBUTION** *You may approach the altar as space is available to receive communion elements pre-packaged or from the common loaf, along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free options are available.*

# HYMN "What Child is This"



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are  
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

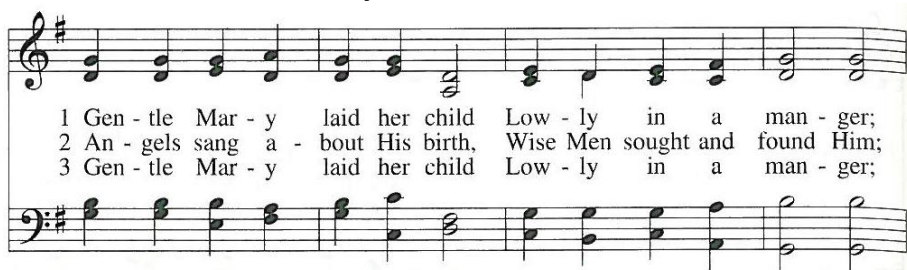


Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!



## HYMN

## "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"



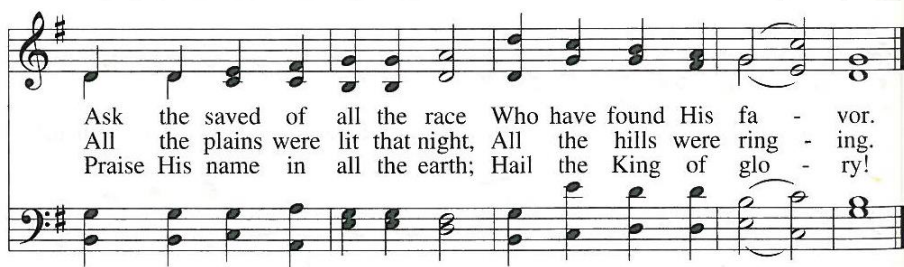
1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
 2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;



There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.  
 Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
 He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.



Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
 Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
 Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
 All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
 Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933

Tune: *Plae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae*, Griefswald, 1582; setting: *Common Praise* (Canada), 1998

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

76 76 D

Text and music: Public domain

Luke 2:1–20; Phil. 2:5–11; 1 John 3:5

**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

1 O Lord, now let to Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the the Fa - ther, All  
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;  
A light to lead the the Gen - tiles, Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is  
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -  
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**[P]** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have accomplished Your plan of salvation in the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior and King.

**[C]** As You have filled us with the peace of sins forgiven, inspire us to share this blessing with others, that they, too, may know Your love and salvation;

**[P]** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **[C]** Amen.

## 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.

**[P]** Go in peace; serve the Lord. **[C]** Thanks be to God!

# CLOSING HYMN

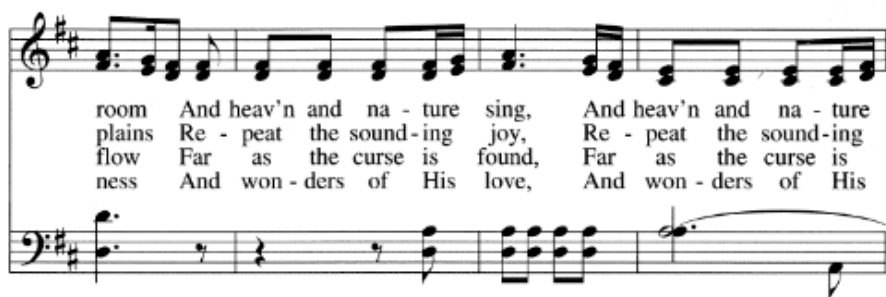
## "Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him  
 ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings  
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

# POSTLUDE

---

Our Confession about Communion

Our Confession

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible, and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord, and concur in our confession;

b. are not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

---

Acknowledgments: Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book in Lutheran Service Builder  
© 2006 Concordia Publishing House. CCLI #1534397; One License A-703166.

*You may give a special Christmas offering  
online using the QR code or place a gift in the  
offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.*



*"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"*

444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778  
[www.martinlutherchapel.org](http://www.martinlutherchapel.org)