

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 19, 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316

www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

D. Howland

Bell Choir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure, and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

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 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.

“Christ, Be Our Light”

[The fourth candle is lit.]

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

The musical notation consists of three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the phrase with a double bar line.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Have mercy on us, O God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and against our neighbor.

We have built walls to keep away strangers.

We have hoarded earthly treasures and are not satisfied.

We have thought better of ourselves than we should.

Help us to love as you love,

to welcome everyone you send,

and to treasure mercy and demand justice for all people. Amen.

Know that for the sake of Jesus Christ, God has forgiven all our sins and remembers them no more. Rejoice and be glad for the kingdom of God is ours! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Once in Royal David’s City”

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem-ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,

where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel-ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed between the two staves of each system.

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

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.**

KYRIE

Leader
 In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have
 For the reign of God, and for
 mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
 Lord. For your
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your
word, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have
Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.
mer - cy. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, so 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.**

BELL CHOIR

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

S. Eithun

WORD

A Reading from Micah

²But 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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;
^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace. (Micah 5:2-5a)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7 (Read Responsively)

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

A Reading from Hebrews

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸When 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), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Hebrews 10:5-10)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.” (Luke 1:39-45 [46-55])

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the

seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she

mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.

THE NICENE CREED (Read in Unison)

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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,
He 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

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, use the church's gifts and ministries for your service and bring your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Teach us to care for your good creation and its abundant life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, strengthen those who seek justice and bless the work of all who call for mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, comfort women who are pregnant, struggling with infertility, or awaiting test results. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, make your presence felt in the lives of all those who suffer any way. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, bless the feeding ministries of this community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Faithful God, we give you thanks for women, like Mary, who were courageous in their witness to the world. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

(The Pastor concludes): 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. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

MUSICAL OFFERING

ST. PAUL'S CHANCEL CHOIR

"Christmastime" L. Larson

"How Quietly"* J. Raney

"Mary, Mary" ** G. Donnelly

PRAYER

Loving God, you have received our prayers and heard our songs of praise. We offer you thanks for the many blessings of this Advent season. You are the source of life, of hope, and of all good things. We look forward to the coming of the light of Christ at Christmas. Help us to turn toward that light in our lives. We rejoice at the gift of your Son who taught us to love in your name. May we be people of peace and justice all the days of our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Read in Unison)

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.

SENDING

BLESSING

May Almighty God protect you from all evil.

May you abide in hope and abound in faith.

May you love God and serve your neighbor with great joy

until that day when Christ comes again. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“People Look East”

[See back of bulletin]

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Lord is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"And the Glory of the Lord"

G.F. Handel

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar flowers are presented in loving memory of Harry W. Lafko by his family.

Chancel flowers are presented in honor of Karen Travor’s birthday by Barb Sterner.

**How Quietly* was presented in loving memory of H. Clair and Jane Zimmerman by Steve and Robin Zimmerman. (2017)

***Mary, Mary* was presented in loving memory of our grandparents, Ellsworth and Bertha Betz and William and Jean Keich, and our parents, David Betz and Diane Carroll, by Jennifer Betz and Lindsay Blank. (2017)

Introduction to the day: 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.”

SERVING THIS SUNDAY (12/19/21)

8:00 AM

GREETER: TBA; LECTOR: Ruth Ann Withers

COMMUNION ASST.: Ruth Ann Withers

10:30 AM

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Juli Schenck; LECTOR: Leslie Guldin

COMMUNION ASST.: NONE

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

COUNTERS: Joyce O’Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (12/26/21)

9:30 AM

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Jessica Swick; LECTOR: Jason Swick

COMMUNION ASST.: Wayne Lutsey

ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner

COUNTERS: Joyce O’Rourke, Gloria Dierwechter, and Pat Davis

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, December 19	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	10:30	“In-house” Christmas Concert
Friday, December 24	5:00 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:00 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
	11:00 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Saturday, December 25		MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! No Worship scheduled
Sunday, December 26	9:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

PLEASE GIVE TO HELP US REACH OUR PLEDGE

Every year our congregation makes a pledge of financial support for the work of the ELCA which reaches far beyond the walls of our congregation. This year we pledged \$9,000.00 in benevolence to help fund world hunger, efforts, support our missionaries, fund our seminaries, provide for refugees, and continue many ministries in our synod, throughout our nation, and around the world. Please consider increasing your benevolence giving so we can meet this year's pledge!

CHANGES IN OUR WORSHIP

Pastor Mike will be on vacation the last weekend of December and will not be able to conduct our worship service as normally scheduled. Our 5:30 p.m. Saturday service on December 25 and our 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, December 26 will be cancelled, and in their place, a single service with Holy Communion will be conducted at 9:30 a.m. on the morning of December 26. These changes were necessary due to a shortage of available supply pastors in our synod. Please warmly welcome Pastor Joyce Seip from Reading, PA, who will lead our worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 26.

OUR NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will continue to host a Sunday School for children every second Sunday of the month. Children ages 1-10 are invited to join us during the 10:30 a.m. service on, Sunday, January 9, 2022, for Bible stories, crafts, a snack, fun, and fellowship. Teenagers are also invited to participate as helpers. Please read our “Second Sunday” article in the December newsletter for more information.

SENDING HYMN

“People Look East”

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.