



**St. John's of Hatboro**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Faith - Service - Community



## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

*Bulletin for Online Service*

*The Good News for Today: God is coming to live with us.*

To view this service, please visit [our YouTube channel](#).

*Thank you for worshiping with St. John's, where we are building a loving, accepting community centered on growing in Christ.*

### 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.**

### Confession and Forgiveness

Let us take a moment and confess our sins before God.

*(moment of spoken or silent confession)*

1 John 1.9 says that, "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from everything that is not right." By Christ's authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel** (Verse 3) – ELW  
257 (Red Book)

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us Pray.... Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Scriptures

### 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind, for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>"Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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?' <sup>8</sup>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, <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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, <sup>11</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever."

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

### Luke 1:46b-55

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

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

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

## Romans 16:25-27

<sup>25</sup> Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup> but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord,

**Thanks be to God.**

## Luke 1:26-38

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> 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. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> 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. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> 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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon – “Mi Casa, Su Casa” – Pastor Bo Bannister**

**Hymn: The King Shall Come – ELW 260 (Red Book)**

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns  
and light triumphant breaks,  
when beauty gilds the eastern hills  
and life to joy awakes.
- 2 Not as of old a little child,  
to bear and fight and die,  
but crowned with glory like the sun  
that lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn  
when Christ, victorious, rose  
and left the lonesome place of death,  
despite the rage of foes.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn  
shall dawn upon our race  
the day when Christ in splendor comes,  
and we shall see his face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns  
and light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:  
come quickly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925  
Arr. Michael Brinkworth.

## **The Apostles’ Creed**

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

We pray for... (pastor will pray for these topics spontaneously)

*the church universal, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel...*

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

*for the well-being of creation...*

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

*for peace and justice in the world, the nations and those in authority, the community...*

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

*for the poor, oppressed, sick, bereaved, lonely...*

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

*for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit...*

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

*for St. John's, for online viewers, and for special concerns...*

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

*thanksgiving for the faithful departed may include those who recently have died and those commemorated on the church's calendar...*

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Let us offer up prayers of our own hearts.

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying,

## The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

## Closing Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus — ELW 254 (Red Book)

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|---|--|
| 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,<br>born to set thy people free;<br>from our fears and sins release us;<br>let us find our rest in thee.<br>Israel's strength and consolation,<br>hope of all the earth thou art,<br>dear desire of ev'ry nation,<br>joy of ev'ry longing heart. | 2 Born thy people to deliver,<br>born a child, and yet a king;<br>born to reign in us forever,<br>now thy gracious kingdom bring.<br>By thine own eternal Spirit<br>rule in all our hearts alone;<br>by thine all-sufficient merit<br>raise us to thy glorious throne. |
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Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
Arr. Michael Brinkworth

## Benediction and Dismissal

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Pastor Bo Bannister*  
[pastorbo@sjlch.org](mailto:pastorbo@sjlch.org)  
*Minister of Music: Michael Brinkworth*  
*Christian Education Director: Abigail Metheny*  
*Office Manager: Ashdon Bobbie*  
*Social Media Coordinator: Jess Flynn*  
*Media Coordinator: Bob Muller*  
*St. John's Lutheran Church*  
*505 N. York Road*  
*Hatboro, PA 19040*  
*215-675-2031*  
[office@sjlch.org](mailto:office@sjlch.org)

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