

Brief Service of Holy Communion  
**Fourth Sunday in Advent – Sunday, December 19**

WORDS OF WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

-SONG-      265 *The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came*



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.”      Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
“Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.”

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

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. 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.**

## READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

### **Micah 5:2-5a**

<sup>2</sup>But 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.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore 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.

<sup>4</sup>And 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;

<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

### **Psalm 80:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

## Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup>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), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

## Gospel Reading: Luke 1:39-55

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,

<sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit

<sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?

<sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

<sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>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 helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,
- 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

This is the gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to you, O Christ**

The Message

-SONG- ELW 266 *All Earth is Hopeful*

*To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor*  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.

*y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el*  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our

*mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -*  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our

*cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.*  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

**A PRAYER FOR THE LONGEST NIGHT**

Acknowledging this pandemic time, and mindful that this time is not always eagerly anticipated, or may be particularly difficult, for some, we pray on behalf of, and in solidarity:

All around us are the sights and sounds of Christmas, Gentle God:  
the laughter of parties, the songs of carolers,  
the shouts of children sledding down hills, the music in every store.

But deep within us we carry our pain,  
our grief walks with us every step we take,  
loneliness is a shawl we drape over our shoulders on empty nights.

**So, in this time when every night stretches into eternity,  
we come to you, bringing our gifts:  
not gold, frankincense and myrrh,  
but the grief that is the empty space  
in the closet filled with memories,  
the loss that is a wound which never heals,  
the bitterness that tastes like two-day old coffee.**

We have come from different backgrounds,  
from different families,  
from other faith traditions.

But we have all lived in the far country of despair,  
wandered the land of shame,  
built our lives in those neighborhoods peopled by empty dreams.  
**We have stood on the side of every room we have gone into,  
hoping against hope that someone would ask us to dance,  
but find the wall is our only friend.**

In a season when so many people don't have enough hours in a day  
to get their lists checked off, their cards mailed,  
their presents wrapped, we have all the time in the world:  
**to remember the loss that has stolen the joy of the season;  
to grieve over a job, a dream, a loved one we have lost;  
to sit in the shadows of our homes, too weary to turn on the lights;  
to wander the streets lit by decorations on all the houses,  
but not by the Light of the world.**

Our fear of the future, our remembrance of the past;  
our pain which is difficult to bear and harder to release;  
our emptiness which cannot be filled with platitudes;  
our hands which cannot hold the ones we wish to embrace:  
all make this a season of long nights.

**So, be with us in our loneliness,  
in our longing,  
in our loss,  
in our lives.**  
*In Jesus Name, we pray. Amen.*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*response:* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

### Sharing The Peace

The Peace of Christ be always with you! **And also with you**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

**And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to the Lord!**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God

**It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Blessed are you, Creator of infinite variety....

Using words familiar to you, let us join in the prayer that Jesus taught:

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God!**

*We share Communion from where we are*

*Time of reflection*

-SONG- ELW 296 *What Child is This (Lexy solo)*

Post-Communion Blessing

Let us pray:

**We give you thanks, loving God, that we have met your son Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Send us from this table to tables throughout our world to love and serve in Jesus' name. Amen**

Blessing

-SONG- ACS 907 *Filled with Hope and Gratitude*

## Filled with Hope and Gratitude



1 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y  
 2 God's e - ter - nal mer - cy, meant for all of hu - man -  
 3 Hun - gry peo - ple eat good things and find an hon - ored  
 4 Filled with hope and grat - i - tude and filled with ver - y



God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -  
 kind, is giv - en as de - liv - 'rance from op -  
 place; the rich are sent a - way though they are  
 God, I sing with soul and spir - it ex - ul -



ta - tion, for God has smiled up -  
 pres - sion. The pow - er - ful and  
 hun - gry. The prom - ise to our  
 ta - tion, for God has smiled up -



on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her  
 haugh - ty find that they are now cast down, the  
 fore - bears God re - news for us to - day: the  
 on the hum - ble ser - vant who will give her



own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.  
 low - ly raised be - yond this world's de - ri - sion.  
 world is filled with God's a - bun - dant mer - cy.  
 own sweet milk to Christ, the world's sal - va - tion.

Text: Paul Damico-Carper, b. 1981, based on Luke 1:46-55  
 Music: ADVENT MAGNIFICAT, Paul Damico-Carper  
 Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace, Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God!**



Gloria Dei  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## **PRAYER LIST**

***We hold in prayer this day...***

Pastor David,  
Stuart (friend of Pastor Dave)  
Pastor Lanny and LeeAnn Knutson,  
Gabriel (friend of Pastor Dave)  
Ed (spouse of member of the Friday Art Group)  
Jan, Karin & Joe (friends of Irene Snell)  
Signe (friend of Karen I.B.)  
Sheilagh (friend of Audrey & Merv Fitz)  
Florence (friend of Al & Marlene Herman)  
Edgar (father of Tim Lach)  
Emile (husband of artist, Freda P.)  
Barb (friend of Karen I.B.)  
Donald (brother of Kim Dorn)  
Lawrence (brother of Al Herman)  
Angie, Don (friends of Marlene Herman)  
Lil (Barb I's mom)  
Doris (Jerry's sister)  
Art, and Beth (friends of Sandra and John)  
Papa, Nana, and Leah (close friends of Jennifer Rz)  
Andrew and Cindy (Jennifer's father and his partner)  
Irene (Cathy's friend)  
Health care workers tending to the sick in this pandemic time

*In our congregation:*

Audrey F.	Jennifer R.
Matthew H.	Christa M.
Linda H.	Barb M.
Roy N.,	Alma R.
Jerry B.	Doreen Kletke
John F.	Kara T-R
Patty C. & family	Darlene W
Shirley A.	
Dorothy B.	
Anastasia M.	
Don K.	
Ilona O.	
Jenifer S.	
Lori Ebbing Treon	