

TRINITY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GLENODRA
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 19, 2021

As We Gather

Our world is filled with turmoil, strife, contention. Every time it seems that our nation or even our own lives are at peace, again something disrupts it. Peace is as elusive as a slippery eel. Today's Readings point us to the truth that the peace we seek cannot come from the powers of the world, nor can it come from anything in our own hearts or our spiritual potential. Real peace comes from what seems like the least promising place: a little town, through the young Virgin. Peace comes from Bethlehem, from where God comes to us. From God's Word. From the Bread of Life in Holy Communion. Real peace comes to us, often beyond our understanding, through the babe of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ, through whom God made peace with us by a cross.

PREPARATION

361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

- 1 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.
- 2 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!
- 3 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.
- 4 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;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Invocation

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Sentences *Luke 1:49–51, 54, adapt.*

- P The mighty Lord has done great things and holy is His name.
C **We thank You, O Lord!**
P The Lord's mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.
C **We adore You, O Lord!**
P The Lord has shown the strength of His arm.
C **We praise You, O Lord!**

- P The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.
C **We worship You, O Lord!**

Confession and Absolution *Psalm 25:6–7*

- P 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.
P We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not always been instruments of Your peace. Our homes have at times been places of strife and turmoil by our own fault. Even in the church sometimes we have chosen to fight rather than to make peace.
C **Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.**
P Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
C **according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!**
P 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

WORD

Psalm *Psalm 80:1–7; antiphon: v. 7*

- P Restore us, O God of hosts;
C **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**
P Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
C **You who lead Joseph like a flock!**
P You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth. Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up Your might and come to save us!
C **Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**
P O LORD God of hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?
C **You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.**
P You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
C **and our enemies laugh among themselves.**
P Restore us, O God of hosts;
C **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
P Restore us, O God of hosts;
C **let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might,
C **that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy;**
P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Micah 5:2–5a*

² 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 origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
³ 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.
⁴ 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.
⁵ And he shall be their peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem "Immanuel"

Epistle *Hebrews 10:5–10*

⁵ When Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;
⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
⁷ 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.’”

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, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.
¹⁰ And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse *Matthew 1:23a*

P Alleluia! Alleluia! C **Alleluia! Alleluia!**
P Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
C **and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Holy Gospel *Luke 1:39–45*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby 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 from the Lord.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children's Message

356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came, With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
- 2 “For know a blessèd mother thou shalt be, All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.” Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born, In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: “Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

Sermon

Creed

C **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 will 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 worshiped 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.**

Prayer of the Church

P 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.

P 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,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P 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,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P 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, [*especially . . .*]. 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,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P 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,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P 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,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P 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,

C **hear us, coming Lord.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

Offering

805 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

D 1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

SACRAMENT

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

P 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 made peace between God and humanity by dying on the cross and being raised by the Father. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

367 Angels from the Realms of Glory

4 Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

ref Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

r 5 All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising, To the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

ref Come and worship, come and worship; Worship Christ, the newborn King.

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.**

The Words of Our Lord

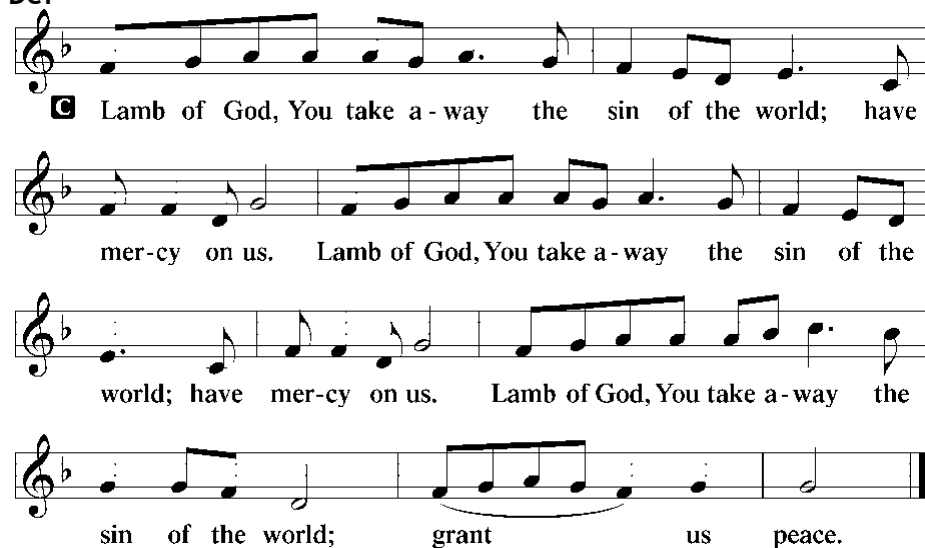
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always. C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



☐ Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution Hymns

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

ref Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel!

- 2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*
- 3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law, In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*
- 4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree, Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*
- 5 O come, Thou 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*
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind, In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

It is Well (Screen)

Hymn

- 1 Once in royal David's city, Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby, In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 For He is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feels for all our sadness, And He shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heav'n above;
And He leads His children on, To the place where He is gone.
- 5 Not in that poor, lowly stable, With the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

349 Hark the Glad Sound

- 1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes, The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne, And ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release, In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst, The iron fetters yield.

- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace, To enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring, With Thy beloved name.

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P Let us pray.
Thank You, Lord, for the peace that comes to us through Christ's body and blood. Help us leave this Table so filled with Your peace that it overflows to our homes, our church, and our community; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

Benediction

- P 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 T give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

933 My Soul Rejoices

- 1 My soul rejoices, My spirit voices—Sing the greatness of the Lord! For God my Savior
Has shown me favor—Sing the greatness of the Lord! With praise and blessing,
Join in confessing, God, who is solely, Mighty and holy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord! His mercy surely, Shall rest securely
On all who fear Him, Love and revere Him—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!
- 2 His arm now baring, His strength declaring—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
The proud He scatters, Their rule He shatters—Sing the greatness of the Lord!
Oppression halted; The meek exalted. Full are the hungry; Empty, the wealthy—
O sing the greatness of God the Lord! Here is the token, All that was spoken
To Abr'ham's offspring, God is fulfilling—O sing the greatness of God the Lord!

Acknowledgments