



The Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 22, A+D 2024



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DIVINE SERVICE

Setting 4 – Page 203

Lutheran Service Book

The Lord Comes to Visit Us in Peace

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the nativity of our Lord. With Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Spirit of God. As the Lord dealt graciously with her and did great things for her (Luke 1:48-49), so also He manifests Himself and His glory to us in mercy and gentleness. He comes to rule His people in peace, to “shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD.” He comes forth not from the great capital city of Rome or Jerusalem, but from lowly little Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, 4). He comes to sacrifice Himself, in fulfillment of His Father’s will, for the salvation and sanctification of His people (Heb. 10:10). He who once visited Elizabeth while hidden in the womb of Mary (Luke 1:39-45) now comes to visit us today, hidden in the lowliness of simple water, bread and wine.

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

A Children's Christmas

A short program presented by the children.

The Gifts We Can't See by: Emily Hudson

Narrator: Levi/Wise man

Shepards and Angels: Oliver, Madeline, Kayla, Amelia, Malorie

Music: Henry Sella

O Come, Little Children*Congregation sings as children enter*

- 1 **O come, little children, from cot and from hall;
O come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall.
There meekly He lieth the heavenly Child,
So poor and so humble, so sweet and so mild.**
- 2 **The hay is His pillow, the manger His bed;
The beasts stand in wonder to gaze on His head.
Yet there where He lieth, so weak and so poor,
Come shepherds and wise men to kneel at His door.**
- 3 **Now "Glory to God" sing the angels on high,
"And peace up on earth" heav'nly voices reply.
Then come, little children, and join in the lay
That gladdened the world on that first Christmas Day.**

A It's that time of year
Homes draped with ribbons and lights
To make us feel a little bit warmer
On these cold winter nights.
We do lots of shopping and wrapping
Lots of cooking and baking.
Taking pictures on phones
Of all the memories we're making.
But on this Christmas morning
When you see gifts under the tree
Know Christmas is really about
The gifts we CAN'T see...

So, gather round little Shepards
For my story will start.
Listen with your ears
but hear these words in your heart.
I was there that first Christmas
With two other guys.
We saw it first-hand, and you can trust me.... I'm wise.
The story begins when God told an angel,

"You must find this girl who will give birth in a stable."

An angel appeared to a young woman named Mary.
 He said "God has big plans for you,
 I don't mean to be scary.
 You'll have a baby named Jesus
 Who one day will die for our sins."
 And this is where Christmas REALLY begins.

About 9 months later,
 a babe was born in a manger.
 This is where the story gets even stranger!
 Shepards were out minding their business that night
 when they looked up and saw angels
 and a star shining SO bright.

Away in a Manger

Children sing first verse. Congregation sings verses 2 & 3.

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

- 2 **The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
 I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
 And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

- 3 **Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
 Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
 And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.**

- Ⓐ They spread the good news
 of God's love and of Jesus.
 That's when I heard the news and said,
 "You guys, we HAVE to go see this!"
 We picked out three gifts and we went on our way.

And when we saw our young King
we knew we were saved.

But the real gift God gave us, on that first Christmas Eve
Can only be ours if we trust and believe.
These gifts you won't find wrapped under a tree.
They are Faith, Hope, Joy
and the Love we have for our family.

Confession and Absolution

Stand

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their
Baptism.*

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Exhortation

LSB 203

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

- P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Confession of Sins

LSB 203

- C** Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Absolution

LSB 203

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit*1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b–7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b–47*

- P** My soul magnifies the Lord,
C and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
P My mouth derides my enemies,
C because I rejoice in your salvation.
P There is none holy like the LORD;
C there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.
P The barren has borne seven,
C but she who has many children is forlorn.
P The LORD kills and brings to life;
C he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
P The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
C he brings low and he exalts.
C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
P My soul magnifies the Lord,
C and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Kyrie

LSB 204



- C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

A The Old Testament Reading for The Fourth Sunday in Advent is from the fifth chapter of the prophecy of Micah.

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
 from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to be ruler 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 given birth;
 then the rest of his brothers shall return
 to the people of Israel.

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

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle*Hebrews 10:5–10*

A The Second Reading is from the tenth chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews.

⁵When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;

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

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

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, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

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

C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–45

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

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

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Apostles' Creed

159

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Sit

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**Sermon****Gathering of Tithes & Offerings**

If you are submitting a prayer request on a prayer card, kindly hand it directly to the usher. Do not place it into the offering plate.

Musical Offering

Stand

806 Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart**Prayer of the Church**

159

P . . . Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

LSB 208

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten

Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus*LSB 208*

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My $\cdot\ddagger$ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My $\cdot\ddagger$ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei

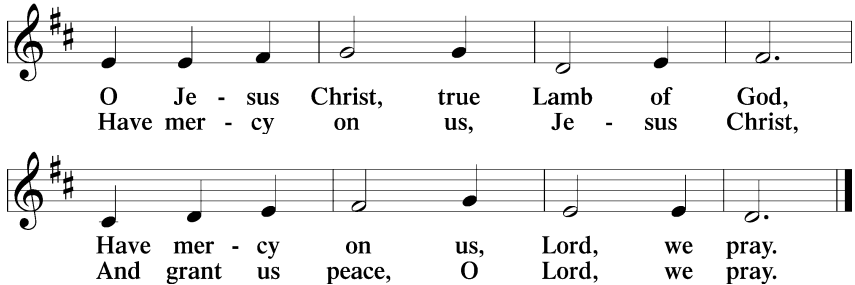
LSB 210



C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution of Christ's Body and Blood

Members of other Christian denominations who are present may come forward to receive a blessing from the Pastor during the distribution. It is requested that you cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire this blessing.

Silent Prayer Just Before Communing: *Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation, I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Silent Prayer Just After Communing: *Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament. I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace the forgiveness of sins unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.*

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

373 See amid the Winter's Snow

Stand

The Communion Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant the De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your

Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

A Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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Commission on Worship of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



The Glad Spirit

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

December 22, 2024

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

ST. PAUL'S FAMILY

Dominique Sella

Henry & Mary Sella

Louis Sella

Jennifer Shadley, Family Michael, Melanie

Lisa Sheridan, Family Bailey, Connor

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Marina Middleton, 12/24

Dominic Ramirez, 12/25

Camden Wisely, 12/27

Isabella Ramirez, 12/28

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Pray for Norma Allen, Janice Abel, Sondra Budde, Jay Carey, Pastor and Pam Collins, Carmen Dampier, Judy Diekleman, Shirley Emerick, Latricia Harris, Ed Hoeksema Jr., Doris Leifert, Chester Orendorff, Violet Rich, Dolly Tagenhorst, Warren Van Mynen, Gene Wiltjer, Ray Zander.

Serving in the Military – Austin Brandy, James Fluechtling, Dakota Gaut and Nathan Lopez.

Serving as First Responders – David Allen, Dave Bloom, Nathan Conway, Brianne Giba, Melanie Hudson, Brian Orth, Dana Tatgenhorst, Taylor VanDommelen and Dan Zander.



NEWS UPDATE



St. Paul Book Club will meet Tuesday January 8th at 10:00 am, to review *The Medicine Woman of Galveston* by Amanda Skenandore. We always welcome new members. We enjoy fellowship and lunch following the discussion.

Christ For You the week of December 22nd on KFUE.org: Celebrate the season of Christmas with sacred music and songs during the 12 Days of Christmas, December 24th-January 6th. Regular programming will resume on January 7th.

The Week of December 22nd Sacred Music & Talk for The Christmas Season... You can listen 24/7 to sacred talk and music for the 12 days of Christmas at issuesetc.org, lutheranpublicradio.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, TuneIn, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

Word of Hope offers free and confidential counseling to women and men struggling with an abortion experience. If you would like more information on how Word of Hope can help you or someone you love, visit our website at www.word-of-hope.org. You can be healed.

We'd love to see you in worship. Our worship services are every Sunday at 9:30 AM. If you are unable to attend it can be viewed on Facebook live at www.facebook.com/splcms/videos. A previous recording is also available. Bulletins for the services are available for viewing or download on our website at www.splcms.org/worship.

“Merry Christmas! And may the certainty of God’s love for you in Jesus Christ give you strength, comfort, and confidence this day to face whatever comes tomorrow. For, nothing can overpower the persevering power and blessing of Christmas.” Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

Mary Visits Elizabeth, Luke 1:39-45

J D A D W Z N T F U T I K U L W C M H R E H G E
 J R P Q K B M E S F O F T R D O G E J R F N E V
 Y Q T S X E Q P F V P Z R Z S A H O P I O B V N
 Y W I E H M G J I B A B E U N P S S R Z T I C A
 Q J K T K L C S N L V Z F C I U S C T N U C G D
 C B V D P O I C F F A B P L G T D D N Z P P Z E
 R T V X U T V F X X J F C R Y P F E D L S C X L
 F N M N E P N I H V X A U R W P M D S W K N H I
 I I T R L I D G K T C E S K Y C Z G G S I Y V Z
 X R I J K O V B D W C Q T I U R F C F S E S E A
 Y V P J M Q M F N L C G Y O J D Q D U S I L C B
 N K Z P T O F F H R X Z G Q F J L O B P B H B E
 F C Z O W L H A F M W N Y P U M C O D C R A I T
 Q J T O F L I M H R I R D D G L L Y H K N H B H
 H N Q S A R Y Z K T A V A O E Q E W Z E R C V A
 H O R R A B L S E M K H J C J H A O S N B I N Y
 A S L H A P N E O B E Q Q P G G P G D C H U X S
 Q X C Y V Y R U T B S N J A B N E A Q D S G W J
 J E S U S G O F K W O M E N S Q D F C D H I W K
 Z W L U I P A P C L B W E L C D J J G U E H Y U
 Q X R A T V I I B W F C S D D M O T H E R S G D
 L I O A W K J R P N S X V J U S J G Q C N P M U
 Y I A J J C A S I I O H M Z B D F C S Q F U K Z
 K C U B L O R D Z T R M J E T Y W T J A Z M D A

holy spirit

blessed

mother

judah

womb

zechariah

country

cousin

visit

Mary

Elizabeth

leaped

women

lord

cry

greeting

behold

fruit

babe

joy

GOD'S PEOPLE IN ACTION



ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

December 11th Attendance 13, 1 Online

December 15th Attendance 22, 18 Communed, 18 Online

Envelopes	\$221.00	Weekly Missions	\$20.00
Basket	260.00	Church Maint	10.00
Advent	165.00	Social Ministry	20.00
General Fund	50.00		
Budgeted Total	696.00	Non-budgeted Total	\$50.00
Offering Needed	1,362.00		
Short	\$-666.00		



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today	9:30 am	<i>A Children's Christmas</i>
	9:45 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Coffee &...
Monday		
Tuesday	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am	Coffee &...

SERVANT SCHEDULE

	Sun, Dec 22, 9:30 AM	Sun, Dec 29, 9:30 AM
Pastor	Rev. Mark Zuehsow	Rev. Mark Zuehsow
Usher	Dave Bloom	
Lay Reader	Micci Orth	Norma Allen

DONATIONS



FOOD PANTRY



GENERAL FUND