

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 22, 2019

## Worship Focus

**COME, LORD JESUS!**  
**The Virgin Birth of the Christ is Promised to Joseph**

Come,  
LORD JESUS

**CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**9807 CHURCH ROAD**  
**DALLAS, TX 75238 + 214-348-5567**  
[churchsec@caltex.org](mailto:churchsec@caltex.org)



# Order of Service for FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

*Service of Word and Sacrament*

*Christian Worship, p. 26*

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*"Thank the Lord" Tune: Richard Hillert. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Augsburg Fortress*

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## ✠ Gathering ✠

### 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!

Text: Basque carol, paraphrase Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.

Tune: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE (10 10 12 10) Basque carol.

### INVOCATION

- Minister**            The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- Congregation**    **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

**M** God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**C** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me a sinner.**

**M** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

**C** **Amen.**

## LORD HAVE MERCY (*Kyrie*)

**M** For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



**C:** Lord, have mer - cy.

**M** For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



**C:** Christ, have mer - cy.

**M** For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



**M** Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**M** 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.



## ✠ The Word ✠

### FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-14

*Isaiah declares that the virgin birth of Immanuel will be a gracious sign from the Lord.*

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> “Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

### PSALM

Psalm 24

*Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL.  
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Pastor will sing the first line of each verse.

The congregation is invited to sing the 2nd line of the verses, the Refrains, and the Gloria.

*Refrain*



Let the Lord en-ter; he is the King of glo-ry.

*Psalm tone*



The earth is the LORD'S, and every | thing in it,\*  
**the world, and all who | live in it;**

for he founded it up | on the seas\*  
**and established it upon the | waters.**

Who may ascend the hill | of the LORD?\*

**Who may stand in his | holy place?**

He who has clean hands and a | pure heart,\*  
**he will receive blessing from God his | Savior.** *Refrain*

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you | ancient doors,\*  
**that the King of glory | may come in.**

Who is this King of | glory?\*  
**The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in | battle.**

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you | ancient doors,\*  
**that the King of glory | may come in.**

Who is he, this King of | glory?\*  
**The LORD Almighty—he is the King of | glory.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy | Spirit,**  
**as it was in the be | ginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.** *Refrain*

**SECOND LESSON**

Romans 1:1-7

*Paul affirms what Isaiah prophesied – Jesus Christ is both true God and true man, or “Immanuel – GOD with US.”*

ROMANS 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—<sup>2</sup>the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures<sup>3</sup> regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David,<sup>4</sup> and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.<sup>5</sup> Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.<sup>6</sup> And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

**M** We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

**C** **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

**M** We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

**C** **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

**M** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C** **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*Four Advent candles are lit.*



## GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

*The conception and birth of Jesus by the Virgin Mary fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah. Jesus is truly Immanuel.*





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** ✠  
 Matthew 1:20-22

**Who Would Ever Have Dreamed?**

Sermon notes:

**CONFESSION OF FAITH**

The Nicene Creed

**C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,  
and became fully human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS**

## **MUSICAL OFFERING**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Lord, You have taught us to pray and encouraged us to open our hearts to You on behalf of ourselves and all those in need. Hear us now as we come to You in Jesus' name.

### *Brief silence*

You have kept Your Word and delivered to us Your own Son by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin. Guide us so that we may rejoice in the Word made flesh and in the redemption He has won by His holy life, life-giving death and resurrection. Bless all pastors, that they may faithfully preach and teach this Gospel. Open the hearts of young men to hear and heed Your call to the ministry. Bless all church workers in their various vocations, that they may serve us well in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, You have granted to civil officials and governments the authority to promote order, execute justice, encourage virtue and protect the weak. Bless our president, our governor, our state legislators, our county and city leaders, and all judges and magistrates. Help them to hear and heed the wisdom of Your Word and to act with integrity as they fulfill the responsibilities entrusted to them. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You are the giver of every good gift, O Lord, and You care for us in all our needs of body, mind and spirit. Give healing to the sick, relief to the suffering, peace to the dying and comfort to those who mourn [*especially \_\_\_\_\_*]. According to Your gracious will, sustain them all by Your grace, and give them patience and courage as they await the unfolding of Your healing grace. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You know our weakness and how we struggle with temptation, O Lord. Give us discerning minds and steadfast hearts, that we may rejoice in the annual celebration of Your Son's birth. Keep us from being distracted from the gift of Your Son, and teach us to highly treasure the mystery of His incarnation and the fruits of His redemptive work. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You know that we do not deserve any of Your kindness, yet we rejoice in all Your gifts and graces, especially the privilege of this table where we come to receive the very body and precious blood of Your Son. Bring us to this feast in humble repentance, so that we may receive this blessed communion to our benefit. Nurture us with this heavenly food now as we await the day when we will join the saints in Your presence and partake with them in the marriage feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom without end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy to provide us all things as we have need; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**C 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.**

## **✘ The Sacrament ✘**

### **PREFACE and PROPER PREFACES**

**M** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

**M** Lift up your hearts.



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

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



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

**M** Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. Through his holy prophets, he promised a King to bring light to those living in darkness and in the shadow of death. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Sanctus*) and WORDS OF INSTITUTION**



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

**M** 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."

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



C: A - men.

**O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD** (*Agnus Dei*)



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



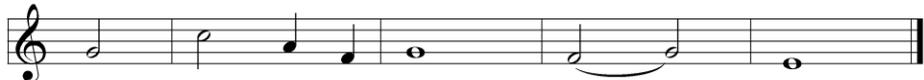
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - - men.

## 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

86 - The Only Son from Heaven



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, Fore - told by  
 2 Oh, time of God ap - point - ed, Oh, bright and  
 3 A - wak - en, Lord, our spir - it To know and  
 4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore you With God the



an - cient seers, By God the Fa - ther giv - en,  
 ho - ly morn! He comes, the King a - noint - ed,  
 love you more, In faith to stand un - shak - en,  
 Ho - ly Ghost And Je - sus, we a - dore you,



In hu - man form ap - pears. No sphere his  
 The Christ, the vir - gin - born, Grim death to  
 In spir - it to a - dore, That we, through  
 O Pride of an - gel host. Be - fore you



light con - fin - ing, No star so bright - ly  
 con - quer for us, To o - pen heav'n be -  
 this world mov - ing, Each glimpse of heav - en  
 mor - tals low - ly Cry "Ho - ly, ho - ly,



shin - ing As he, our Morn - ing Star.  
 fore us And bring us life a - gain.  
 prov - ing, May reap its full - ness there.  
 ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

Text: Elizabeth Cruciger, c. 1500–35, abr., st. 1-3; *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Minneapolis, 1978, st. 4;  
 tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.

Tune: HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTS SOHN (76 76 776) *Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein*, Erfurt, 1524, alt.

✠ Sending ✠

## THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

## PRAYER AND BLESSING

**M** Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

**M** Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

**CLOSING HYMN**

707 - Peace Came to Earth

1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night  
 2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held  
 3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,  
 4 How else could I have known you, O my God!

When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And  
 The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The  
 In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In  
 How else could I have loved you, O my God! How

God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but  
 wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but  
 bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but  
 else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but

gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!  
 sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!  
 see: Im - man - u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!  
 pray: Im - man - u - el! Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

*The picturesque language of this Jaroslav Vajda hymn vividly illustrates the weighty significance of God becoming man in Christ.*

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1984 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
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