

10 AM

December 24, 2023

4th Sunday of Advent



**CONNECT CARDS**

Guests and members, please:

- ◆ fill out a Connect card, or
- ◆ scan the QR code to connect with us online

Cards are in the pew racks in front of you. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.

We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

**Serving Today...**

Message:  
Pastor Greg Zillinger

Liturgist:  
Pastor Brad Stoltenow

Musicians:  
Gail Black  
Patrick Barnthson  
Ben Barstad

2023-24 at Shepherd of the Hills  
Celebrating Our 60th Anniversary Year!



Jesus Others You  
Philippians 3:1

**✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠**

**RINGING OF THE BELL ~ CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Please take this time to quiet voices and hearts as we prepare to worship.*

**PRELUDE** *O Jesus So Sweet*

**INVOCATION**

*Divine Service, Setting 1 ~ LSB p. 151; Matthew 28:19b*

Pastor (P): In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ~ FORGIVENESS OF SINS**

*1 John 1:8-9; John 20:19-23*

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(silence for reflection on God's Word and our need for a Savior)*

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.**

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!**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

*Psalm 89:1 & 5*

L: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord; I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations!

C: **Let the heavens praise Your wonders, Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!**

**HYMN RESPONSE # 387:1-2 "Joy to the World"**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her 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 men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!

**KYRIE ~ LORD [HAVE MERCY]**

*Mark 10:47*

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the peace from above and for our salvation; for the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all; for this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**ALL: Amen!**

**HYMN OF PRAISE # 341:1-3 "Lift Up Your Heads"**

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.  
Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
**To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise!**

A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.  
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
**To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise!**

How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!  
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.  
**To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise!**



**1 Offering—Mites Sunday** (4th Sundays of the month): A mite was a small coin of little value. Tiny amounts of money gathered together and given in faith and trust back to the Lord do “mite-y” acts in His kingdom!

For a history and explanation of mite boxes, and to deposit your change for this vital mission, look for the Mite Box in the sanctuary Welcome Center. You may add your coins to this mission box at any time of the month!



**ADVENT**

“Come,”  
Thou dost say  
To Angels,  
To blessed Spirits,  
“Come;”  
“Come,” to the Lambs  
of Thine Own flock,  
Thy little Ones,  
“Come home.”

“Come”—from the  
many-mansioned house  
The gracious word  
is sent,  
“Come”—  
from the ivory palaces  
Unto the Penitent.

O Lord,  
restore us  
deaf and blind,  
Unclose our lips  
tho’ dumb;  
Then say to us,  
“I come with speed,”  
And we will answer,  
“Come.”  
~Christina Rossetti

**SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: The Lord be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

L: We pray: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen!**

**GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT** *Let’s get to know each other better!*

*Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. Thank you!*



**CHILDREN’S CHAT** *Pastor*

**OFFERING<sup>1</sup> AND PRAYER** *For giving options, see: ShepherdHillsChurch.org*

Stewardship Thought:

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I can I give Him? Give my heart. ~Christina G. Rosetti

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when [King David] lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, 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: Would you build Me a house to dwell 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 for My dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges 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, that you should 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 dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men 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.... And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

**RESPONSE**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

**EPISTLE READING** Romans 16:25-27

Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**RESPONSE**

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

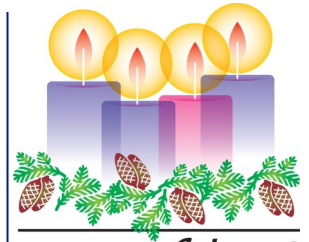
**ACCLAMATION**

L: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

C: **Glorify to You, O Lord!**

**THE HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named 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 greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And 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 shall call His name 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, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”



FOURTH SUNDAY OF *Advent*

**Immanuel be with you!**

The ancient Church called this last Sunday before the Holy Nativity, the *Preparation*. Advent allows us to cultivate a sense of expectancy (“Daddy, I can’t wait ‘til Christmas gets here!”). The time and messages of Advent also prepare us to receive God’s purest gift of love: His Son, Jesus.

In ancient times, rulers would often travel through their lands to see the conditions in which their people lived and worked. While most people ordinarily had little communication with the outside world, communication ramped up in advance of a royal visit. Runners would go ahead of the king’s entourage, greeting each town with the exciting news, “The king is coming!”

That, essentially, is the message of Advent: “The King is coming!” And He’s coming not just to pass through town but to live—with YOU!

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “It is always Advent for the Christian.” We wait for what we already now receive by faith. The Lord who is coming is already here. He has been at work...caring, loving, forgiving, saving. He is Light and Life. He is our JOY. And His name is Jesus!

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

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. 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. For nothing will be impossible with God.” 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.

**RESPONSE**

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

**HYMN OF THE DAY # 352 “Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”**

Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner’s help and friend.

What the fathers most desired, what the prophets’ heart inspired,  
What they longed for many’a year, stands fulfilled in glory here.

Abram’s promised great reward, Zion’s helper, Jacob’s Lord—  
Him of twofold race behold— truly came, as long foretold.

As Your coming was in peace, quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me which is Yours eternally.

Bruise for me the serpent’s head that, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith, safely kept through life and death.

Then when You will come again as the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face, freely ransomed by Your grace!

**MESSAGE “A House to Dwell In” text: 2 Samuel 7:1-6**

**STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE NICENE CREED** *Please turn to inside back cover of hymnal for text*

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

**Preparation for Holy Communion**

*One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:28-29*

Since those who take Christ’s body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and desire to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with Pastor.

**HOLY COMMUNION ~ PROPER PREFACE FOR ADVENT**

*2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136*

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 Him 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**HOSANNA**

*LSB # 350: 1 & 4; Matthew 20:28, 21:5; 1 Timothy 2:6; Psalm 49:7-8; Revelation 5:9*

**Come, Thou precious Ransom, come only hope for sinful mortals!**

**Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee all portals.**

**Come, Thy beauty let us see; anxiously we wait for Thee.**

**Hail! Hosanna, David’s Son! Jesus, hear our supplication!**

**Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown, bring us blessing and salvation,**

**That forever we may sing: Hail! Hosanna to our King!**



Given, with great love, for you!

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

**ALL:** 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**

Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19,20; 1 Cor 11:23-25

**PAX DOMINI ~ THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

John 20:19

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**C:** And also with you!

**AGNUS DEI ~ LAMB OF GOD**

John 1:29

**P:** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world.

**ALL:** Lamb of God, have mercy on us and give us Your peace! **AMEN**

**DISTRIBUTION**

You will be ushered forward for Communion. When receiving the bread, please extend your hand palm up. If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded. Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray; you may also request a gluten-free wafer.

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

# 546 "O Jesus So Sweet"

# 332:1-3, 6-8 "Savior of the Nations, Come" *Please stand for stanza 8, a Trinitarian stanza Δ*

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P:** God the Father, fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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 ~ GOD'S GOOD-CREATING WORD OF BLESSING**

Numbers 6:24-26

**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!

**HYMN # 381 "Let Our Gladness Have No End"**

Let our gladness have no end, alleluia!

For to earth did Christ descend, alleluia!

*Refrain: On this day God gave— us Christ, His Son, to save— us; Christ, His Son, to save us!*

Prophesied in days of old, alleluia!

God has sent Him as foretold, alleluia! *Refrain:*

See, the lov'liest blooming rose, alleluia!

From the branch of Jesse grows, alleluia! *Refrain:*

Into flesh is made the Word, alleluia!

He, our refuge and our Lord, alleluia! *Refrain:*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**POSTLUDE** *Christmas Medley*

**✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠**

**CHRISTMAS SEASON**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship | 3, 5, 7pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Vigil | 11pm

Christmas Day | 10am *(no Bible Class/Sunday School)*

New Year's Eve Day | 8 & 10:45am *(no Bible Class/Sunday School)*

Epiphany January 6, 2024 | 6:30pm



The delta symbol, Δ (the triangle), indicates a stanza which praises the Triune God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.



**Benediction:** We leave this house of worship to live out our **JOY** in the Lord in our life together with each other, our neighbors, and the world.

**LORD, LAY SOME SOUL UPON MY HEART AND LOVE THAT SOUL THROUGH ME; AND MAY I GLADLY DO MY PART TO WIN THAT SOUL FOR THEE. AMEN!**



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