

# THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 23, 2018

## Worship Focus

**He Comes, Bearing Gifts: The Gift of Love**



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# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

*The Divine Service II*

*Christian Worship Supplement*

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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!

Text: Basque carol, paraphrase Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.  
Tune: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE (10 10 12 10) Basque carol.

## INVOCATION

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**Minister**

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

**Congregation**

Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SINS AND LIGHTING RITE

**M** When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation – the human race – in his image (Genesis 1:26). Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

**C** **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death (Romans 6:23). We, too, are guilty and confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

**M** However, God – who is Love – did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

(sung) **O, come, O, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**M** When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven (Galatians 4:4,5). In view of God's mercy, today we light the *love* candle. This is how God showed his *love* among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him (1 John 4:9).

**C** **This is *love*: not that we loved God, but that he *loved* us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins (1 John 4:10).**

(sung) **O, come, my Love, who gives to me  
Grace undeserved, unending, free.  
Help me to share this gift most rare  
That all, God's hope and peace, may share.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**M** In the love of God we go to the world – to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the

new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:16-18).

**C God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God (2 Corinthians 5:19-21).**

**(sung) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

## **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.



*BE SEATED*

## **THE WORD**

### **FIRST LESSON Micah 5:2-5a**

*The prophet foretold that God’s love for his people would be demonstrated by a special birth that would take place in the little town of Bethlehem. The one who would be born was God’s gift of love to us.*

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.”

<sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5a</sup>

And he will be their peace.

# PSALM

# Psalm 85

Music (melody, text, and piano accompaniment): Hal H. Hopson © 2008 Birnamwood Publications  
(refrain organ accompaniment): © 2017 Dale A. Witte; (tone) © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer

## Refrain



Lord, in your mer-cy, hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

## Tone



**You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people  
and covered / all their sins.**

**You set aside / all your wrath  
and turned from your fierce / anger.**

**Show us your unfailing / love, LORD,  
and grant us your sal-/vation.      *Refrain***

**I will listen to what God the / LORD says;  
he promises peace to his / people.**

**Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him,  
that his glory may dwell / in our land.**

**Love and faithfulness meet to-/gether;  
righteousness and peace kiss each / other.**

**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** Revelation 12:1-6

*God lets us see Christmas Eve from his perspective. God did not see a peaceful manger on a silent night. God saw a monster, the devil, wanting to devour his son the moment he was born. 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. <sup>2</sup> She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. <sup>3</sup> Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.

*PLEASE STAND*

## **GOSPEL** Luke 1:39-55

*The Virgin Mary sings her song, praising the Lord for the love he showed to her, to the nation of Israel, and to the world.*

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

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me – holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

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

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

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

*After the Gospel:*

**M** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to you, O Christ.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

391 – God Loved the World So that He Gave



1 God loved the world so that he gave His on - ly  
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, Who was made  
3 God would not have the sin - ner die— His Son with  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives the  
5 When you are sick, when death draws near, This truth your



Son the lost to save That all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in  
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the  
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by  
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus saves my



him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive,  
him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
Word does teach How we the bless - ed goal may reach.  
Je - sus' blood; Bap - tized, you are a child of God.  
soul from death— This is the an - chor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise now and eternally!

*Text: Heiliges Lippen . . . Gesangbuch, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.  
Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.*

## **SERMON**

Revelation 12:1-6

### **Here's a Sign that Proves God's Love**

*STAND*

#### **NICENE CREED**

**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.**

*BE SEATED*



## PRAISE AND PRAYER

### FRIENDSHIP REGISTER, OFFERTORY, and OFFERING

STAND

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole Church and for all people according to their need.

*Brief silence*

Almighty God, we praise You that by Your Holy Spirit, Elizabeth greeted Mary as “the mother of my Lord” while the unborn John leaped with joy in the presence of Your Son in Mary’s womb. Increase in us Your Spirit, that our faith may bear fruit in abundance. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we praise You that, from their conception, You prepared prophets to proclaim Your truth. Even so, we pray that You would prepare servants of the Word today to preach Your saving Gospel with faithfulness and power. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we praise You that by Your kind providence, You give us authorities on earth who represent You. Remember in mercy all who serve in public office in our land, granting them wisdom, courage and integrity. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we praise You that You are Father to the fatherless and that You provide for the poor when all others have forgotten them. Graciously watch over the hungry, the poor and the unemployed. Move us to serve You in showing mercy to all those in need, near and far. Comfort the grieving, heal the sick and grant faith to the dying. [*We pray especially for \_\_\_\_\_.*] Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we praise You that You feed those who hunger and thirst for righteousness with the body and blood of Your dear Son. By Your Holy Spirit, prepare us again to receive His Sacrament in true faith for the forgiveness of sins and the strength for our service to You and one another. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into Your hands, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT

**M** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also 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 good and right so to do.**

**M** 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, who comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

*Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9*



1 O ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and  
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How tru - ly blest is



might, Your glo - ry, earth and heav - en In  
he Who in God's name is com - ing To



count - less ways re - cite. Ho - san - na! Come and  
set his peo - ple free! He comes to bring sal -



save us, Lord God of hosts on high, And  
va - tion And with his blood out - poured, De -



in your grace and mer - cy Re - ceive our fer - vent cry.  
liv - er us from bond - age— Ho - san - na, might - y Lord!

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**M** Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.  
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.  
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.  
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**C** **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

*BE SEATED*

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 11:24,25*

**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** Amen.

## O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

*John 1:29*

*Agnus Dei*

The musical score is written in treble clef with a common time signature (C). It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a fermata and a '2' above it, indicating a second ending. The lyrics are: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.' The second staff continues the melody. The third staff changes to a key signature of one sharp (F#) and contains the lyrics: 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,'. The fourth staff continues in the same key signature with the lyrics: 'you take a - way the sin of the world;'. The fifth staff changes to a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and contains the lyrics: 'grant us peace. A - men.' The sixth staff concludes the piece with a final cadence.

*BE SEATED*

## 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

11 – Comfort, Comfort All My People



1 "Com - fort, com - fort all my peo - ple; Speak of peace,"  
 2 All their sins our God will par - don, Blot - ting out  
 3 John the Bap - tist's voice is cry - ing In the des -  
 4 Straight - en out the crook - ed high - way; Make the rough -



so says our God. "Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,  
 each dark mis - deed; All that well de - serve his an - ger  
 ert far and near, Call - ing peo - ple to re - pent - ance  
 er plac - es plain. Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



Groan - ing from their sor - rows' load. Speak to all  
 He no more will see or heed. They have suf -  
 For the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn -  
 Read - y for his ho - ly reign. For the glo -



Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;  
 fered man - y a day; Now their griefs have passed a - way.  
 ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
 ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is spread a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er,  
 God will change their ach - ing sad - ness  
 Let the val - leys rise to meet him  
 And all flesh shall see the to - ken



That their war - fare now is o - ver."  
 In - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.  
 And the hills bow down to greet him.  
 That his word is nev - er bro - ken.

# SONG OF SIMEON

Luke 2:29-32

*Nunc Dimittis*

1 O Lord, now let your serv - ant De - part in peace,  
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All glo - ry to

as - sured: For I have seen your prom - ised In -  
the Son, All glo - ry to the Spir - it, For -

car - nate, sav - ing Word— A Light that will en -  
ev - er three in one; For as in the be -

light - en All gloom where Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant,  
gin - ning, Is now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une

crown - ing glo - ry Of those in Is - ra - el!  
name re - sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

**M** We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you give us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. We pray that through this precious gift of yourself you would feed our faith, nourish our hope, and strengthen our love that we might live as your people now, and as your guests forever at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## BLESSING

**M** 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** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

6 – Come, O Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, O long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, Born to set your peo - ple free;  
2 Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and yet a king,



From our sins and fears re - lease us By your death on Cal - va - ry.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now your gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la - tion, Hope to all the earth im - part,  
By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By your all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to your glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, all.  
Tune: ST. HILARY (87 87 D) Unknown.

*After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.*

