



“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..”

Luke 1:41-42

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
4th Sunday of Advent – December 22, 2024

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshipping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

***GATHERING SONG *God Welcomes All* (ACS 978)**

Repeat several times

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It contains four measures of music with lyrics underneath. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, also containing four measures of music.

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The second system of musical notation also consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It contains four measures of music with lyrics underneath. The bottom staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, also containing four measures of music.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Greetings to you in the name of the triune God, the one whose word always accomplishes:
The Shaper of Life, the Savior of Humanity, the Spirit of Renewal.

Amen.

Today, as we confess our sins, we recognize how easily we overlook the gifts God gives.
And we accept the sad truth that our limitations often create the conditions for sin. Let us
confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

we want a faith that feels like more than words,

but we lack your power to embody goodness.

We hear your call to serve others yet feel too worn out to make the food.

We hunger to taste justice but fear the burning spice of the meal.

We want our place at your table but resist sitting beside a stranger.

We have lost our appetites for mere thoughts and prayers,

but we fail to match our intentions to our actions.

Forgive us and restore us with the healing wholeness of your presence.

God knows we are imperfect.

But God did not invite us here today for what we have done

or how we have behaved. God loves you.

God always cared much more for you than for your shortcomings.

God forgives you all your sins.

Now repeat after me.

We accept God's forgiveness.

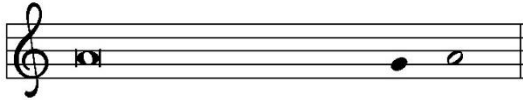
We accept God's forgiveness.

We take our place in God's purpose.

We take our place in God's purpose.

Amen.

***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



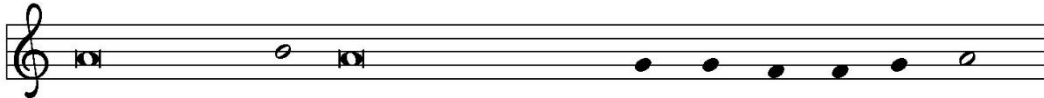
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *This Is the Feast

Refrain

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Each of our Advent candles represents God's generous goodness,
the advent of Jesus, God's greatest gift, the Spirit's fluttering flicker of joy.
As we light each candle, we recognize the gifts God has given us this week.

Together, we pray:
God, we reach for unreasonable hope;
and you prepare an incomparable future.

God, we breathe in your peaceful refuge,
for you have made a place where we can safely rest.

Joy ebbs and flows each day, holy God.
so we pray to you in honesty.

Your love grows unseen, holy God;
we prepare for you every day.



Light all four candles during the singing of the hymn.

ADVENT SONG *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* (ELW 240)



- 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!

Jesus, you shape the world around us, even when you remain just out of sight.
As we listen today, help us prepare our lives for you with loving anticipation.

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.

THE MAGNIFICAT (Luke 1:46-55)

All



1., 3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness, O God, and my
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up -

spir - it re - joic - es in you. You have looked with love on your
lift - ed the hum-ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the
strong is your jus - tice, strong your love, as you prom - ised to

D.C.
weak and low - ly one, hum - bling the proud of heart!
Sar - ah and A - bra - ham, kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

PRAYER FOR OUTREACH MINISTRY

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah.

² But 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.

³ 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.

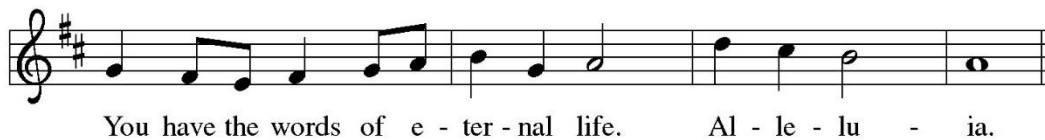
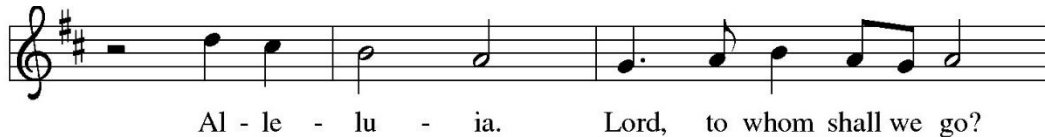
⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



***GOSPEL READING: 1:39-55**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (ELW 272)*

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



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
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



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
dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

***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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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 worshiped 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**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence. *A brief silence*

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill, especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember in our hearts and all who suffer in any way. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our strength, look upon us with your everlasting mercy, and receive the prayers gathered before you now with the prayers on the hearts of this congregation today (*blue prayer cards are read*). Into your precious keeping we entrust our prayer.

Amen.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING COLLECTION

OFFERTORY HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (ELW 257) vs. 5-8 *Rise on 8th verse*

The image shows four staves of musical notation for the hymn 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'. The music is written in G major (one sharp) and 7/8 time. The first three staves show the main melody with various phrasing slurs and accents. The fourth staff is labeled 'Refrain' and shows a shorter, simpler melodic line. The notation includes treble clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a time signature of 7/8.

5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Together we pray.

Holy Spirit, please bless these small gifts we give. **You set the table with plenty of love.**

Prepare room in your home **for my neighbor and me.**

Prepare a place in your vision **for my neighbor and me.**

Prepare a seat at your table **for my neighbor and me.**

Holy Spirit, you have blessed these gifts we give. **You set the table with plenty of love.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

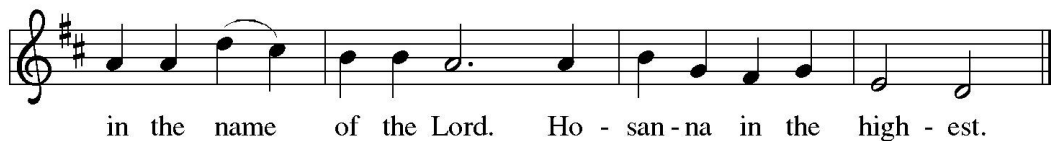
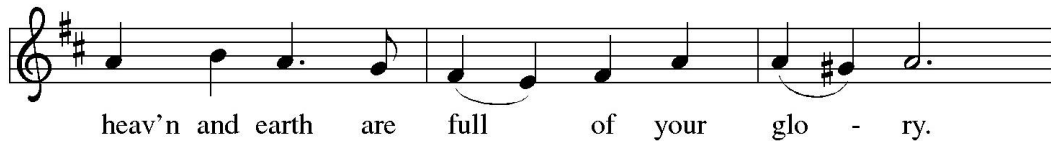
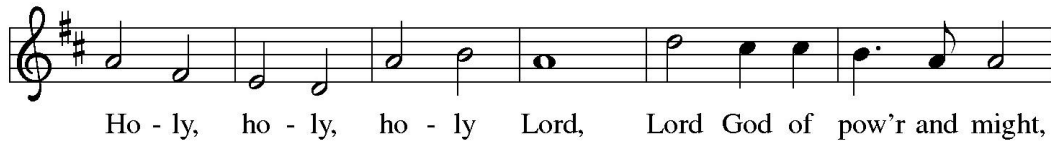
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



God, yours was the First Thought; before any human lived or knew your name, you whispered, and creation built itself around your words. Before your ancient people knew the depth of your love, you promised them goodness, and led them to freedom.

Your love grows unseen.

Before the world knew your face, your own child was born in a quiet stable.

Your love blooms in the dark.

Before we knew the depth of your love, your child died, crucified, and you forgave, and new life grew in the grave.

Your love echoes in the silence.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

This is the body of Jesus, the blood of Jesus.

To you, O God, holy three-in-one, one-in-three, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

**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

Holy Spirit, you are here now in this food, where you embody forgiveness;
and in these people, whom you have leavened with grace.

People of God, God's love grew unseen, but now you know it;
God's love echoes in silence, but you have sung the song.

Now come taste the goodness of God's mercy and notice what God has done for you.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* (ELW 265)



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Glo - ri - a!

COMMUNION HYMN *Unexpected and Mysterious* (ELW 258)



1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle
 2 In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni -
 3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain -
 ty and time, Mar - y learned that she would car -
 com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



ing is the peace of God's em - brace. If we fal - ter
 ry both the mor - tal and di - vine. Then she learned of
 sion for each frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us



in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is
 God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy, and she
 in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we



faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.
 ran to greet the wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.
 watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace. **Amen.**

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink
 in the body and blood of your Son.

Now send us out to labor with you,
 in service to the world you have made,
 and among the people you have made your home,
 in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*BLESSING

God our Creator, who made the starlit sky, blesses you.
God our Redeemer, who arrives at just the right time, blesses you.
God our Sustainer, who sparks hope for the hopeless blesses you.
God the Three in One and One in Three blesses you.
God blesses you. Amen.

*SENDING SONG *Joy to the World* (ELW 267)



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

*DISMISSAL

People of God, you have already shared the arrival of God's goodness.

You carry the blessing of God,
God, the First Whisper, Jesus, the Living Promise, Spirit, the Speaker of Hearts.

Now go into this world expecting God's justice and nurturing God's peace. Christ is with you
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Denise H

Acolyte: Anna K

Ushers: Dave K

Offering: Jules K & Abby C

Advent Wreath Leaders: Cardinal Family

Attendance last week: 64 + 5 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

Often called the visitation, the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth is full of joy, recognition, gratitude, and blessing. Luke immediately follows the annunciation with Mary's journey to visit Elizabeth, who gives this unmarried pregnant girl not only a safe haven but also the first glimpse of what it means to be the mother of the Savior. The encounter is full of mystery and grace: the mystery of new life forming but still invisible, and the grace of recognizing each other as the Spirit-filled mothers they are becoming.

The story is also full of theological gravity: as the women encounter each other, so do Jesus and John the Baptist. Yet the theological meaning is almost overshadowed by the sheer physicality of the encounter. Imagine the hasty travel, demonstrative greeting, joyful exclamation, the unborn John leaping for joy, and robust singing. As the celebration of Christ's birth approaches, the four active and responsive bodies in this text remind us that this is, after all, the incarnation itself unfolding.

God becomes a body in Jesus, and that body will be offered up for the sake of the world. This body, recognized already by John in the womb, will eventually undergo the suffering and shame of death on a cross. Without losing sight of that big picture, today we enter into the up-close picture of Mary and Elizabeth's encounter and share in the joy and gratitude they have in common with all who recognize Christ in their neighbor.

Today's Music

God Welcomes All. Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, Music: South African traditional; transc. and arr. John L. Bell. GIA Publications, Inc..

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah. Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954, Music: Yiddish folk tune. Augsburg Fortress /Public Domain.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming. Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st.3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st.4, Music: Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge, Köln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621. Public Domain.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel. Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite, Music: French processional, 15th cent. Augsburg Fortress / Public Domain.

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came. Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, Music: Basque carol; arr. C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943, and John Wickham. Public Domain / Glenwood Music Corp..

Unexpected and Mysterious. Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961, Music: Calvin Hampton, 1938-1984. Augsburg Fortress / GIA Publications, Inc.

Joy to the World. Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872. Public Domain.

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Next Week's Readings:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 *The boy Samuel grew in favor with the Lord and the people*

Psalm 148 *The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven*

Colossians 3:12-17 *Clothe yourselves in love; let the peace of Christ rule your hearts*

Luke 2:41-52 *The boy Jesus increased in wisdom and in divine and human favor*