



December 23rd, 2018  
4th Sunday in Advent

*"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God". 1 John 3:1*

**Child of God Lutheran Church and School**

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*Rev. Jeremy Gorline, Pastor  
Dr. Melissa Sandfort, Principal*

## **AS WE GATHER**

In the Holy Gospel, Mary, already pregnant with Jesus, meets with her aunt Elizabeth. Elizabeth is pregnant with a son who will become John the Baptist. In a natal miracle, John recognizes the presence of Jesus at the voice of His mother. Jesus' incarnation is so profound that it reaches even the unborn. Likewise, Jesus' resurrection is so powerful that it raises even the dead. All humankind, no matter how young or old, are loved by this Jesus. And He is coming soon.

## **WELCOME AND SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE**

### **OPENING SONG**

***“Sanctuary”***

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
Pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for You. (repeat)*

*A cappella : Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
Pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living  
Sanctuary for You.*

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## **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

### **INVOCATION**

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

**People:** Amen.

## OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

**People: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Blessed is the child of Mary's womb!

**People: He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord!**

Pastor: His flock shall dwell secure.

**People: And He will be their peace.**

Pastor: My soul magnifies the Lord,

**People: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!

**People: He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

## CALL TO WORSHIP *(Introit)*

Pastor: And Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD;  
My horn is exalted in the LORD.  
My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in your  
salvation.

**People: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit  
rejoices in God my Savior.**

Pastor: There is none holy like the LORD:  
for there is none besides you;  
there is no rock like our God.

**People: And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit  
rejoices in God my Savior.**

Pastor: The barren has borne seven,  
but she who has many children is forlorn.  
The LORD kills and brings to life;  
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

The LORD makes poor and makes rich;  
he brings low and he exalts.

**People:** And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**Pastor:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People:** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection.*

**Pastor:** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**People:** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 way to the glory of Your holy name. Amen

**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:** Amen

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

**ALL: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your presence we may be defended from the attacks of Satan; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.**

## + WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Micah 5:2–5a*

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. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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: Thanks be to God.**

### EPISTLE

*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 have you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> 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.’”

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

Reader: This is the Word of The Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Luke*

**1:39-56**

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

**People: Glory to You O LORD.**

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup> and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup> and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup> And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be<sup>[a]</sup> a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from 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 on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup> for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> And 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 mighty from their

thrones and exalted those of humble estate; <sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup> as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Brandi Hallemeier – Resource Teacher

### **SONG OF THE DAY    *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”***

*It came upon the midnight clear  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold  
Through all the earth  
Goodwill and peace  
From heaven's all gracious king  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing*

*With sorrow brought by sin and strife  
The world has suffered long  
And since the angels sang have passed  
Two thousand years of wrong  
The nation still at war hear not  
The love song which they bring  
O hush the noise and cease the strife  
To hear the angels sing*





*And those whose journey now is hard  
Whose hope is burning low  
Who tread the rocky path of life  
With painful steps and slow  
O listen to the news of love  
Which makes the heavens ring  
O rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing*

*And still the days are hastening on  
By prophets seen of old  
Towards the fullness of the time  
When comes the age foretold  
Then earth and heaven renewed shall see  
The Prince of Peace their King  
And all the world repeat the song  
Which now the angels sing*

## **SERMON - “Restore us, O GOD” Psalm 80**

### **APOSTLE’S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, and the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen**

### **OFFERING AND SONG**

## **“Change My Heart, O God”**

*Chorus: Change my heart oh God Make it ever true  
Change my heart oh God May I be like You*

*You are the potter I am the clay  
Mold me and make me This is what I pray (Chorus)*

*You are the potter I am the clay  
Mold me and make me This is what I pray (Chorus)*

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### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

**Pastor:** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus Christ, come to all those who are in bondage to sin and Satan. Break their chains and release them from their enslavement, that they serve You in peace and quietness. O come, O come, Emmanuel,

**People:** **and ransom captive Israel.**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus Christ, we live in a world where everyone does what is right in their own minds. Come to us with Your perfect wisdom, that we follow You and not our own selfish ways. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,

**People:** **who orders all things mightily.**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus Christ, come to those whose life is in chaos and provide order, structure, and discipline, that they live in peace and unity with their neighbors. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,

**People:** **who gave the Law on Sinai's height.**

**Pastor:** Lord Jesus Christ, Satan remains an active voice in the world. Silence him by Your mighty power, and proclaim liberty to those

who are under his influence. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,

**People: free us from Satan's tyranny.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, there are many who do not know You and Your salvation. Send missionaries, pastors, teachers, and anyone willing to share Your grace around the world, that more might believe in You and be saved by Your death and resurrection. O come, Thou Key of David, come,

**People: and open wide our heav'nly home.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, so many in this world are lonely and longing for friendship and a place to belong. Send us to those people, that we befriend them and bring them to You. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,

**People: and cheer us by Thy drawing nigh.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, come to Your broken Church with the gifts of reconciliation and restoration. Unite Your people once again, that we enjoy fellowship rather than fractured division. O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;

**People: bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, Lord Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your ever-present mercy.

**People: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

## **BENEDICTION**

Pastor: 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: Amen.

## **CLOSING SONG      “Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

*Come, Thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free.  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.*

*Israel's strength and consolation  
Hope of all the earth thou art  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.*

*Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a Child, and yet a King.  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.*

**SERVING TODAY;**

<i>Pastor:</i>	<i>Rev. Jeremy Gorline</i>
<i>Children's Message:</i>	<i>Brandi Hallemeier</i>
<i>Acolytes:</i>	<i>Rozema, Buchanan</i>
<i>Elder on Duty:</i>	<i>Zilz</i>
<i>Ushers:</i>	<i>Team 1</i>
<i>Alter Guild:</i>	<i>n/a</i>
<i>Accompanists:</i>	<i>Andrew Blevins</i>
<i>Singers:</i>	<i>Tim, MaryBeth, Abby Popp</i>
<i>Screens / Sound:</i>	<i>Jack Howell / Aaron Popp</i>
<i>Scrip Table:</i>	<i>Salyers</i>
<i>Counter:</i>	<i>Wojcik</i>