



## ***Fourth Sunday of Advent***

***12/24/23***

*Lutheran Book of Worship Holy Communion Setting One*

### **GOD GATHERS US AS HIS HOLY PEOPLE.**

**HYMNS TODAY: LBW #32, WOV #730 (printed), LBW #35**  
**PRELUDE AND WELCOME**

*Please stand as you are able.*

*In remembrance of Baptism, you may sign a cross on your chest or forehead.*

We gather to worship the One true God – the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (LBW p. 56)

*Matthew 28:19; 1 John 1:8-10*

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.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*We keep silence for self-reflection and contrition.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage 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.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.**

OFFERING OF PEACE (LBW p. 66)

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*John 20:19-21*

As God has given us peace by the forgiveness of our sins, so let us forgive and share his peace with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Please, remain standing as you are able for the hymn.*

**GATHERING HYMN “Fling Wide the Door” LBW Hymn #32**

AFFIRMATION OF PURPOSE *Matthew 28:18-20, 22:36-39; Mark 12:30-31*

We are Joy Mission Church, missionary-disciples of Jesus Christ.

**We love God, love neighbor, and serve with joy in Jesus’ name.**

APOSTOLIC GREETING (LBW p. 57)

2 Corinthians 13:14

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 (“Lord, have mercy...” LBW pp. 57-58)

Matthew 9:27, 15:22; Psalm 51:1

**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**G** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** 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.

**G** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

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

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **G** A - men

SALUTATION (LBW p. 62)

Ruth 2:4

**A** The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. **Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD.

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

<sup>1</sup>When the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, 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: Would you build me a house to dwell 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 for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges 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, that you should 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 dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men 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>“And 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.**

PSALM 89:1-5, 19-29 - *Sung responsively with the cantor. (Psalm tone 2)*

<sup>1</sup>Your love, O Lord, forever | will I sing;\*

from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim your faithfulness.

<sup>2</sup>**For I am persuaded that your love is estab- | lished forever;\***

**you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup>“I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;\*

I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:

<sup>4</sup>**I will establish your | line forever,\***

**and preserve your throne for all | generations.”**

<sup>5</sup>The heavens bear witness to your won- | ders, O Lord,\*

and to your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones;

<sup>19</sup>**You spoke once in a vision and said to your | faithful people:\***

**“I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out | of the people.**

<sup>20</sup>I have found Da- | vid my servant;\*

with my holy oil have I a- | nointed him.

<sup>21</sup>**My hand will | hold him fast\***

**and my arm will | make him strong.**

<sup>22</sup>No enemy | shall deceive him,\*

nor any wicked man | bring him down.

<sup>23</sup>**I will crush his | foes before him\***

**and strike down | those who hate him.”**

<sup>24</sup>My faithfulness and love shall | be with him,\*

and he shall be victorious | through my name.

<sup>25</sup>**I shall make his domin- | ion extend\***

**from the Great Sea | to the River.**

<sup>26</sup>He will say to me, ‘You | are my Father,\*

my God, and the rock of | my salvation.’

**<sup>27</sup>I will make | him my firstborn\*  
and higher than the kings | of the earth.**  
**<sup>28</sup>I will keep my love for | him forever,\*  
and my covenant will stand | firm for him.**  
**<sup>29</sup>I will establish his | line forever\*  
and his throne as the | days of heaven.”**

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

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

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

VERSE (LBW p. 62) *John 6:68*

☩ Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL ANNUNCIATION (LBW p. 63)

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

☩ Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:26-38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>And the angel answered 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 called holy — the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL RESPONSE (LBW p. 63)

Praise to you, O Christ.  
Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON & ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING - *Remain seated to sing together.*

“The Candle of Hope” *VERSE 4 ONLY.*

1. The can - dle of hope we light in this hour  
 2. The can - dle of peace shines bright with God's plan;  
 3. The can - dle of joy re - minds us to sing,  
 4. The can - dle of love tells what we are worth:  
 5. The Christ can - dle's light that shines for us here

Pro - claims that the Lord is com - ing in pow - er.  
 The wolf will lie down and dwell with - the lamb.  
 For God is at work to do a - new thing.  
 God loves us so much, He came to - the earth!  
 Tells out the good news that God has - come near!

We wait for a fu - ture, now hid - den from view,  
 Our hate and our wea - pons, our an - ger and war,  
 The proud will be hum - bled; the low - ly will rise.  
 An an - gel brought news of a child who would be  
 God came, a poor ba - by, in one time and place.

When Christ in His glo - ry will make all things new.  
 Will give way to gar - dens that heal and re - store.  
 God's king - dom is one of de - light and sur - prise.  
 The One who would save us and set us all free.  
 To show all cre - a - tion the wealth of God's grace.

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 Tune: William Croft, 1678-1777

HANOVER  
10 10 11 11

SERMON

*Following the sermon, we observe a time of extended silence to contemplate God's Word.*

# GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND IN FAITH.

*Please stand as you are able.*

HYMN OF THE DAY: "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" WOV Hymn #730

Em C D7 G D G Am Dsus4 D

1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav-ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho-ly fear your mer-cy ev-er flows.  
 3 To Is-ra-el, your ser-vant blest, your help is ev-er sure;

G C Am7 G D G Am Em

You looked up-on my low-li-ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might-y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex-pose.  
 the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil-dren will se-cure.

Bm Em Am D G C Dsus4 D

Now ev-ry land and ev-ry age this bless-ing shall pro-claim—  
 The ruth-less you have cast a-side, the low-ly throned in-stead;  
 Sing glo-ry to the Ho-ly One, give hon-or to the Word,

G C Am G D G Am Em

great won-ders you have done for me, and ho-ly is your name.  
 the hun-gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un-fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a-dored.

Text: Luke 1:46-55; tr. With One Voice, 1995  
 Music: English melody, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958  
 Text © 1993 Augsburg Fortress

NICENE CREED (LBW p. 64)

*Genesis 1-2; John 3:16; Luke 2; Acts 2*

Living together in the trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**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.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He 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.**

#### INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people as they have need... *Each petition ends with these words: Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.*

*The prayers conclude with these words: ...through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

*Please be seated.*

OFFERING OF TITHES, ADDITIONAL GIFTS, & SPECIAL MUSIC as available

*We offer our time, talents, and treasures in gratitude for all of the blessings God has given us.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

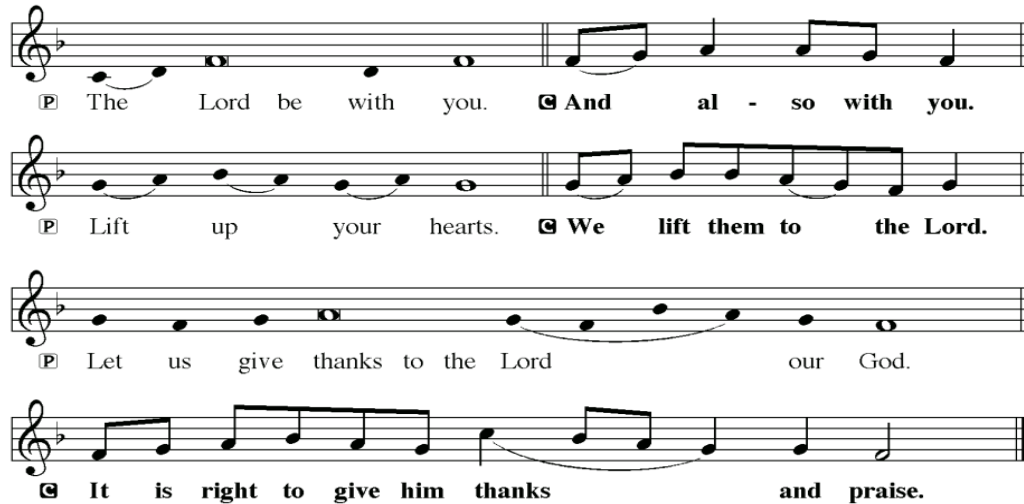
OFFERTORY HYMN “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” LBW #565

OFFERTORY PRAYER (LBW p. 67)

Let us pray...

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING (LBW p. 68)



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

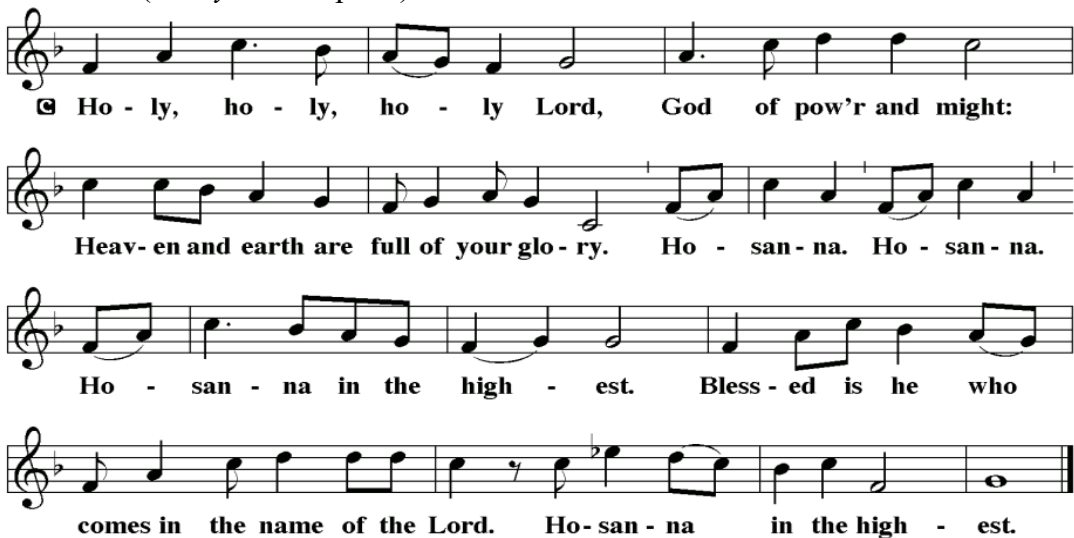
☩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE (LBW p. 68) *Sung or spoken by the pastor.*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (“Holy” LBW p. 69)

*Psalm 118:25-26; Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; Mark 11:9*



☩ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (LBW p. 70)

*1 Cor. 11:23-26; Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20*

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,  
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.



THE LORD'S PRAYER (LBW p. 71)

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

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.**

*Please remain standing as you are able.*

COMMUNION HYMN ("Lamb of God..." LBW p. 72)

John 1:29

☐ 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.

*Please be seated.*

**GOD GIVES US HIMSELF IN HIS HOLY MEAL.**

*All who are baptized and trust that Christ is truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine may come forward to commune. The usher will direct you and offer hand sanitizer if you so desire.*

- *If you require gluten-free wafers or abstain from wine, indicate so to the pastor.*
- *To receive the Sacrament in your seat, notify the usher and it will be brought to you.*
- *If you abstain from the Sacrament, you have full forgiveness of sins by God's Word alone.*

The body of Christ given for you. **Amen.** The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

*After the elements are covered, please stand as you are able.*

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & CANTICLE (LBW pp. 73)

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



☞ Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.



My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re- veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo- ple Is - ra - el.



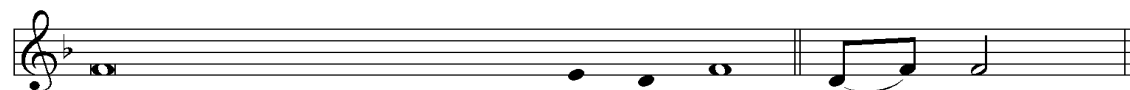
Glo- ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be- gin - ning, is now, and will be for- ev- er. A - men

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER & BENEDICTION (LBW p. 74)

Let us pray...Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



☞ Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. ☞ A - men

**GOD SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE.**

SENDING HYMN: "Hark, the Glad Sound!" LBW Hymn #35

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

As a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church we strive to be:

**Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded, & Congregationally Focused.**

Ministers: Joy Mission Church and all the people of God

Pastor: Rev. Paulette McHugh

Parish Administrator: Scheri Force

Pianist: Lavenia Hentz

Volunteer Director of Music: Laurie Lackey

[www.joymission.church](http://www.joymission.church)



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