



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

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*Setting 10*

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion – with high delight – "we proclaim the Lord's death."

## Joys and Concerns

### Confession and Forgiveness

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C. Amen

P. Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P. God for whom we wait,

C. **in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

P. God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

C. Amen

### Gathering Hymn

*People, Look East*

ELW 248

### Lighting of Advent Wreath (fourth candle)

P. We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen**



### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

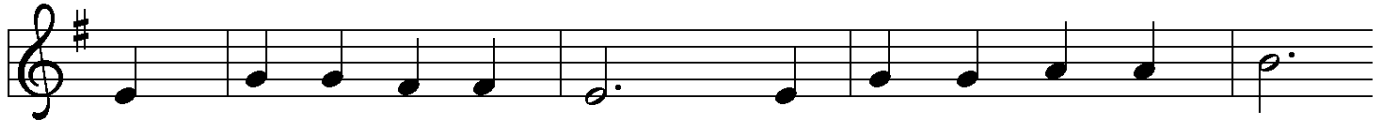


He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

## 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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## Prayer of the Day

- A.** Let us pray.
- C.** Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

## First Reading

### Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

- L.** Word of God. Word of life.  
**C.** Thanks be to God.



**Psalm 80:1-7**      *Qui regis Israel*

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \*  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; \*  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading**

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said,

"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**L.** Word of God. Word of life.

**C.** Thanks be to God.



## Gospel Acclamation

The image shows a musical score for a Gospel Acclamation in G major (one sharp). It consists of two systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The first system contains the lyrics "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and the second system contains "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!". Both systems are marked with a large "#8" at the end, indicating an 8-measure phrase. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

P. The holy gospel according to Luke, chapter one.

### Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

P. The gospel of the Lord.

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

# The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation  
He came down from heaven,  
By the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was made man.  
For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day He rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



## Prayers of Intercession

- A.** In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence*

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

- C. Your mercy is great.**

- P.** God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

- C. Amen.**



## The Peace

- P.** The Peace of Christ be with you always.

- C. And also with you.**

## The Offering

### Anthem

Brad Hunnicutt

### Offertory Prayer

- A.** God of our waiting and watching,

- C. we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.**  
**Amen**

## The Great Thanksgiving

- P.** The Lord be with you.

- C. And also with you.**

- P.** Lift up your hearts.

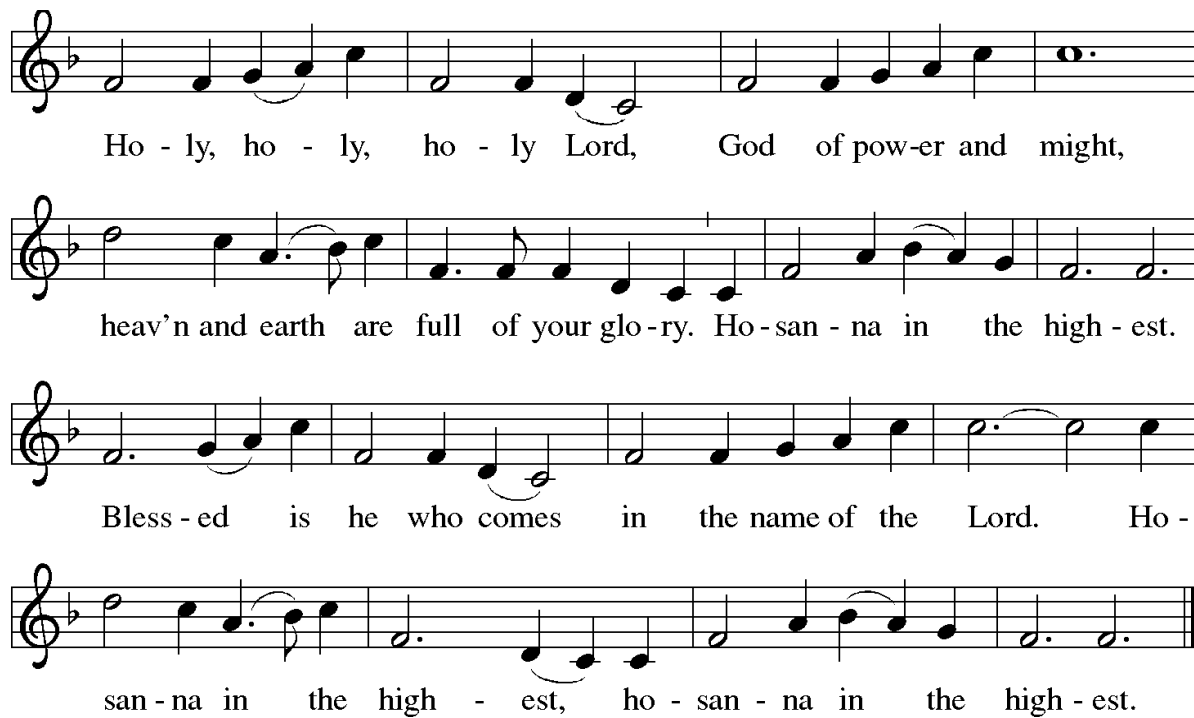
- C. We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

- P.** It is right that.....we praise your holy name saying:

## The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## The Lord's Prayer

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


## Invitation to Communion

**P.** Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

**C.** Amen



## Lamb of God



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## Communion Hymns

<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel</i>	ELW 257
<i>He Came Down</i>	ELW 253
<i>Christ, Be Our Light</i>	ELW 715

## Post Communion Blessing

**P.** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C. Amen**

## Post Communion Canticle

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

ELW 494

## Post Communion Prayer

**A.** Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**C. Amen.**

## Blessing

**P.** The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**C. Amen**

## Sending Hymn

*Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

ELW 435

## Dismissal

**A.** Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

Brad Hunnicutt



**Servers for Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>:**

Assisting Minister ..... Shannon Thomsen  
Reader ..... Sylvia Lambert  
Altar Guild ..... Ginny King  
Greeters .....  
Acolyte ..... Antonio Smith

Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday.

**Candles in the sanctuary this month are provided by  
Alice Austin in loving memory of Jack Austin.**



A sign-up sheet for Christmas Poinsettia's is located on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you prefer, you can email your request to Laura @ [LordofLife2100@gmail.com](mailto:LordofLife2100@gmail.com).  
The price for each poinsettia is \$6.



**REMINDER:** Each Wednesday during Advent there will be a Simple Supper and Mid-Week Reflection focusing on Haggai in the Fellowship Hall at 6 pm, followed by Hand Bell Choir Practice at 6:50 pm, and Full Choir Practice at 7:30 pm. **All are invited and encouraged to attend!!**