

St. Matthew 1:21

“She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus,  
for He will save His people from their sins.”



4th Sunday in Advent

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 18, 2022

Prelude

\*The Processional Hymn                      *Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel*                      (ELW) No. 257

\*The Confession and Forgiveness                      (ELW) page 94

P: In the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy....of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God,.....in the name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Apostolic Greeting                      (ELW) page 138

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

\*The Kyrie (*sung response*)                      (ELW) page 138

P: ....., let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*The Hymn of Praise                      *O Lord, How Shall I Met You*                      (ELW) No. 241

\*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray

**C: : Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. With Your great might, give us Your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by Your grace; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-17

(After the Old Testament Lesson is announced, Olivia and Larry will light the four candles on the Advent Wreath as the congregation sings verse 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Hymn No. 240.)

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

The Psalmody for the Day *(read responsively)*

Psalm 24

<sup>1</sup>The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,  
the world and all who dwell therein.

**<sup>2</sup>For it is He who founded it upon the seas  
and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**

<sup>3</sup>"Who can ascend the hill of the LORD?  
and who can stand in His holy place?"

**<sup>4</sup>Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,  
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn  
by what is a fraud.**

<sup>5</sup>They shall receive a blessing from the LORD  
and a just reward from the God of their salvation."

**<sup>6</sup>Such is the generation of those who seek Him,  
of those who seek Your face, O God of Jacob.**

<sup>7</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.

**<sup>8</sup>"Who is this King of glory?"**

**"The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle."**

<sup>9</sup>Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in.

**<sup>10</sup>"Who is He, this King of glory?"**

**"The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory."**

Second Reading

James 5:7-11

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*The Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

(ELW) page 142

**C: Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

\* The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-15

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.** (*sung after announcement of the Gospel*)

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.** (*sung after conclusion of the Gospel*)

Sermon

Rev. Robert B. Grewe

\*The Hymn of the Day

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

(ELW) No. 249

\*The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**I 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.**

**I 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.**

**I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen**

\*The Prayers of the Church (response)

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

\*Sharing of the Peace

The Musical Offering

\*The Offertory

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

(SBH) page 27

\*The 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.**

Announcements

\*The Benediction (*sung response*)

**C: Amen, Amen, Amen.**

\*The Recessional Hymn

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

(ELW) No. 250

\*The Dismissal (*response*)

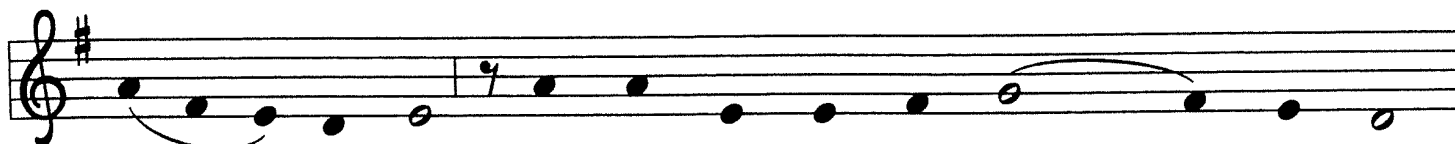
**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



- 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



- Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



- un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 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.  
*Refrain*
- 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.  
*Refrain*

- 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.  
*Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
 and ransom captive Israel,  
 that mourns in lonely exile here  
 until the Son of God appear.  
*Refrain*

## O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?  
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.  
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.  
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!  
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.  
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast  
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high  
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace  
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.  
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.  
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.  
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.



# Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah 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!





1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!



# The Communion

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -".

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -".

way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly

The third system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "way from thy pres - ence: and take not thy Ho - ly".

Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

The fourth system of musical notation continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are: "Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of".

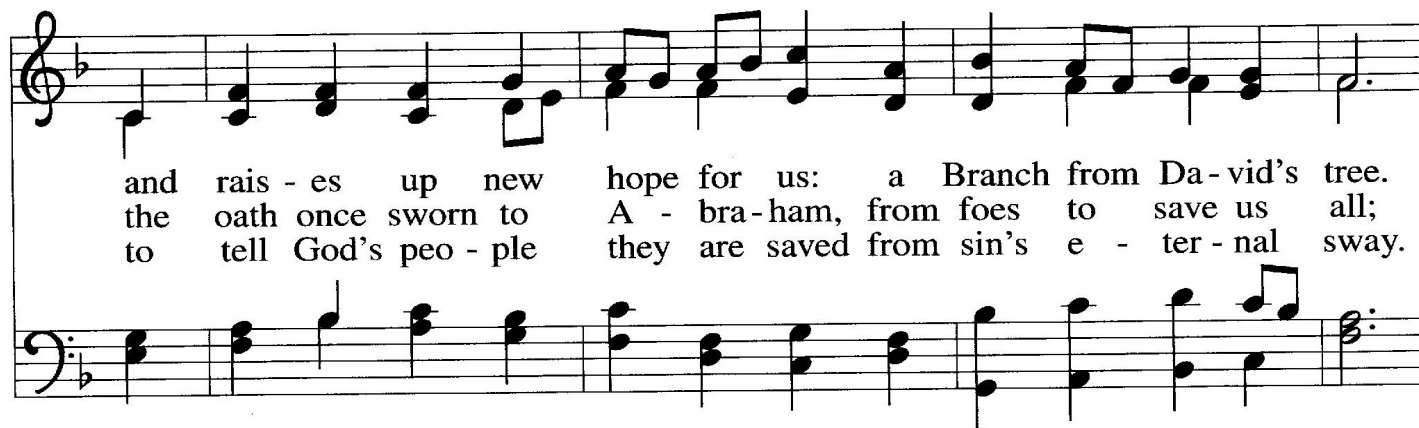
thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it.

The fifth system of musical notation concludes the piece. The lyrics are: "thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with thy free Spir - it."

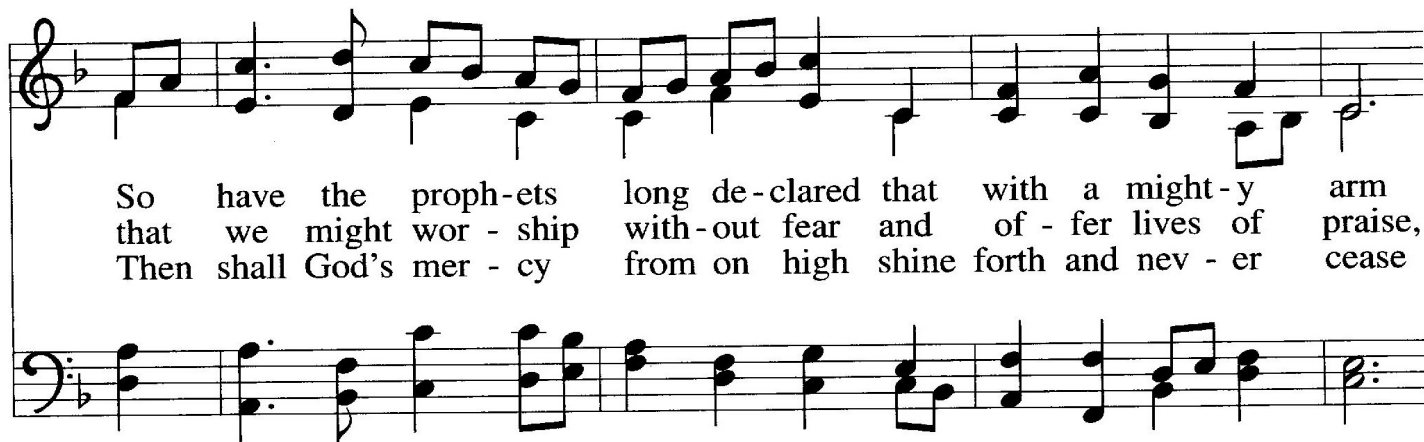
## Blessed Be the God of Israel




1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
 2 With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
 3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord you will pre-prepare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.  
 the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all;  
 to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph-ets long de-clared that with a might-y arm  
 that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
 Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
 in ho - li - ness and righ - teous-ness to serve God all our days.  
 to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

## **First Lutheran Church**

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Dennis Schmidt, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

J. Judson Lacko, Lutheran Lay Worship Leader

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**The Flowers on the Chancel** are given to the glory of God by Mr. & Mrs. Donald P. Hazlett in loving memory of Rita Hazlett & sons Donald Paul Hazlett and Brent Robert Hazlett.

**The Lay Reader** is Dennis Schmidt.

**Acolytes** are Jacin and Trevor Flowers..

**Counters/Greeters** today are Dennis Schmidt and Larry Sten.

**Welcome to our Visitors!** The people of this congregation welcome you as you join us in worship this morning. Please sign the register, located in the narthex. If you have questions, please see the pastor or contact the church office.

**Do you wish to become a member of First Lutheran Church?** Please contact Pastor Grewe.

**Nursery:** We welcome all children to be a part of worship, but we realize that sometimes the service can be too long for the little ones. We have a nursery for those attending to the needs of infants and small children. There is a speaker in the nursery so that parents can still hear the service. You are welcome to use the nursery for the entire service, or just a small part.

**Bell Choir Practice** on Monday at 6 PM.

**The Flower Chart for 2022** is posted in the narthex. If you wish to place flowers, (real or artificial) near the altar, sign your name opposite the date of your choice. You will be reminded of your date and asked for the wording you want in the bulletin two weeks before the due date.

**Sign-up sheets are posted to host a coffee hour in 2022.** Please write your names under the month you would like to host. The coffee hours have been a wonderful time of fellowship and the hosts have been awesome! Thank you!!

**Sign-up sheets are posted for Lay Readers in 2022.** Please sign up.

**Please remember to continue contributing donations to our girls in Ethiopia. Please consider this as a call to help others in need.**

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**Please pray for those in need of healing:**

Janet Burke, Maureen Curry, Eveline Reihner, Rocky and Carol, Shari Kienzle, Chiquita, Stacy Carroll, Billie Sue Serbak, Susan Westott, Fred Dupas, baby Isaac Christian, Allan Zimmerman, the Pollana family, Amy Verderber, Sylvia Sunstrum, Kevin Ryan, baby Ryan, Dan, Fritz Group, Amy, Lucy & Dave Mehaffey, Jessi, Bill Hisiro, Richard, Ruby Rogers, Klaus Behrens, Joanne Reck, Bill Stewart, Morgan, Sharon Fritz, baby Matthew, Tim & Karen Edwards, Tom Liam, Gary, Daniel, Judy Dombrowsky, Emily Buchleitner, Jean Erdmann, Greg Mason, Alexandra Perry, Lu Mayne, Pat, Delores Stebella, Jerry Vitteck, Chaz Sands, Jason, Austin, Rich, Tonnia, Barbara Morton, Rev. Phil Gagnon, Jacob, Lindsay, Maxine Banko, Pastor Rob and Kimberly Grewe, Brooke, Ellen, Roderick Cochrane, Jacob Orr, USN, Jammie, Roger, John Bartanus, Ferdinand Grewe, Helen Swank, and Diane Fisher.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

PA Mental health support and referral line

1-855-284-2494

WASHINGTON, PA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS LINE

1-877-225-3567

WASHINGTON COUNTY BHDS LINE

724-228-6832

SCOTT BERRY DIRECT LINE

724-250-4079 (FOR CHURCH MEMBERS ONLY)

FOR OTHER NEEDS, CONTACT 211 OR THE CHURCH.

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**Church Offering Change:** In order to keep everyone safe we have changed how we collect the Sunday Offering. We do not have our ushers pass the plates around. Instead, we have one offering plate located by the last pew and one by the choir loft. Please place your offering in one of those plates. Feel free to place your offering in the plates during our Offertory if you did not do so on the way in.

## Listening for the Promise

### Weekly Devotional

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 18, 2022

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” - Isaiah 7:14-

Jesus Christ comes to us in the flesh. This is third way that Christ comes to us: through his advent, his arrival, as human being in the flesh. Of course, this is what we celebrate at Christmas. It's the heart, the reason, and the foundation of why we celebrate Christmas as Christians. Jesus' arrival as a human being was foretold centuries before when the prophet Isaiah prophesied this words from our verse above.

At the time that these words of Isaiah were spoken, there was a war going on in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Syria and Israel (the Northern Kingdom) had joined forces to attack Judah. King Ahaz was afraid Judah would be overtaken. So God spoke to Isaiah and told him to reassure Ahaz. God offered to do a miracle so Ahaz could witness it and be assured that he wouldn't lose. Unbelievably, the king refused. Though Ahaz was one of Jesus' ancestors, he was an evil king. He had no desire or interest in following God.

God was not happy about this. So God chose the miracle himself. He told Isaiah about this miracle, and Isaiah announced it to Ahaz: Well, that didn't make God happy. And so He picked the miracle himself and announced it through Isaiah: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (v. 14).

King Ahaz ignored God's promise. Instead, the king went his own direction, an evil direction. But God's promise wasn't just that a young woman would have a baby, Judah would be saved, and everyone would live happily ever after, the end. This promise was much deeper than that. This infant would be born to a virgin. He would Immanuel - “God with us.” This infant would grow into a man. He would save us from much bigger enemies than King Ahaz was dealing with. Yes, Jesus would save us from the power of death, sin, and the devil through his life, his innocent suffering and death, and his resurrection from the tomb.

Prayer: Gracious God, we thank you for coming to us in the flesh, to live among your people as Immanuel, “God with us.” In Jesus' name. Amen

