

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 19, 2021

THE SERVICE OF PREPARATION

PRELUDE

THE RINGING OF THE BELLS

WORDS OF WELCOME TO ONE AND ALL!

Pastor: ***“And He shall be their peace.”*** That is how the prophet Micah described the coming Messiah. God’s people will not find their peace in a big bank account. Nor will our peace be found in being part of the right social circle. Nor will our peace be found in a political leader or even in a political ideology. Nor will our peace be found in our living good and upright lives. Our peace is found in the Messiah, in Jesus, in the Good Shepherd whose strength is the Lord. Mary’s circumstances were difficult; the angel’s announcement of her pregnancy had to be quite a surprise. Pondering all these things in her heart, she found peace in God, who blessed her. So she sang God’s praises, a song that we sing still today, the Magnificat, a powerful reminder that ***“He shall be their peace.”***

PREPARATION

(Please stand)

OPENING HYMN

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” *LSB 361*

O little town of Bethlehem

How still we see thee lie

Above thy deep

And dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light
The hopes and fears
Of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep
The angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing
To God the king
And peace to all the earth

How silently how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n
So God imparts
To human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n
No ear may hear His coming
But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will
Receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us we pray
Cast out our sin
And enter in
Be born in us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
Oh come to us
Abide with us
Our Lord Immanuel

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Luke 1:49-51, 54, adapt.*

Pastor: The mighty Lord has done great things and holy
is His name.

People: We thank You, O Lord!

Pastor: The Lord's mercy is for those who fear Him from
generation to generation.

People: We adore You, O Lord!

Pastor: The Lord has shown the strength of His arm.

People: We praise You, O Lord!

Pastor: The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in
remembrance of His mercy.

People: We worship You, O Lord!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

All four Advent candle are lit.

Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

(Please be seated or kneel for the confession and absolution)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 25:6-7*

Pastor: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

A time of silence is observed.

Pastor: We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not borne fruit worthy of repentance. We have sinned against You and our neighbors.

People: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Pastor: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

**People: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!
Forgive us, Lord, for times when peace was lost,
And moments when we never thought to love,**

**For times when we oppress and offend
And fight for things that kill us in the end.
Forgive, forgive, forgive us all our sins
And help us be in peace with all our kin**

Pastor: 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.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

(Please stand)

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT *1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47*

Pastor: My soul magnifies the Lord,

People: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Pastor: My mouth derides my enemies,

People: because I rejoice in Your salvation.

Pastor: There is none holy like the LORD;

People: there is none besides You; there is no rock like our God.

Pastor: The barren has borne seven,

People: but she who has many children is forlorn.

Pastor: The LORD kills and brings to life;

People: He brings down to Sheol and raises up.

Pastor: The LORD makes poor and makes rich;

People: He brings low and He exalts.

GLORIA PATRI (sing)

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be
world without end. Amen.**

KYRIE (sing)

**All: Lord, have mercy upon us
Christ, have mercy upon us
Lord, have mercy upon us**

(Please Stand)

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: (spoken) **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Into this world of turmoil, You, O Lord, bring
peace.

**People: Let the peace that calmed the troubled heart of
Mary so rule in our hearts and minds**

Pastor: that by Your power we may all become
peacemakers

**People: in our homes, in our community, and in our
church;**

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who
lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Micah 5:2-5 ESV*

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 coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. 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. 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. And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men;

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: (spoken) **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music

“Hallelujah”

EPISTLE *Hebrews 10: 5-10 ESV*

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” 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), then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: (spoken) **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)

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

People: (sing) **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:39-56 ESV*

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold,

from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: (sing) **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED Nicene Creed

All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven. And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day, He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

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

(Please be seated)

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” LSB 357 vs 1&7

**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 you, O Israel!**

**O, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Yourself our King of Peace
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

+ SERMON+

“He Shall Be Their Peace”

Text: Micah 5:2-5

Theme: From nowhere could come peace expect from Bethlehem.

Goal: that everyone listening, know in God’s prophetic words the peace that he alone can bestow.

HYMN

“Renew Me, O Eternal Light” *LSB 704* vs 1 & 3

**Renew me, O eternal Light,
And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace
That issues from your holy face.

Create in me a new heart, Lord,
That gladly I obey your Word.
Let what your will be my desire
And with new life my soul inspire.**

(Please be seated or kneel for the prayer)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ’s coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

A brief time of silence may be observed.

Pastor: O Wisdom from on high, grant us peace. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to be peacemakers. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us humbly to enter the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those whose suffering endures. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Key of David, let Your peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children

and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Lord of might, let the peace that surpasses human understanding, the peace that comes from being in Christ, so fill our hearts that we become signs of Your peace in this chaotic world. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

People: hear us, coming Lord.

Pastor: You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

People: Amen.

(Please stand)

✠ SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: (spoken) **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

People: (spoken) **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *Psalm 136*

People: (spoken) **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, born of the Virgin Mary in the little town of Bethlehem brought peace and joy into this tumultuous world by His preaching, miracles, death, and resurrection. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS (Sing) *LSB 195*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth

Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory

Hosanna Hosanna

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is He

Blessed is He

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord

Hosanna, Hosanna

Hosanna in the highest

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give You all thanks, praise, and worship for
the peace that comes through Jesus. For the
forgiveness of our sins,

People: we thank You, Lord.

Pastor: For embracing us as Your beloved children in
Holy Baptism,

People: we thank You, Lord.

Pastor: For giving us Your Word, which brings us down a
notch when we are filled with pride and lifts us up
when we are brought low,

People: we thank You, Lord.

Pastor: For entering this broken creation to take upon
Yourself all this world's sin and evil, to suffer and
die, and then, in fulfillment of the ancient
promise, to rise from the grave,

People: we thank You, Lord.

Pastor: For this gift of Christ's body and blood, life-giving
food for our journey through this tumultuous
world, and that we may now live in Your kingdom
and forever worship and adore You in the
Kingdom to come,

**People: we thank You, Lord. To You alone, O Father, be
all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF OUR LORD

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians
11:23–25*

Pastor: 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 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 blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: (spoken) **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

**All: 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.**

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI (*Sung*) LSB 198

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God that takest away the sin of
the world have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of
the world, have mercy upon us
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of
the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"O Bless the Lord, My Soul" LSB 814

O bless the Lord, my soul!

Let all in me join

And aid my tongue to bless His name

Whose favors are divine.

O bless the Lord, my soul,

Nor let His mercies lie

Forgotten in unthankfulness

And without praises die.

'Tis He forgives thy sins

'Tis He relieves thy pain;

"Tis He that heals thy sicknesses

And makes thee young again

He crowns thy life with love,

When ransomed from the grave;

He that redeemed my soul from hell

Have sov'reign pow'r to save.

He fills the poor with good;

He gives the suff'ers rest;

The Lord has judgments for the proud,

And justice for th' oppressed

His wondrous works and ways

He made by Moses known

But sent the world His truth and grace

By His beloved Son

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

(Please stand)

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to
life everlasting.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

(Please stand at the conclusion of the distribution for the blessing
followed by the Post-Communion Canticle)

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (sung) TLH p. 29-30

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant
depart in peace according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared before the face
of all people, a light to lighten the
Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world with-out end. Amen**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord God, we give You thanks for Christ's body and
blood, this amazing gift by which we receive a
renewed relationship of peace with You and with
one another. Help us all to grow as peacemakers;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives

and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *Luke 1:54–55; Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in
remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our
fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

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.

People: (spoken) **Amen.**

HYMN

“Savior of the Nations, Come” *LSB 332 vs 1, 2, 8*

**Savior of the nations come
Virgin's Son make here Your home
Marvel now O heav'n and earth
That the Lord chose such a birth**

**Not by human flesh and blood
By the Spirit of our God
Was the Word of God made flesh
Woman's offspring pure and fresh**

**Glory to the Father sing
Glory to the Son our king
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity**

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE

Rev. Paul Pollatz, Pastor

Marie Brown, Organist

Frank Pignanelli, Elder

Laurie Pignanelli, Reader

Bill Switter, David Brown, & Kathy King, Ushers

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter Jan/Feb/Mar

Please have information to April by December 29th

Thank You!

For your thoughtfulness, Support & prayers through this hard time.

Pam Benford & Gayle French's Family

Kids Club donations

Kids club will be collecting Men & Women WHITE socks to donate to a homeless shelter.

Collection begins now until Jan. 31st.

There will be a box for WHITE SOCKS ONLY placed in the Narthex/Hallway.

Christmas Eve Service at 7pm

Christmas Bazar

Thank you to everyone who donated items and bought items.

Toys for Tots

Thank you to everyone who donated.

Attendance

Sunday December 12th 9:30 am 37

Prayer List

If sudden illness or the need for immediate prayers occurs, please feel free to contact our Prayer Chain leader, Joan Hafkesbrink, at 313.565.6871. Prayer requests will remain on the list for two weeks.

Anniversary

Birthdays

Cheryl Toms – December 19th

LaTosha Wells – December 21st

Roy Reeck – December 22nd

Amanda Durfee – December 24th

For the Shut-Ins

Dorothy MacTavish, at home

George Morton, at home

Mack Mayfield, at home

Carmell Faulk, at home

For Those Who Are Sick or Healing

Vicki Eisenman, Friend of Pam Benford, placed in hospice

Mark Leger, Nephew of Phyllis Witte, placed in hospice

Our prayers for the communities affected by the tornadoes and high winds last week;

For the family of Gayle French, who was called to glory;

Duane French, Gayle French's Nephew, hospitalized and still in serious condition;

Jim and Heidi Bumgarner, in their recoveries from surgery;

Jack Gurney, Paul Utcai's Nephew, hospitalized;

LeAnn Gibbs, Pat Bates' daughter, illness and working through an auto accident

Kent James, nephew of Linda Panich, hospitalized with and open wound infection on foot

Family of Andy Lopez, Frank Pignanelli's Cousin, called to glory

Tania Hodges, friend of Glenn Cairns, undergoing tests in hospital

Gerry, a neighbor of the Pignanelli's, hospitalized

Mark Leger, nephew of Phyllis Witte, hospitalized

Barbara Kuderik, friend of Janet Witte, surgery

Victor Thompson & family, in the death of his father-in-law

Pat Bates, in her illness

Elsie and Jim Brophy, general prayers for health

Mellani & Mike Zajac, sister and brother-in-law of Cheryl Toms, ill with covid