

ADVENT 4

December 22, 2024

Sunday School Live Nativity



Ringling of Bell

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ *please stand*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Praise to you, O God, who holds our joy and sorrow. You bring water to parched ground and life out of death. Bless us as this light grows, and send sorrow and sighing to flee away. Give us strength and patience, trusting that you are true to your promises. Transform the lives of all who suffer with your wonders near at hand.

ALL: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

P: By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

HYMN

All verses

No. 242

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

1 **Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing. Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.**

2 **To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing, his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing; music to heal the broken soul and hymns of lovingkindness, the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.**

3 **In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing, as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring. Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.**

4 **Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story; may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY *We pray together*

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

C: 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.

Please be seated for the readings

FIRST READING: MICAH 5:2-5A

From Bethlehem comes a Ruler

²But 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. ³Therefore 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. ⁴And 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.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

PSALM 80:1-7 We read responsively

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10

"I have come to do your will"

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷ Then I said, 'See, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸ When 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), ⁹ then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

WORD OF GOD. WORD OF LIFE. **THANKS BE TO GOD**

◆ *Please stand*

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-45 [46-55]

C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.

'My soul magnifies the 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 lowly state 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 indeed, 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 imagination 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 come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P: THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD.

C: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

Please be seated

SUNDAY SCHOOL LIVE NATIVITY

Congregation sings along:

Away in a Manger, v.1 No.277

¹ **Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.**

Angels We Have Heard, v.1 No.289

¹ **Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. Glo - ria in excelsis Deo; Glo - ria in excelsis Deo.**

Silent Night, v.1 No.281

¹ **Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

Go Tell It on the Mountain, v.1 No.290

REFRAIN **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

¹ **While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

REFRAIN **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

APOSTLES CREED

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

Lord in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY—OFFERING—*NOISY* OFFERING

Children are invited to bring a noisy offering to the balcony, which will be given to the Organ Fund.

◆ *please stand*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Creator God,

C: **you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING *Spoken*

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION & HYMNS

In the Bleak Midwinter No. 294

¹ In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

² Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign; in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

³ What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wiseman I would do my part; yet what I can I give him - give my heart.

Your Little Ones Dear Lord No. 286

¹ Your little ones, dear Lord, are we, and come your lowly bed to see; enlighten ev'ry soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.

² With songs we hasten you to greet, and kiss the ground before your feet. Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night that gave you birth, our soul's delight.

³ Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord, and to us all your grace accord; true faith and love to us impart, that we may hold you in our heart.

⁴ Until at last we too proclaim, with all your saints, your glorious name; in paradise our songs renew, and praise you as the angels do.

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. Amen.

BENEDICTION

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

◆ *please stand*

HYMN *Joy to the World* No. 267

¹ Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

² Joy to the earth. The Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

³ No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

⁴ He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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PARTICIPANTS

PRESIDER—Pastor D.J. Chatelaine
WORSHIP ASSISTANT—Tanya Short
ACOLYTE—William Noland
ORGANIST—Tammy Hanson
LIVE NATIVITY COORDINATORS—
Carmen Nesseth & Erica Aronson
COMMUNION SET-UP—Sherry Sathrum
GREETERS—Donna Berge
COMMUNION SERVERS—Tanya & Michael Short,
& Erica Aronson
COFFEE SERVERS—Hoversten
TECH TEAM—Steve Johnson, Heidi Haugen,
Holly Aldorfer, Barb Groth

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*Jennifer Lurfald, Lavon Underdahl, Kevin Hildebrandt,
Jim Fountaine, Dick Overby, Dax Eggert; & the family
of Nordis Luebke.*

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Heard, Silent Night, Go Tell It on the Mountain, In the
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World*

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OL/SKU#09936 *Awake Awake & Greet the New Morn*

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CALENDAR

SUN 12/22	9 WORSHIP - ADVENT 4 - with <i>LIVE NATIVITY & NOISY Offering</i> 10 Coffee 10:15 Adult Forum
MON 12/23	JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
TUE 12/24	4 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
WED 12/25	- <i>HAPPY CHRISTMAS DAY</i> - <i>On this day God gave us, Christ the Son to save us</i>
THU 12/26	7 AA
SUN 12/29	9 am WORSHIP: 'The Name of Jesus' LESSONS & CAROLS 10 am Coffee (No Sunday School)

ANNOUNCEMENTS. . .

A few members of First are taking part in
and invite you & the public to:
Epiphany Concert of Song & Word
'In the Fullness of Time'
Sunday January 5, 3:00 pm.
Light supper following.
EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ASPELUND, CNTY RD 1, KENYON.

FAMILY SNOW TUBING--Saturday, Jan. 18th,
6-8 pm, at Steeplechase-Mazeppa. Call or e-mail
Bryana Lothert at: 507-210-0814
or flcyouth45@gmail.com