



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Jackson, Minnesota

The Fourth Sunday in Advent December 24, 2023

Welcome to this Divine Service. We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Please sign the attendance card in pew and place in offering plate.

Communion Policy: In the Lord's Supper, the Risen Christ gives us His true Body & Blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. As we participate in the Lord's Supper we declare doctrinal unity. Therefore we ask guests who are not members of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church to speak with Pastor before communing with us.



Prelude and Ringing of the Bell

Hymn "Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come" **350**

Confession and Absolution **184-185**

Introit **Ps. 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b**

- [P]** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
- [C]** let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.
- [P]** The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
- [C]** In them he has set a tent for the sun,
- [P]** which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
- [C]** and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
- [P]** Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,
- [C]** and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
- 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]** Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
- [C]** let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

Hymn of Anticipation

357 vv. 1, 6, 7

"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Salutation and Collect of the Day

189

P The Lord be with you.**C** (*sung*) **And with thy spirit.**

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

C (*sung*) **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16 ESV

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent."³ And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶I 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. ⁷In 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?"' ⁸Now, 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. ⁹And 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹from 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. . . .

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.' "

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

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.

P Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

C Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

P Behold, your king is coming to you;

C righteous and having salvation.

P Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

C From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle

Romans 16:25–27 ESV

²⁵ 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 ²⁶ 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— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

190

Holy Gospel

St. Luke 1:26–38 ESV

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

C (*sung*) Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² 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, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ 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. ³⁶ 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. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ 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.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C (*sung*) **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed 191

Hymn “My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord” 934

Sermon “The Mystery Revealed” **Romans 16:25–27**

Offertory and Offering 192-3

Prayer of the Church

Ruth Polz, Kristi Ledin, Carol Kolander, Linda Shiets, Pam Kemp, Kathy Miller (Neil’s, Susan’s, and Patti’s sister-in-law), Ken Temple, Karen Temple, Ron Kloos, Barney Olson, Travus Mekosch.

Petitions conclude:

P . . . Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

Final petition:

P O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament 194-202

Distribution Hymns 352, 334

Hymn “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” 338

Postlude



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