



## Immanuel Lutheran Church

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# The Fourth Sunday of Advent

11 AM, Sunday, December 20, 2020

*Setting Three, LBW*

WELCOME

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

**P** 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.

**C Amen.**

**P** 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.

*Stand/kneel*

**P** Most merciful God,

**C** 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 the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☑ **Amen.**

## The Entrance Rite

HYMN LBW 34

*O Come O Come Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

APOSTOLIC GREETING

☐ 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

Cantor *Kyrie eleison* (three times)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

ADVENT CANDLE (*The fourth candle is lit.*)

☐ We praise you, O God, with this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles of this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit that we will be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we will welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON ..... 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, RSV

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for the LORD, the LORD promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the LORD's anointed.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king dwelt in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies round about, <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 dwelt 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, 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 for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.'"

**A** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.



THE MAGNIFICAT. *Mary's canticle, from LBW Vespers, is sung by the Cantor,  
Motomi Tanaka*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed.

The Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

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

He has come to the help of his servant Israel,  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory 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

SECOND LESSON.....Romans 16:25-27, RSV  
*Saint Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.*

<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 which was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed and

through the prophetic writings is 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 for evermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

ALLELUIA VERSE, by Cantor

Alleluia.

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation. (Ps. 85:7)

Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL ..... Luke 1:26-38, RSV

☐ The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st Chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**I**n 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, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind 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 for ever;

and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" <sup>35</sup>And 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 called holy, the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup>And behold, your kinswoman 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 with God nothing will be impossible." <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord!

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON (*Sit, after the invocation.*)

HYMN WOV 632

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

## APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

### The Liturgy of the Eucharistic Meal

#### THE PEACE

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** **And also with you.**

*Let us offer a sign of peace to our neighbors: "Peace be with you."*

#### THE OFFERING

*Donate now: [Donate](#)*

*Here are some other options for giving: [Ways to Give](#)*

**C** **Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — our selves, 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.**

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(spoken)*

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Lift up your hearts.

**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**



*Preface for Advent*

- ☐ 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, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

*Eucharistic Prayer I*

- ☐ Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- ☑ **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

- ☐ Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

- ☑ **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

☐ Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

☑ **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

☐ Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

☑ **Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

*The 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.**

*The Fraction (The Bread is broken)*

*Agnus Dei*

☑ **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

#### THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

- ✦ Holy Communion is offered to all baptized Christians who continue in the faith of the Church. If you would like to receive the Eucharistic Wine, please receive the small glass by the top edge, trying not to touch the minister's fingers. After communing, place the small glass on the tray, upright if possible.
- ✦ If you should desire to pray quietly before or while receiving the Holy Sacrament, as many Christians do, here is one of Luther's prayers for that purpose:

*Lord, it is true that I am not worthy that you should come under my roof. Yet I am in need and desire your help and grace. So I come with no other plea except that I have heard the gracious invitation to come to your altar. I am unworthy, but you have assured me I shall have forgiveness of all sins through your body and blood which I eat and drink in this sacrament. Amen, dear Lord; your Word is true. I do not doubt it. Let happen to me whatever you say. Amen.*



- ✦ If you should desire to pray quietly after receiving the Holy Communion, here is a possible such prayer. It is based on a prayer of St. Basil the Great (329-379):

*O Master, Christ our God: I thank you for all the good things which you have bestowed upon me, and for this partaking of your life-giving Sacrament. And I pray: keep me, my loved ones, and this congregation under your protection, and in the shadow of your wings. For you are the Bread of Life, the Fountain of holiness, the Giver of good things, and unto you we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

- ✦ If you are home during this pandemic, worshiping online with us, here is a possible “Prayer for Spiritual Communion” lifted up in a recent *Forum Letter* (May 2020). *Forum Letter* is a respected Lutheran newsletter published by the American Lutheran Publicity Bureau:

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

Communion Anthem      *A Hymn to the Virgin*      Benjamin Britten (c. 1913-1976)  
The Immanuel Choir

Of one who is so fair and bright  
Velut maris stella, [Like a star of the sea]  
Brighter than the day is light,  
Parens et puella: [Both mother and maiden]  
I cry to thee, thou see to me,  
Lady, pray thy Son for me,  
Tam pia, [so pure]  
That I may come to thee.  
Maria! [Mary]  
All this world was forlorn,  
Eva peccatrice, [because of Eve, a sinner]  
Till our Lord was yborn,  
De te genetrix. [through you, his mother]  
With ave it went away,  
Darkest night, and comes the day  
Salutis; [of salvation]  
The well springeth out of thee.  
Virtutis. [of virtue]

Lady, flower of everything,  
Rosa sine spina, [Rose without thorn]  
Thou bare Jesu, heaven's king,  
Gratia divina: [by divine grace]  
Of all thou bearest the prize,  
Lady, queen of paradise  
Electa: [chosen]  
Maid mild, mother  
es effecta. [you are made]

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN LBW 28 *Savior of the Nations, Come* NUM KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

DISMISSAL

➤ Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

➤ **Thanks be to God.**

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✚ Note on our Bible Lessons: They are downloaded from Bible Gateway — <https://www.biblegateway.com/>. Copyright information for the various translations is included on the Bible Gateway website.

✚ FAIRLY NEW TO OUR PRAYER LIST: Marion Molno, John and Nellie Figueroa (brother and sister-in-law of Ester Figueroa-Neubacher), Emma Kaefer, Bruce Harbour (Robin's father), Peter Davie (godfather of Thomas Wicks), Bennett Harris (colleague of Pastors Fryer), Robert Mallery (son-in-law of David Kiehl's sister), Wolfgang Hahn, Richard Kaefer (Emma's son), Yoleidy Perez (Tamares's brother), Obdulia Mundo (friend of Maggie Schreiber), Charlie Beckwith (friend of Thomas Wicks), Olga Beloded (John Imhof's wife), Mary Ann Grant (Deirdre's mother)

✚ FAITHFUL DEPARTED ..... Ann Chomko  
✚December 29, 1928 - December 13, 2020✚  
Bereaved ..... Daughter Barbara Chomko

✚ Poinsettia & Music Dedications for Christmas: Remember to send in your contributions along with your dedication in honor of or in loving memory of someone. This year we are asking for a \$20 donation for a Christmas poinsettia or whatever seems good to you in honor of our music. You can

mail your check or cash and dedication directly to our church or if you attend service over the next couple of Sundays, deliver them directly to Pastor Carol or Interim Office Manager Melissa Phillips. Here is our church address:

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
122 East 88 Street  
New York, NY 10128

- ✦ We look forward with joy to our Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning worship services at our church, the good Lord willing. But it is important that you register for those services if you would like to attend. We need to be mindful of social distancing and so we will need to spread out in our church and balcony. To protect people, we all need to wear masks. You can register with Interim Office Manager Melissa Phillips by phoning our church (212-289-8128) or sending her an email: [parish.immanuelnyc@gmail.com](mailto:parish.immanuelnyc@gmail.com) Thanks!