



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
***COME TO RECEIVE – GO TO SHARE***  
***December 22, 2024***

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

### Pre-Service Music

### Welcome and Announcements

## ✠ Service of Lessons and Carols ✠

*Stand*

### Processional Carol: 376 Once in Royal David's City

*LSB 376 sts. 1–2, 5*

*Trumpet: Gordon Weiss*

*Sit*

### Opening Address

**P** Beloved in Christ, as we approach Christmas, we turn our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to journey to Bethlehem and see this thing which has happened, the baby lying in the manger. Let us hear from Holy Scripture of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience in the garden, on to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy child. Let us make this, our church, glad with our carols of praise. Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope and faith was in the Word made Flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus Christ, we forevermore are one.

**G** Amen.

### First Lesson

*Genesis 3:8–15*

<sup>8</sup>They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,

and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.  
<sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Anthem: "Let Our Gladness Have No End"**

*Grace Choir*

## **Second Lesson**

*Genesis 22:15–18*

<sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup>and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Carol: 367 Angels from the Realms of Glory**

*LSB 367 sts. 1–4*

## **Third Lesson**

*Isaiah 9:6–7*

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Fourth Lesson**

*Micah 5:2–4*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Carol: 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem**

LSB 361

*Trumpet: Gordon Weiss*

**Fifth Lesson**

*Luke 1:26–38*

<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.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Advent Candle-Lighting: The Candle of Love

- A** God of mercy and compassion, You loved the world so much that You gave Your only Son to rescue Your lost and fallen people.
- C** **Grant us love, Lord, in all the challenging days of this life. Help us now and always to know Your love for us in the person of Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Savior.**

*(Candle of Love is lit)*

- A** "Behold, I am coming soon," says the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

### Anthem: "Light One Candle for Waiting"

*Grace Choir*

*by Michael Bedford*

### Sixth Lesson

*Luke 2:1–7*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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

### Carol: 370 What Child Is This

LSB 370

### Seventh Lesson

*Luke 2:8–17*

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Anthem: "Where Shepherds Lately Knel't"**

*Grace Choir*

## **Offering and Offertory**

*Stand*

## **Prayer of the Church**

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

- P** Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:
- C** **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.**

## Confession of Sins

*LSB 151*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- 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.**

## Absolution

*LSB 151*

- 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 Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

# ☩ Service of the Sacrament ☩

## Preface

*tune: "Good King Wenceslas"*

- P** May the Lord be with you all.
- C** **And with you, his servant.**
- P** Lift your hearts unto the Lord.
- C** **Lift we hearts most fervent.**
- P** Let us give our thanks to God, God made man confessing.
- C** **Good and right it is to do, and it has his blessing.**

## Proper Preface

- P** It is truly good and right that we should offer thanks and praise to You, Lord God, eternal Father. You comforted your people of old with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

## Sanctus

tune: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**C** Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of hosts, by all adored!  
Heaven and earth cannot contain  
All the glory of your name!  
Hail, hosanna, God most high!  
Blest is he who now draws nigh  
In the name of God the King.  
Hallelujahs, glad we sing:  
Hail, hosanna! Praises due!  
Be forever, Lord, to you!

## 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  $\text{†}$  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."

**P** Remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord's Prayer

**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.

## Pax Domini

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

**C** Amen.



## Agnus Dei

tune: "I Heard the Bells On Christmas Day"

- C** O Lamb of God, you take away  
The sins of all; now hear us pray.  
And grant us from our sin release:  
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!

*Sit*

## Distribution of Holy Communion

*We believe, teach and confess that those who commune receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord---in, with and under the bread and wine---for forgiveness of sins and strengthening in faith and life. All baptized, believing Christian guests are invited to examine themselves, as exhorted by St. Paul. Those who are in agreement with this statement are invited to join us at the Altar. If you have a question regarding this, please ask to speak with the Pastor or one of the Elders.*

*Both individual and common cups are available. Also, if you would prefer to receive non-alcoholic white grape juice, there are individual cups in the center of the tray.*

*Please hand your completed family attendance card to the usher on your way to receive communion.*

**Distribution Hymn: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

LSB 357

**Distribution Hymn: 359 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

LSB 359

## The 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.

## Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you

have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”<sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.<sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.<sup>11</sup>And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.<sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Carol: 397 As with Gladness Men of Old**

*LSB 397*

### **Ninth Lesson**

*John 1:1–5, 9–14*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

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

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Carol: 379 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

*LSB 379*

*Stand*

### **Benediction**

166

**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.

**G** **Amen.**

## **Carol: 380 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

*LSB 380*

*Trumpet: Paul Nasi*

## Closing Response

- A Go in peace and serve the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

## Acknowledgments

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# *Advent & Christmas* *Services*

*Christmas Eve*

*Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm*

*Christmas Day*

*Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am*

*Epiphany*

*Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am*

*The Baptism of Our Lord*

*Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am*