

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**



Late (11:00 A.M.) Service
"Praise & Celebration"
December 19, 2010



**GOD DESERVES OUR FULL
ATTENTION!** As you prepare
to worship, please silence your
cell phones and pagers!



**IN THE NAME OF
✠ JESUS CHRIST ✠**

**The Prelude
The Lighting of the Candles
Significance of the Day**



Call to Worship

**"I Hear a Sound
*sung by the SOPWT***



Hymn of Invocation

**Lift Up Your Heads, You
Everlasting Doors
LSB 339
v. 1-2, 4**



**1 Lift up your heads, you
everlasting doors,
And weep no more!
O Zion's daughter, sing,
To greet your coming King;
Now wave the victor's palm
And sing the ancient psalm:**



**“Lift up your heads, you
everlasting gates!”
Your King awaits!**

**2 Who is this King of great and
glorious fame?
What is His name?
Lord God of Sabaoth,
Of whom the prophets wrote,
Whose chosen, humble steed
Declares Him king indeed!
Hosanna, Lord!
Messiah, come and save
From sin and grave.**

**4 “Worthy is Christ!” The Lamb
who once was slain
Now lives to reign.
He rules our earthly ways
As Lord of Ancient Days—
O join the endless song
Sung by the ransomed throng:**

**“Worthy is Christ!” The Lamb
be praised again!
Amen! Amen!**

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Congregation shall stand

Invocation

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

Confession of Sins and Announcement of Forgiveness

P O Lord, You are our Father,
C our Redeemer from of old is
Your name.



P No one has heard, no ear has
perceived,

C no eye has seen any God
besides You.

P But we have sinned against Your
ways.

C How then can we be saved?



P All of us have become like one
who is unclean,
C and all our righteous acts are
like filthy rags.
P Yet, O Lord, You are our Father;
C we are the clay, You are the
Potter; we are all the work of
Your hands.



ALL: Almighty God, because You
hate nothing You have
made and forgive the sins
of all who are penitent,
create in us new and
contrite hearts, so that we,
repenting of our sins, may
obtain from You, the God of
all mercy, forgiveness and
life everlasting.



P God hears our cry for mercy.
For Jesus' sake He comes down
to us, not in judgment but in
forgiveness. God's forgiveness
is awesome – a gift to us from
Christ Himself.



Therefore, 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.

C Yes, Lord, You are our Father.
All glory be to You alone, now
and forever. Amen.



Sharing of the Peace

Worshippers greet one another with a handshake and/or a hug, and the words:

“The peace of the Lord Jesus be with you!”



Lighting of the Advent Wreath



The Fourth Candle: “The Shepherds’ Candle”

A As we light the fourth candle, along with the other candles, on our Advent wreath,



we recall with thanksgiving the excitement of the shepherds “keeping watch over their flocks by night when an angel of the Lord appeared to them.” The shepherds “hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, lying in a manger.”



As the candle is lighted, we are reminded that the shepherds “spread the word concerning what had been told to them about this child.” We, too, are to live and share the Good News of God’s love in Christ our Lord. Let us pray,



C **Gracious Father, in Your great love for the world You have given us the gift of Your only Son as the light of the nations and glory of Israel.**



Open our hearts to receive
Him and sanctify our lives to
proclaim Your grace through
Jesus Christ, Your Son, our
Lord, who lives and reigns
with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.



Hymn:

**“Oh, Come, Oh, Come,
Emmanuel” (LSB 357)**

*(All of the candles on the Advent
Wreath, including the Shepherds’
Candle (but not the center candle,
the Christ Candle) are lighted as the
congregation sings the hymn.)*



1. Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord
of might, who to your tribes on
Sinai’s height, in ancient times
gave holy law, in cloud and
majesty and awe.

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



7. Oh, come, Desire of nations,
bind, in one the hearts of all
mankind; Oh, bid our sad
divisions cease, and be yourself
our King of Peace.

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

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Congregation is seated




Welcome - Invitation to Grow In the Word

*All are invited to come
GROW WITH US in God's Word!
Disciples of Jesus are to always be
MATURING!*

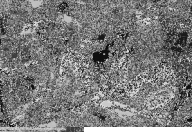


MINISTRY GOALS


Spirituality




Outreach



Prayer




Outreach and Evangelism



**BRING A FRIEND
TO CHURCH!**

TELL OTHERS



ABOUT CHRIST

Luke 2:17-18

“When (the shepherds) had seen (Jesus), they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.”

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

A Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.”

And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation shall stand

Common Alleluia and Verse

C Alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

Holy Gospel Matthew 1:18–25

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

P Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph,

before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream,

saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel”(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him:

he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Congregation is seated

Hymn of the Day

O Little Town of Bethlehem
LSB 361
 v. 1, 3-4

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless
sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the
years
Are met in thee tonight.

3 How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming;
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive
Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 Descend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin, and enter in,
 Be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us,
 Our Lord Immanuel!

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Sermon

“His Name? We Had Hoped
 for Something Better!”
 Matthew 1:18-25

- 1) The problem of a Christmas gift is expectations – How well will my gifts for others match up to what they are expecting ?
- 2) God took that same risk at the first Christmas – and He is taking that risk this year as Christmas approaches once again.

- 3) God’s gift is Himself
 Emmanuel – “*God with us*”
 – and the name of the gift is Jesus

- 4) Joseph – John the Baptist – the people in Jesus hometown – the religious leaders – even the disciples were all waiting, looking for, longing for God to be with people — but like this?
 – God is with His people in Jesus ?

- 5) Human beings are still looking for Emmanuel – “God with us” – but what do we mean by that?
- 6) Because we were hoping for something better, something easier, something that meets our expectations, we run the risk of missing the gifts God has for us, the gift of “*God with us*” ...
in Jesus

7) Jesus is the unexpected **“quiet”** ***“God with us”*** – and He is also the **“substitute”** ***“God with us”*** on a cross – suffering, dying as ***“God with us,”*** as God *for* us, as Jesus in our place for our sins

8) That is why ***“God with us”*** has this name: Jesus – ***“He will save his people from their sins”*** – Jesus pays the **ransom price of our slavery to sin and self**

9) ***“And surely to the very end of the I am with you always, age.”*** (Matthew 28:20)
10) ***“When (the shepherds) had seen (Jesus), they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.”*** (Luke 2:17-18)

The Offering
The Friendship Pad
During the Reception of the Offerings, please sign and pass the Friendship Pad down the pew, and then return it to the Pew Rack. Thank You!

Voluntary
“Immanuel”
by Michael Card
sung by Carlos Cruz

Congregation shall stand

Prayer of the Church

*our Prayer Requests are shared
with the gathered People of God*

A For faith to keep in holy hearts the promise of the Father which He has kept with the gift of His Son, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**



A For the grace of the Holy Spirit, that we may be kept in this faith until His coming again, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**



A For the Church that He established to bestow the blessings of His salvation through the Means of Grace and to bear witness to the world in His name, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**



A For our congregation, that we may celebrate the birth of our Lord with holy joy, self-controlled lives, and honest hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**



A For the renewal of our hearts, that we may offer the Lord the living sacrifice of our very selves, serve Him in grateful obedience, and extend His compassion and care to all those in need, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**



A For those who travel and those apart from their families during this holy time of celebration, that they know the presence of the Lord in all their need, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**



*the Prayer Requests of God's
People are lifted up to His mighty
Throne of Grace*

- P** Lord, in Your Mercy,
C hear our prayer.



- P** Rejoicing in the fellowship of
Your people by baptism and faith,
we commend ourselves and all
for whom we pray to Your mercy
through Christ, our Lord:

C Amen.



Communion Liturgy

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Lift up your hearts.
C We lift them up to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord
our God.
C It is right to give Him thanks
and praise.



- P** Great is Your glory, O Lord, our
God. We praise you for the
glory of Your creation and for
the glory of Your love that bore
with us sinners in patience until
delivering up Your own Son to
be our Savior and Lord. He was
revealed as Messiah and Savior
to the shepherds and Wise Men,




and raised in glory on the cross.
The empty tomb proclaims His
glory and we, Your people, cling
to Him for forgiveness and life.
As Jesus has taught us, and as
the Spirit gave us faith, so do we
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.**




The Words of Our Lord

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."



P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**



Agnus Dei

(Tune: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives")

**O Lamb of God for sinners slain;
the whole world's sin You take
away.**

**O Christ, the Lamb of God, give
peace; have mercy on us, grant us
grace.**



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From "Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish," Series A, Part 3, 2002-2003.

Congregation is seated



Distribution Hymn

Once in Royal David's City LSB 376



**1 Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**



**2 He came down to earth from
heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and
lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.**



**3 For He is our child-hood's
pattern,
Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness,
And He shares in all our
gladness.**



**4 And our eyes at last shall see
Him,
Through His own redeeming
love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.**



**5 Not in that poor, lowly stable
With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children,
crowned,
All in white, His praise will
sound!**



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Distribution Hymn

Arise, O Christian People

LSB 354



1 Arise, O Christian people!
 Prepare yourselves today;
 Prepare to greet the Savior,
 Who takes your sins away.
 To us by grace alone
 The truth and light were given;
 The promised Lord from
 heaven
 To all the world is shown.



2 Prepare the way before Him;
 Prepare for Him the best.
 Cast out what would offend Him,
 This great, this heav'nly guest.
 Make straight, make plain the
 way:
 The lowly valleys raising,
 The heights of pride abasing,
 His path all even lay.



3 The humble heart and lowly
 God raises up on high;
 Beneath His feet in terror
 The haughty soul shall lie.
 The heart sincere and right,
 That heeds God's invitation
 And makes true preparation
 It is the Lord's delight



4 Prepare my heart, Lord Jesus;
 Turn not from me aside,
 And help me to receive You
 This blessed Advent-tide.
 From stall and manger low
 Come now to dwell within me;
 I'll sing Your praises gladly
 And forth Your glory show.



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Distribution Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory LSB 367



**1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the
earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.**



**Come and worship, come and
worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**



**2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by
night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light.
(Refrain)**



**Come and worship, come and
worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**



**3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star**



**Come and worship, come and
worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**



**4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear.
(Refrain)**



**Come and worship, come and
worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**



**5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.
(Refrain)**



**Come and worship, come and
worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**



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Congregation shall stand



Communion Blessing

P The Body and Blood of our Lord
Jesus Christ strengthen and
preserve you to life everlasting.
Go in peace. 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.



Recessional Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful
LSB 379
v. 1-2



**1 O come, all ye faithful,
 Joyful and triumphant!
 O come ye, O come ye to
 Bethlehem;
 Come and behold Him
 Born the king of angels:**



**O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord!**



**2 Highest, most holy,
 Light of Light eternal,
 Born of a virgin, a mortal He
 comes;
 Son of the Father
 Now in flesh appearing! Refrain**



**O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him,
 Christ the Lord!**



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Dismissal

- P** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C Come, Lord Jesus, come!
Amen!



THE END OF WORSHIP **THE BEGINNING OF** **SERVICE**

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE
† GLORY



All the time, God is good!