



My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
Luke 1:46b

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

Shared on Augsburg Lutheran Church YouTube Channel

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

*The mission of Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through
worship, witness, education, service and fellowship.*

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting Five

The paraments are blue during the season of Advent, suggesting hope.

✠ GATHERING ✠

ACCLAMATION

Words by Michael Morgan

Music by William Stevens

O love of God, beyond all bound of life and earth and space;
with warmth and coldest heart surround, and tenderness embrace.

Let every symbol, every sound be tokens of your grace.

OPENING VOLUNTARY Improvisation on VENI EMMANUEL

Timothy Olsen

We stand.

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

**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.

In the mercy of almighty God,

Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his 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.

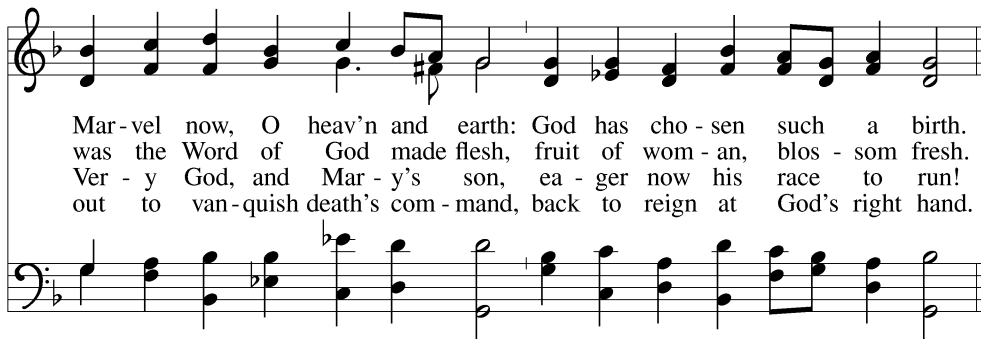
The assembly turns to face the cross as it enters the sanctuary, following the cross as we have followed Jesus into this holy place and time of corporate worship.

GATHERING HYMN 263 Savior of the Nations, Come (*Stanzas 1-4*)

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. hymnal version
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
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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.

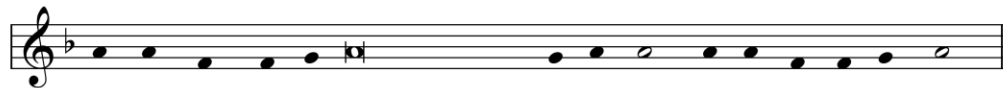
KYRIE



In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



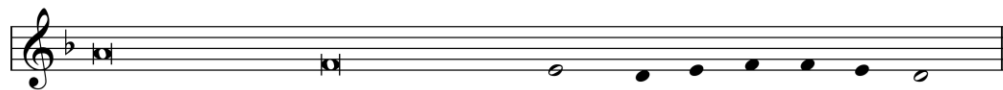
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, com - fort and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - - men.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

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

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

After the prayer the assembly responds: **Amen.**

We sit.

WELCOME

VENI, EMMANUEL

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now 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.

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

MAGNIFICAT

Text: Alice Carpenter (based on Luke 1:46b-55)

Music: Michael Praetorius/Roland E. Martin

My soul doth magnify the Lord, In God, my Savior shall rejoice;
He raises me from low estate, And gives a hundred blessings voice.

All generations call me blest, Yes, God has done great things for me;
And Holy is his righteous name, to those who know his majesty.

His arm is strong to all who fear, The proud he scatters in their greed;
He casts the mighty from their thrones, And lifts the lowly from their need.

He fills the hungry with good things, The rich he sends away in shame;
The humble he has lifted high, to magnify his Holy Name.

Remembering His mercy sure, His servants, Israel, embrace;
As prophesied in days of old, to Abraham and all his race.

All Glory to the Father God, and to the Son, whom we adore;
The Holy Spirit, three in one, Forever, and forever more.

SECOND READING Romans 16:25-27

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 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—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung by the Assembly.



Sung by the choir.

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

All repeat alleluia.

GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

We sit.

SERMON

Pastor Wollner

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY 265 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came GABRIEL'S MESSAGE



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We 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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

Each portion of the prayers conclude:

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

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

We sit.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

OFFERING

VOLUNTARY Creator of the Stars of Night

Rebecca Groom te Velde

We stand.

OFFERTORY HYMN

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and
take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the
joy of your sal - va - tion and up - hold me with your free spir - it.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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;

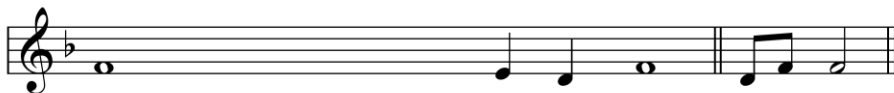
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

BLESSING



The Lord bless you ... and ✠ give you peace. A - men.

SENDING HYMN 248 People, Look East

BESANÇON

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Savior of the Nations, Come, BWV 661

J.S. Bach

Soli Deo Gloria

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Announcements

The altar flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the Staff and Pastors of Augsburg Lutheran Church for their many gifts and ongoing commitment even during difficult times, by Don and Mary Armitage.

This week we keep in prayer Marion Morgan 3750 Harper Road, Room 201, Clemmons, NC 27012-8682. Please send **Marion** a note.

Christmas Eve Invitation: Augsburg will host services on December 24 in the parking lot behind the Augsburg Community Center. The Children's Christmas service will take place at 10:30 a.m. Spaces are still available for the Children's service, the 12:30, and the 2:30 services. Drive through Communion will be available at the end of each service. All participants will remain in their vehicles and receive the sound via a FM radio station. **Pre-registration is required.**

Augsburg will offer a Christmas Lessons and Carols service that will be available on YouTube on the morning of December 24. Friends and Family can find us on YouTube by searching "Augsburg, Winston-Salem"!

Altar Flower Dedication. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the beautiful altar flowers each week. If you are interested in dedicating flowers as a memorial or in honor of a loved one, please contact Betty Covington at covingtonbet@gmail.com. The cost is \$80.00.

The Efirid L. and Maria F. Hine Fund committee will meet for its Winter Quarter meeting on Monday, January 25, 2021 at 7:00 pm. All requests for financial grants should be directed to The Hine Fund and should be in the church office no later than 12 noon on Wednesday, January 13th. Agendas will be ready for members to pick up in the Work Room on Sunday, January 17th. Please call or email Kris Andrews if you are unable to attend the meeting.

Please keep our Financial Secretary Joyce Holton in your prayers as she recovers from a recent fall. Council has appointed Kris Andrews to serve as Acting Financial Secretary during Joyce's absence. There are many ways to make a tax deductible gift to support Augsburg's ministries before the end of 2020. Augsburg is able to accept gifts of securities, such as stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Please email financialsecretary@alcws.org or call the church office for more information.

Announcements for the December 27 bulletin will be due before noon December 23.

Announcements for the January 3 bulletin will be due before noon December 29.

We keep you in prayer during our time apart. Our pastors continue to be available for your pastoral care needs. If you would like to reach a pastor, please call their cell phones, send them a text, or an email. Pastor Paul is 803-331-5970 or seniorpastor@alcws.org and Pastor Lori is 336-414-2838 or pastoralassociate@alcws.org

Readings for next week: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Worship attendance for services last week: 295 views on YouTube.

Providing Service Today

Bulletin Cover Artist

Jenna Collins

Reader

Mary Newman

Preaching

Pastor Wollner

Quartet

Karen Kooken, Daniele Olsen, Timothy Olsen, Bruce Tippet

Greeters

Don and Kathie Eppert

Assisting Minister

Pastor Carter

AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod

Rev. Paul A. Wollner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Lori H. Carter, Pastoral Associate for Congregational Care

Dr. Timothy Olsen, Cantor

Leigh Anna Voigt, Dir. of Faith Formation

Bruce Tippet, Youth Music and Handbell Dir

Robin Welch, Youth Coordinator

Kathy Barnes, Executive Assistant

Nancy Carbone, Parish Administrator

Paul Anders, WFU Divinity Student Intern

Hannah Norem, Communications Assistant

Reggie Jackson, Lead Sexton

Carl Davis and John Stepney, Sextons

Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation