

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 19, 2021

Worship Focus

Home for Christmas: It's Blessed



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Order of Service for FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

About the Service

This service contains many elements from the new WELS hymnal, *Christian Worship*. The flow of the service follows *Christian Worship – The Service: Setting Two*. Most of the hymns, canticles, and songs appear in *Christian Worship*.

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Opening Hymn

24 - The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree: A
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head; "To
4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In



wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be. Your
me be as it pleas - es God," she said. "My
Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And



hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y, "Most
Son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, Most
soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name." Most
Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say, "Most



high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!
high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

Stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

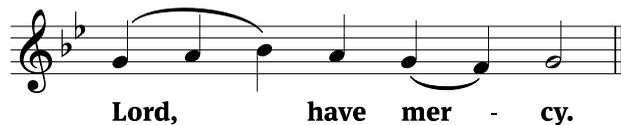
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

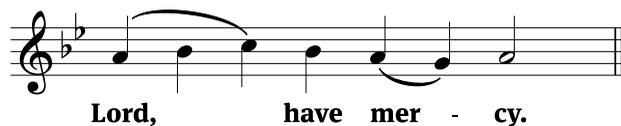
Kyrie

Presiding minister sings each invitation to pray. Cantor/congregation sing responses

In peace let us pray to the Lord.



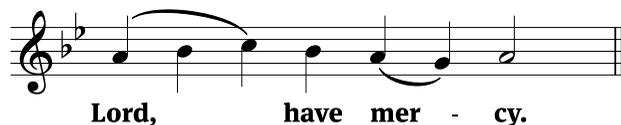
For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



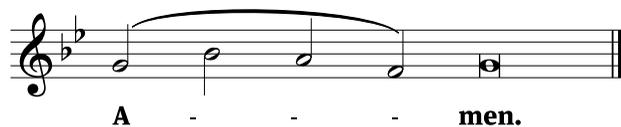
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high-est and peace to his
peo - ple on earth.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the refrain, with lyrics 'Glo-ry to God in the high-est and peace to his'. The second staff continues the melody for the second line, with lyrics 'peo - ple on earth.' The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some notes beamed together and a final double bar line at the end of the second staff.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Refrain

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Refrain

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God, the Father. Amen.

Refrain

The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden 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, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

The one who would find his home in Bethlehem was God's gift of love to us. A true blessing.

MICAH 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times. “

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor gives birth
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

^{5a} And he will be their peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Verses 1, 3, 6

274 – My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

Text: Hermann Bonnus, c. 1504–48; tr. John T. Mueller, 1885–1967, alt.

**My soul now magnifies the Lord; My spirit shall in God rejoice.
My humble state he did regard, Exalting me by gracious choice.**

**His mercy is on all who fear, Who trust in him from age to age.
His arm of strength to all is near; The proud he scatters, though they rage.**

**So praise with me the Holy One, Who comes in all humility.
To our Redeemer, God's own Son, Be glory in eternity!**

Second Reading

Revelation 12:1-6

Why would God send his son, knowing it would be so dangerous? Because of his great love for you.

REVELATION 12:1 A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ² She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. ³ Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. ⁴ His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. ⁵ She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. ⁶ The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Sung by the cantor

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Come to us, Emmanuel; come and set your people free.

Stand

Gospel

Luke 1:39-55

Mary's song praised the Lord for the blessings he showered on her, on the nation of Israel, and on the world.

LUKE 1:39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me--
holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

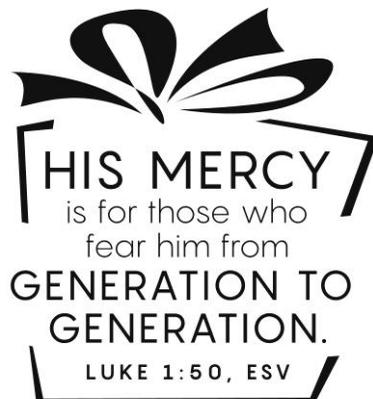
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
even as he said to our fathers.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated



Hymn of the Day

23 - Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, O Root of Jes - se, free Your own from Sa - tan's
3 Oh, come, O Day-spring from on high, And cheer us by your
4 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
tyr - an - ny; From depths of hell your peo - ple save,
draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home. Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
And bring them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re-joice! Re-joice!
And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
And close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin hymn, c. 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.
Tune: VENI, EMMANUEL (LM with Refrain) Plainsong melody, 15th century, alt.

Sermon

Home for Christmas... It's Blessed

Luke 1:39-55

Stand

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

In peace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, that our ever-faithful and all-powerful God would give us grateful hearts that His Son has come in the flesh to save us, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For congregations where numbers are small and resources scarce, that God, who raised up the King of all from little Bethlehem, would provide for their needs also and remind them that the same King dwells among them in His Means of Grace, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For contentment with what our Lord provides, that He who makes poor and makes rich would preserve us from coveting what He does not give and make us wise stewards of all of His blessings, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For our leaders, that Christ Jesus, who shepherds His flock to the ends of the earth, would grant them wisdom; for the nations, that they may have peace; and that we may dwell secure, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

That the Lord, who helped His servant Israel, would have mercy upon all who are brought low by affliction [*especially _____*]; that He would heal and strengthen them according to His will; and that He would maintain in them the certain hope of His faithfulness, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who commune, that God, who sanctified us through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all on the cross, would prepare our hearts to receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins this day, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Mighty God, You have done great things for us, most of all delivering us from death to life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Mercifully hear our prayers and answer them according to Your will for the sake of Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Announcements and Musical Offering

We appreciate the offerings given to support the work of God's Kingdom here and throughout the world.

Offerings can be given in any of four ways:

1. Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary
2. On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>
3. On your phone with the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app
4. Scan the QR code to the right...



Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card. The Connection Card tab can be found at the bottom right of any page of the Calvary website, <https://calvarydallas.org> or by scanning the code to the left...

The Sacrament

Preface



The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

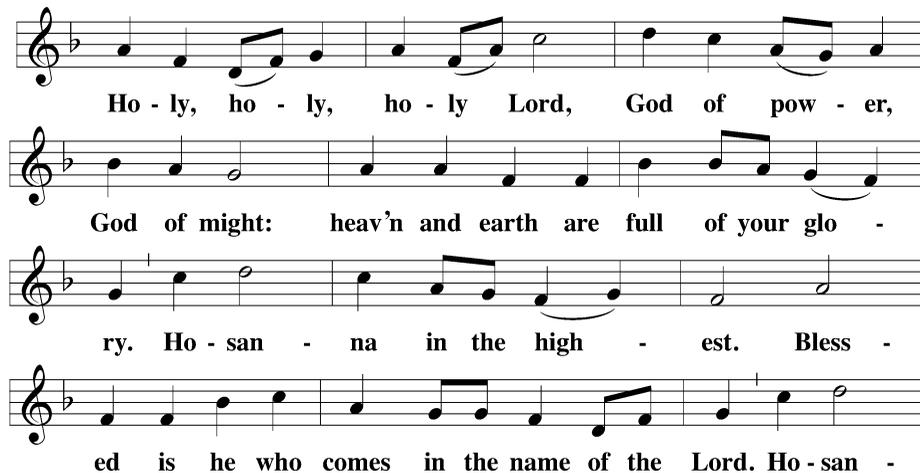
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

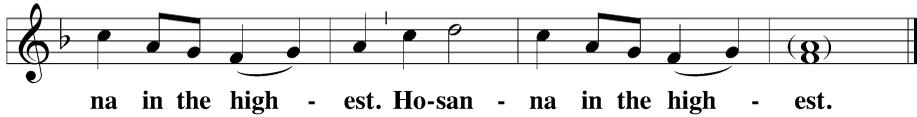


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,

God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -

ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -

ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace. and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

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

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God (*Agnus Dei*)

Je-sus, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Je-sus, Lamb of
God, you take a-way the sin of the world grant us your
peace.

Distribution

The Scriptures teach that the celebration of the Lord’s Supper connects us intimately with Christ and with one another as Christians who are united around a common confession of faith. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of Calvary or churches within our fellowship come forward to receive the Lord’s Supper.

Distribution Hymn

19 – O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, How wel - come
 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; Love brought you
 3 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, Who sit in
 4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, Let not your
 5 He comes to judge the na - tions, A ter - ror



you a - right? Your peo - ple long to greet you,
 down to me. Your thirst for my sal - va - tion
 deep - est gloom; Who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed
 souls dis - tress; Your guilt the Lord will par - don
 to his foes, A light of con - so - la - tions,



My Hope, my heart's De - light. O Je - sus, let your
 Pro - cured my lib - er - ty. Oh, love be - yond all
 And trem - ble at your doom. De - spair not; he is
 And cov - er by his grace. He comes, for you pro -
 And bless - ed hope to those Who love the Lord's ap -



Word be A lamp to light my way, To show me
 tell - ing That led you to em - brace In love, all
 near you, He's stand - ing at the door Who best can
 cur - ing The peace of sin for - giv'n, His chil - dren
 pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come, Send forth your



how to please you, To guide me ev - 'ry day.
 love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race!
 help and cheer you And bids you weep no more.
 thus se - cur - ing A her - i - tage in heav'n.
 beams most cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. composite.

Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN (76 76 D) Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

58 - See in Yonder Manger Low



1 See in yon - der man - ger low, Born for us on earth be - low,
2 Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3 Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was thine,
4 Teach, oh, teach us, ho - ly Child, By thy face so meek and mild,



See— the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this.
Teach us to re - sem - ble thee In thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

Refrain



Hail the ev - er bless - ed morn; Hail re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn;



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"