

# ADVENT IV WORSHIP ❀ December 24, 2023

Words of Welcome

"O come, O come, Emmanuel," verses 7 & 8

Hymnal #56

**7. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind;  
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, 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 thee, O Israel!**

The Opening Verse, Confession & Absolution

*Officiant* Keep watch, for you know not when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning; lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.  
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*A substantial silence for reflection is kept.*

*Officiant* Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of your kingdom: Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Officiant* You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness: Christ, have mercy.

*People* **Christ, have mercy.**

*Officiant* You will come in glory with salvation for all your people: Lord, have mercy.

*People* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Celebrant* The almighty and merciful God grant us pardon and remission of all our sins, renewal of life, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*Officiant* In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.

*People* **Make straight in the desert a pathway for our God.**

*Reader* People of God: prepare! God, above all, maker of all, is one with us in Christ. God, the mighty God, bends down in love to earth. God with us, God beside us, comes into the world that God has made.

*All four Advent candles are lit.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## The Invitatory and Psalter

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.  
Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

*Officiant* Our King and Savior now draws near; come let us adore God.

## Song of Faith: Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
**for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*

**the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him \*

**in every generation.**

He has shown the strength of his arm, \*

**he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*

**and has lifted up the lowly.**

He has filled the hungry with good things, \*

**and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*

**for he has remembered his promise of mercy,**

The promise he made to our fathers, \*

**to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Glory to the Holy and Undivided Trinity, one God;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**

## The First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

*Reader* A reading from the second book of the prophet Samuel.

When the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint

a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People        **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle: Luke 1:68-72, 78-79

**Blessed are You, O God of Israel;**

**you have come to your people and set them free.**

**You have raised up for us a mighty savior,**

**born of the house of your servant David.**

**Through your holy prophets you promised of old**

**that you would save us from our enemies,**

**from the hands of all who hate us.**

**You promised to show mercy to our forebears,**

**and to remember your holy covenant.**

**In the tender compassion of our God**

**the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,**

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.**

The Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Reader        A reading from the gospel of Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Reader        Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

People        **Thanks be to God.**

## Homily

Dialogue based on the Magnificat

*Written by David Lose*

*Preacher:*

Greetings, favored ones! The Lord is with you,  
and intends to do great things through you.

*Congregation:*

**How can this be? We are just ordinary people.**

*Preacher:*

Do not be afraid! You have found favor through God.  
The Holy Spirit will stir within you and among you, guide and strengthen you,  
to care for this world and the people God loves so much.  
For nothing is impossible with God.

*Congregation:*

**Here am I, a servant of the Lord.  
Let it be with me according to your word.**

## The Prayers

*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.

*People*          **And also with you.**

*Officiant*      As we pray together, you may unmute yourself if you choose, and you may pray  
using any version of this prayer that is in your heart. Now, let us pray as God's beloved children,  
using the prayer Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

*Officiant*      We now continue in prayer. Let us hold a brief silence now, while we allow things  
to come into our minds and hearts that we want to hold in prayer with our  
community today. You may wish to bow your head, open your hands, or prepare  
your body for prayer in some other way.

*A brief silence is kept.*

*Officiant*      Let us now hold up our needs and blessings to God. You can speak your prayers  
out loud, type them into the Chat area, or hold them in your heart. As you are

able, please hold others' prayer requests before God in your heart as well.

*Officiant* Let us pray for all churches and their leaders, and for all God's people everywhere.

*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for all those in authority.

*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for all nations and peoples.

*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for the earth and the whole created order.

*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for our local communities.

*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for those in any need or trouble, especially those on our parish prayer list: .... You are invited to name others in need of prayer, and to hold up your own struggles to the light of God's love.

*The people may offer additional names.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for all who have died, and for those who mourn.

*The people may offer additional names.*

*Officiant* Let us pray for our common life and work as God's people.

*The people may offer their prayers aloud.*

*Officiant*

Let us pray. O Lord, you have set before us the great hope that your kingdom shall come on earth, and have taught us to pray for its coming: Give us grace to discern the signs of its dawning, and to work for the perfect day when your will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The Officiant may read one of the following Collects as well:*

*A Collect for Peace*

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*A Collect for Grace*

Lord God, almighty and everlasting One, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### *A Collect for Guidance*

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Sharing of Blessings

*Officiant*

Does anyone have any blessings or celebrations to share with the assembly today?

### The Peace

*Officiant*

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the Dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
The peace of the Lord be always with you!

*People*

**And also with you!**

*We greet one another, wishing one another the peace of Christ.*

### Announcements

### Song: Advent Lullaby

**Lullaby, lullaby, wait till tomorrow,  
Lullaby, lullaby, wait till tomorrow,  
When Love will come, when Love will come.**

### The Blessing & Dismissal

*Celebrant*

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,  
scatter the shadows from before your path,  
and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory;  
and the blessing of God Almighty, Source, Word, and Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Officiant*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God!**