

# *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*December 18, 2022*

This is the season of Advent, the four Sundays before Christmas. Blue, the color of the sky, is used to suggest hope. (This association began in Scandinavia, probably because purple dye was too expensive for churches to use.) Purple is often used, as it is a color associated with royalty.



*Lord of Love Lutheran Church (ELCA)*

*10405 Fort St., Omaha, NE 68134*

*"Celebrating and sharing God's Love in a welcoming community of faith, while serving others"*

*Worship 9:00 a.m.*

***Bold type indicates Congregational responses***

*\*Congregation please stand as you are able*

## ***Introduction***

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

***Prelude "I Wonder as I Wander"*** ..... traditional/arr. Jac Redford  
***"What Child Is This"*** ..... /arr. Douglas Haislip  
***Chorale Prelude on "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"*** ..... /arr. Richard Brown

## ***Announcements***

***Bell Choir "The Moon Of Wintertime"*** ..... by Karrisia Dennis

***Ringling of the Bell***

**\*Gathering Song:** *“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”* ..... ELW 242

**\*Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*Call to Worship**

P: We are courageous

**When we are vulnerable.**

We are courageous

**When we are honest with ourselves.**

We are courageous

**When we extend words of welcome.**

We are courageous

**When we invite others to sit with us.**

We are courageous

**When we proclaim the love of God to a broken world.**

We are courageous

**When we say that love cannot wait.**

So let us be courageous—

**Let us worship Holy God.**

**\*Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

P: Gracious God,

**We long to be as courageous as Joseph—**

**Brave enough to trust your call,**

**And strong enough to hold onto one another.**

**There are so many places in the world that could use our courage.**

**You know them, but we do too.**

So when fear takes over, **forgive us.**

When our knees shake and our words fail, **forgive us.**

When self-hatred is easier than self-love, **forgive us.**

When walls are more convenient than peace, **forgive us.**

When pessimism is more convenient than hope, **forgive us.**

When our comfort is more important than our neighbor, **forgive us.**

You invite us to be courageous, and with your help,

**May we be courageous enough to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Amen.**

**\*Kyrie**



Lord, have mer - cy\_\_ on your peo - ple. Christ have mer - cy\_\_ on\_\_ us.  
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.\_\_ Chri - ste e - le - i - son.



Shine your light in\_\_ to our dark-ness. Fill\_\_ us\_\_ with your ho - ly love.  
Heal all\_\_ con- flicts be- tween na - tions. Teach us\_\_ how to\_\_ live as one.



Be our strength in times of\_\_ trou - ble. Set us free from chains that\_\_ bind.  
Show us how to love our\_\_ neigh- bor. Run to those who\_\_ cry for\_\_ help.



Breathe new\_ life in - to our\_\_ spir - its. Pu - ri - fy our\_\_ hearts and minds.  
Word made flesh who lives a - mong us; Christ our\_\_ Lord, Em - man - u - el.

***\*Prayer of the Day***

L: Let us pray.

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

***Choir Anthem “Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”*** .....Lloyd Larsen

***First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16***

L: The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 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. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7***

L: Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **\*Gospel Acclamation**

Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a  
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed  
joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -  
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.  
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor - - -  
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

### **\*Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1st chapter.

#### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

#### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Sermon** ..... Rev. Becky Sells

**Sermon** ..... Rev. Becky Sells

**Hymn of the Day:** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1-4)" ..... ELW 257

***\*The Apostles' Creed***

L: Let us declare our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**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.**

***\*Prayers of Intercession***

L: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery, we especially pray for those on our prayer lists and the names of those we hold and lift up to you in our hearts now.... God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.  
**Amen.**

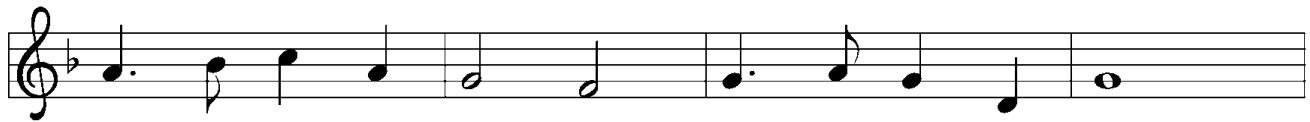
*Please be seated.*

## **Offering**

L: We are called to reflect on how we are giving back to God for all the blessings God has given us. This includes continuing to financially support the church and its mission, along with considering how we might be called to give and use our time and talents to further God's kingdom here on earth.

*Gifts may be placed in the offering plate located in the back of the sanctuary or may be given electronically at [www.lord-of-love.org](http://www.lord-of-love.org). Children may come forward to put their offering in the noise jar.*

## Offertory



What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



If I were a shep - herd 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.

## *\*Offertory Prayer*

P: Let us pray.

**God of Light, our world is a very dark place. Therefore, we offer the gifts of ourselves, our time and our resources, trusting you will use them to set the world aglow with your loving presence. May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others so they may see our good works and give glory to you. We ask this in the name of Christ.**

**Amen.**

## *\*The Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord is with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



At the beginning of creation God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. In ancient times God also led the Israelites through the desert with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. The priests of old also kept a perpetual fire burning in the Temple to remind us that God is a light who cannot be extinguished.

Finally Jesus, the Word, who was with God since the beginning of creation, became flesh and lived among us. We have seen his glory shining in our world, full grace and truth. Christ's light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. This same light has commanded us not to hide our light under a bushel basket, but to put it on a lamp stand so that everyone can see it. With our lights burning brightly, we now join the saints and angels in a hymn of praise to God, the Everlasting Light:

***\*Holy, Holy, Holy***



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One. God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and  
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed  
is the one who comes. Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

***\*Words of Institution***

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### ***\*The Lord's Prayer***

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### ***Communion Invitation***

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

### ***Lamb of God***



O Lamb of God you take a-way our sin; have mer-cy on us, give\_ us your  
peace. Pre -pare us to re - ceive\_ your grace and teach us how to fol - low your ways. Re-  
joice! Re- joice! E - man - u - el has come to you, O Is - ra-el.

### ***Communion***

***Distribution Music "Gesu Bambino".....Pietro Yon/arr. Gary Slechta***

### ***\*Post-Communion Prayer***

P: Jesus, our bright Morning Star, we give you thanks that you have fed us well through the bread and wine of your Supper. May it enable us to shine brightly in all the dark places of our world with your love, justice and peace. We ask this in your holy name.

**Amen.**

**\*Benediction**

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*Sending Song:** *“People, Look East”* ..... ELW 248

**\*Dismissal**

L: Go in peace, love and courage. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God!**

***Ringling of the Bell***

**Postlude** *“Angels We Have Heard on High”* ..... /arr. Gary Slechta

**What Can’t Wait**

**Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession**

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**Everlasting Light Liturgy**

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