

Lord of the Valley Lutheran Church

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Ministers: All God's People

Pastor: Brian Bergum

LOTV Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, December 20th Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

We will be celebrating Communion during worship this morning. All are welcome! You will need to provide your own elements of bread and wine or juice for Holy Communion.

Leader: We worship as we live, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen

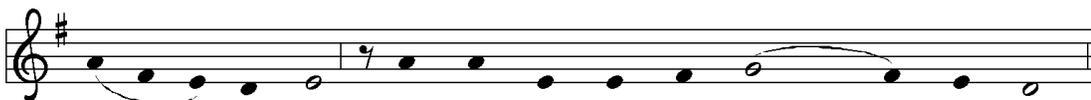
Leader: The days grow short and the darkness of these days reminds us of the darkness of sin and brokenness. So we put up lights, to remember the Light of Christ that shines in our darkness, in all darkness.

People: We hear the cry of the prophets, the greeting of the angel, and wonder. The Spirit of God is upon us and we proclaim the good news: Nothing is impossible with God! Come Lord Jesus.

Song "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Confession and Forgiveness

Leader: Advent is a season to open our lives to the presence of God. Advent is an awareness that we are made whole through the hope, peace, joy and love that comes only from God.

(A Time of Silence for Personal Reflection and Confession.)

Leader: Most merciful God,

People: We confess that we have sinned against you by our thoughts, by our words, and by our actions. In this season of Advent, we pray that you would enable us to watch for your light, signs of where you are breaking through the tinsel and glitter we use to mask our pain, our guilt, and our fear. Help us hear the words of Your angels, "Do not fear", and trust that you are with us. Forgive us. Fill us with your love. Amen.

Leader: We are people who walk in darkness, but even in our darkness there is a light that the world can not diminish. The Light of God has come to us in Jesus Christ. It is the light of love, of life, of hope. If you hear nothing else during our worship today, hear this: that God loves you and forgives you and calls you to bear the light of Christ in your lives.

People: Amen. Thanks be to God!!!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light coming into the world. In celebration of this, we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas and reflect on the coming of Christ. Christ is always coming, always entering an anxious time, a troubled world, a wounded heart. And so today we light four candles, candles of hope, peace, and joy and today a candle of love. It is out of God's love and God's love only that God sent Jesus into the world to change the world forever. God's love is not earned or chosen. God's love is pure gift, and today, as we always do, we come here to give thanks to God for the gift of love, given and shown to us in our relationships with one another, given and shown to us in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

All: Loving God, as we journey this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Teach us to be people who know, live and share your love. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

Scripture Readings

After each reading –

Reader: The Word of God for the People of God.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

Luke 1: 46b-55

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'

Romans 16: 25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Gospel Reading

After reading – Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

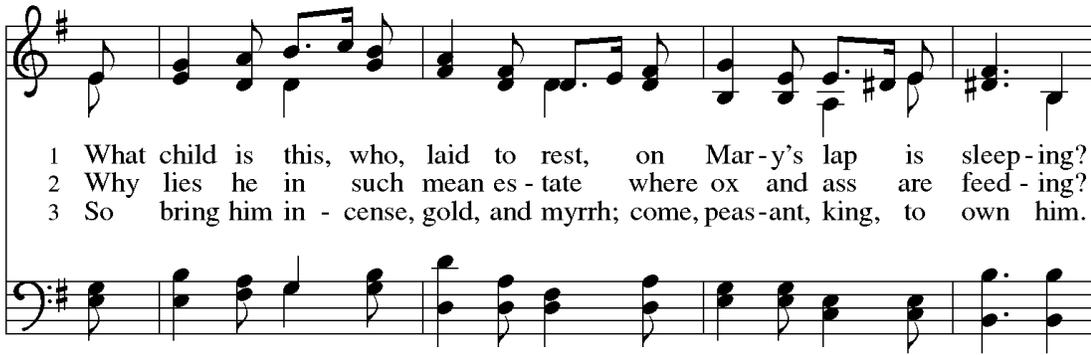
Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Luke 1: 26-38

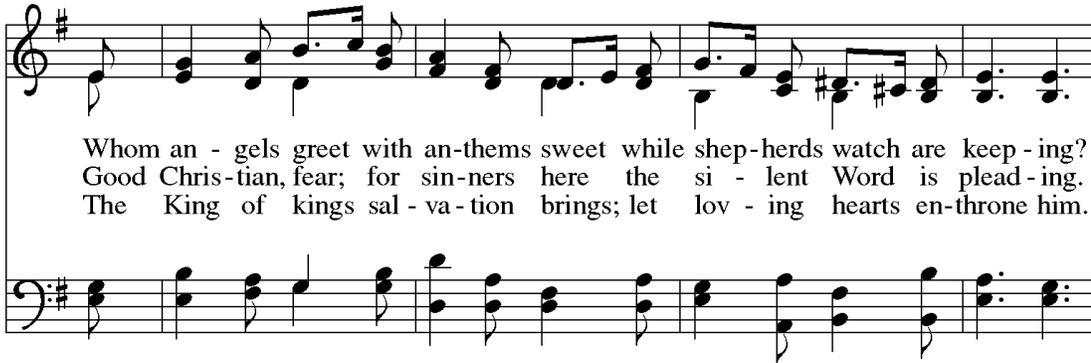
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you. 'But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Song

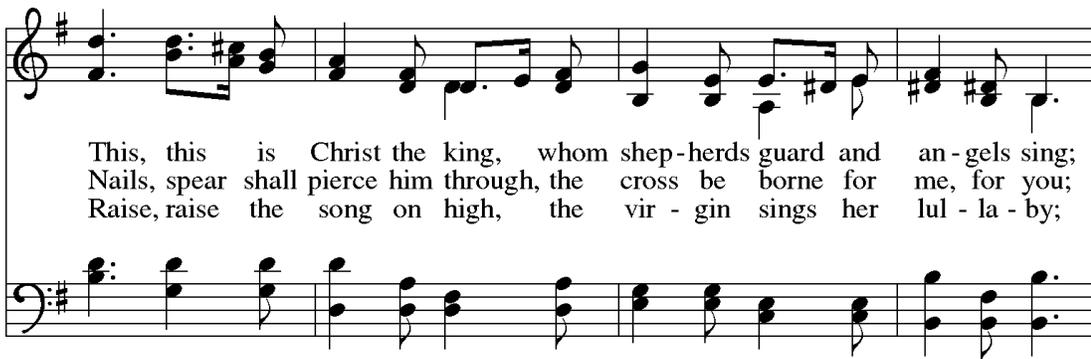
“What Child Is This”



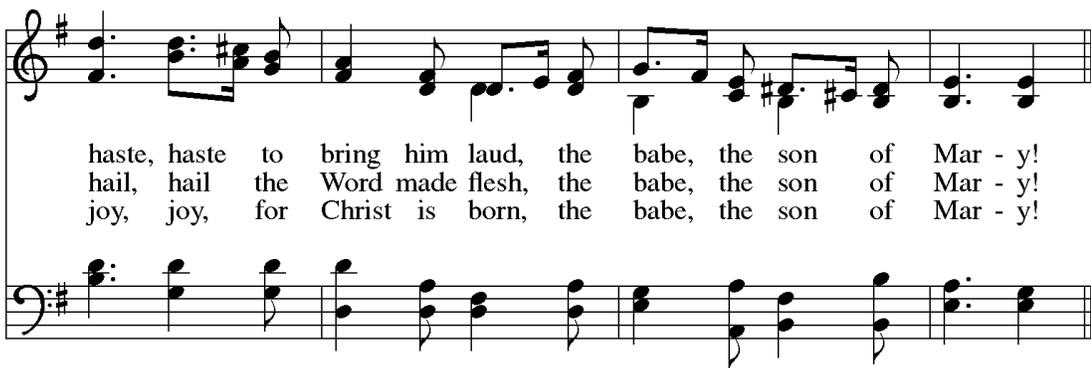
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Sermon

Song

"Joy to the World"

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Breakout Groups

Prayers of the People

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: All praise to You, Emmanuel, God-promised, and God with us; Your light shines in our lives; your peace embraces our anger, sorrow, and loss; your life opens us to new discovery of ourselves and our neighbors. And so it is with courage and hope that we join in singing the song of Mary, praising you with our joyful hearts.

The Annunciation

Leader: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."

The Magnificat



All:

1., 3. My — soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y

great - ness, O God, and my spir - it re - joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up - lift - ed the hum - ble of

you, You have looked with love on your
heart, You have filled the hun - gry with

ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won - drous things, and left the wealth - y no part.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak — and low - ly one,
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

Words of Institution

Leader: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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. With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

Leader: Lord, Remember us in your love, and teach us to pray.

ALL: 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

Distribution of Communion

Leader: Life-giving God, in this meal you have bound us to yourself, at this table we have received the very presence of Jesus Christ. Send us now to be what we have received, that all creation might know your love and sing your praise now and always.

ALL: Amen

Benediction

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sending

Leader: Let us go in hope, peace and joy to love and serve the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God.