

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church



She
will bear
a **SON**, and
you are to name
him **Jesus**

MATTHEW 1:21

4th Advent – December 18, 2022

GATHER

Words of Welcome

Advent Preface

My Soul in Stillness Waits

Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness
waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.

Text: Psalm 95 and "O" Antiphons; Mary Haugen, b. 1950
Tune: Marty Haugen © 1982, GIA Publications, Inc.

Confession

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
our life, our mercy, our hope.

Let us prepare for Christ's coming by turning from sin and darkness
and turning toward the light of God's compassion and renewal.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Great and Holy One,
in this time of waning daylight,
we confess the shadows of sin in our lives.
Our words and deeds have not proclaimed
your reign of justice and peace.
We have failed to watch and pray
for the signs of your advent among us.
Come to restore us in your image,
remake us into your people,
and restore what sin has broken,
that we and the whole creation may rejoice.

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.

In the advent of Christ the dawn from on high
breaks upon us with light and healing.

Through Jesus Christ, God looks upon you with favor
and forgives you all your sins.

Amen.

Light of the Advent Wreath

(to the tune of *O Worship the King*)

High School Group

**The candle of love tells what we are worth
God loves us so much, God came to the earth
The angel brought news of a child who would be
the one who would save us and set us all free.**

Apostolic Greeting

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.

Prayer of the Day

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**

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

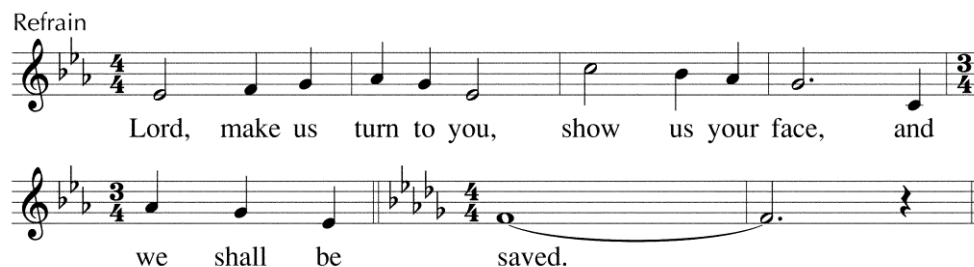
¹⁰The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³Then

Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore 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. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For 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**

Psalm 80

Refrain



Lord, make us turn to you, show us your face, and
we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

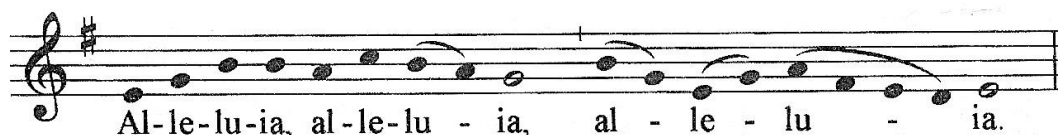
¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To 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 Verse



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Music: *Missa Emmanuel*, Richard Proulx, © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Glory to you, O Lord

⁸Now 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. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

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

Praise to You, O Christ

Children's Program

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

Away in a Manger

1. A - way in a manger, no crib for his bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2. The cat - tle are low'ing; the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love you, Lord Je - sus; look
 ev - er and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 your ten - der care and fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

We Three Kings

We Three Kings

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Refrain

**Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still Proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again;
king forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign. Refrain**

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High. Refrain**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. Refrain**

**Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heav'n sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies. Refrain**

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;

Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God,
Creator of all that is.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ, God's child.
His coming is the advent of God's reign of justice and peace.
Through his life comes healing,
Through his death comes hope,
And through his rising, life eternal.**

**We believe in the Spirit,
Who speaks through the prophets,
inspires the witness of the Church,
and through our baptism into Christ,
dwells within our hearts.**

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer requests: Sid & Beryl Bennett; Elsa Brody; Steve & JoAnn Bennett; Dave Lonsway & Family; Matthew Moersdorf; Ed Dresp; Janis Sexton; Marilyn Brown; Betty Johnson

Prayers for our church family: Jack & Roberta Moen; Brittany & Chris Nicole; Margaret O'Neill

The Peace & Announcements

Prayer over the Gifts

God of our waiting and watching,
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.

MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

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

Come to the table, where Christ comes to make a home in you.

Communion Songs

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.

Emmanuel

Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el,
his name is called Em - man - u - el;
God with us, re - vealed in us;
his name is called Em - man - u - el.

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics underneath each staff. The first staff starts with a quarter rest followed by a half note 'E', a quarter note 'm', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'n', a quarter note 'u', a quarter note 'e', and a half note 'l'. The second staff continues with a quarter rest, a half note 'h', a quarter note 'i', a quarter note 's', a quarter note 'n', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'm', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'i', a quarter note 's', a quarter note 'c', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'l', a quarter note 'l', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'd', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'm', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'n', a quarter note 'u', a quarter note 'e', and a half note 'l'. The third staff starts with a quarter rest, a half note 'G', a quarter note 'o', a quarter note 'd', a quarter note 'w', a quarter note 'i', a quarter note 't', a quarter note 'h', a quarter note 'u', a quarter note 's', a quarter note 'r', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'v', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'l', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'd', a quarter note 'i', a quarter note 'n', a quarter note 'u', a quarter note 's', and a half note. The fourth staff continues with a quarter rest, a half note 'h', a quarter note 'i', a quarter note 's', a quarter note 'n', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'm', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'i', a quarter note 's', a quarter note 'c', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'l', a quarter note 'l', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'd', a quarter note 'e', a quarter note 'm', a quarter note 'a', a quarter note 'n', a quarter note 'u', a quarter note 'e', and a half note 'l'. The final note is a half note 'l' with a fermata.

SENDING

Closing Prayer

God of wonder,

**we give thanks that you have fed us once again
with this foretaste of the great feast to come.**

**Strengthen us through this gift to serve our neighbor with joy,
that all may come to see your glory reflected in the lives of your people;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

Sending Song

Come Messiah, Come

**We know You're near
We reach for You
You're voice we hear
Your word is true
We need You now
We need You here
Come heal our hearts
Come dry our tears**

**Come, Messiah, come
Come, Lord Jesus, come
We are waiting, anticipating
Come, Messiah, come**

**Come, Messiah, come
Come, Lord Jesus, come
We are waiting, anticipating
Come, Messiah, come**

**We know You're near
We reach for You
You're voice we hear
Your word is true
We need You now
We need You here
Come heal our hearts
Come dry our tears**

**Come, Messiah, come
Come, Lord Jesus, come
We are waiting, anticipating
Come, Messiah, come
Come, Messiah, come
Come, Lord Jesus, come
We are waiting, anticipating
Come, Messiah, come**

**Your love so strong
We praise You, God
You live in us
You raise us up
Your love so strong
We praise You, God
You live in us
You raise us up**

**Come, Messiah, come
Come, Lord Jesus, come
We are waiting, anticipating
Come, Messiah, come
Come, Messiah, come
Come, Lord Jesus, come
We are waiting, anticipating
Come, Messiah, come**

Blessing

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.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God.

Thanks to:

Greeter: Cyndi Rollefson

Usher: Rebecca & John Keisler

Lector: Diane Mansell

Communion Servers: Diane Mansell

Coffee Server: Patti & Marc Frey; Carol Harvey

Altar Guild: Jeanie Schultz

Musicians, Singers: Paul Woodring / Dave Becker / Joan Pedersen / Richard Rollefson / Matt
Schultze / Ryan Reck / Phil Strauss / Talia Ortega / Janis Sexton / Carlyn Hinds