

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 24, 2023

Worship Focus
Just as God Promised



*The King
Shall Come*

Calvary Lutheran Church
9807 Church Road
Dallas, TX 75238 + 214-348-5567
www.calvarydallas.org



Order of Service for FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Order of Service

Divine Service I (CW: Supplement)

✠ Gathering ✠

OPENING HYMN

328 – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came



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



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame:
a bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be.
“To me be as it pleas - es God,” she said.
in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,



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



“most high - ly fa - vored maid - en.” Glo - ri - a!
most high - ly fa - vored maid - en.” Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!
“Most 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

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us. A - men.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a whole rest followed by a quarter note G, then a quarter note A, and a quarter note B. The second staff continues with a quarter note C, a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F, a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a quarter note C. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second staff continues with a quarter note D, a quarter note E, a quarter note F, a quarter note G, a quarter note A, a quarter note B, and a quarter note C. The lyrics are written below the notes.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity. **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts. **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest. **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

Four Advent candles are lit.

HYMN

495 – The King Shall Come

3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and earth's dark
night is past; that morn - ing can - not rise too soon, that
day that e'er shall last. Then let the end - less bliss be -
gin, as heav'n with prais - es rings. Hail, Christ the
Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings!

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.**

Be seated

✠ The Word ✠

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:8-16

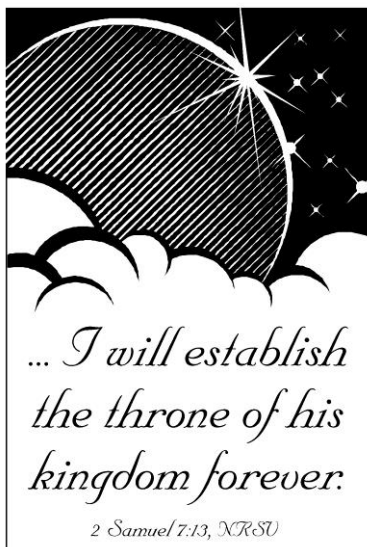
The LORD promised King David that one of his descendants would establish an everlasting kingdom.

² SAMUEL 7:8 “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹²When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’ ”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



PSALM

Psalm 139



1 O God, you search me and you know me.
2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.



All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.
You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,



When I walk or lie down, you are be - fore me:
and with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:



ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.
in ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

The prophetic writings about King Jesus prove that God keeps his promises.

ROMANS 16:25 Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Glo-ry be to you, O Lord! Glo-ry be to you, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

God kept his promise to send a Savior who would establish an everlasting kingdom.

LUKE 1:26²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Praise be to you, O Christ! Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

327 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from
 3 O come, O Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen

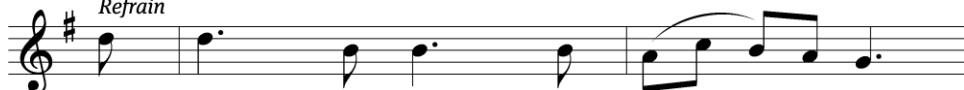


cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your
 by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y
 wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

✠ Sermon ✠

Luke 1:26-38

Share Mary's Angle on the Angels!

Sermon notes:

Stand

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

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 truly 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

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 these ways:

- *Set in the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary*
- *On the Calvary website: <https://calvarydallas.org/give/>*
- *Scan the QR code to the right...*



Give us a record of your visit through our online Connection Card, or by filling out the card in the pew and placing it in the offering plate as you leave. 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 QR code above.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

You may remain seated for prayer

Lord, your love stands firm forever. You have revealed the mystery of your plans and established your gospel in our hearts. You are our glory and strength. **You are our Rock and Savior.**

Jesus, you are Immanuel, God with us. Drive away our doubts and fears with your gospel that tells us you became flesh, dwelled among us, and that you know our needs and weakness. You are our glory and strength. **You are our Rock and Savior.**

You have made your will known through the writings of your prophets. Let this same Word be made known to the nations near and far, that people everywhere might believe in you, the Word made flesh. You are our glory and strength. **You are our Rock and Savior.**

Just as Gabriel was sent to announce your coming birth to Mary, you send your messengers to us with your Word. Bless all pastors and teachers, and those who are preparing for the public ministry in your church. Keep your Word in their hearts and minds and on their lips. You are our glory and strength. **You are our Rock and Savior.**

When we are greatly troubled, lead us to turn to you, to ask, and to trust that nothing is impossible with you. We pray for all who deal with hardships, illnesses, and losses [*especially...*]. Show them your favor. Supply what they need for wholeness or healing, and strengthen their faith in your goodness with your Word of peace. You are our glory and strength. **You are our Rock and Savior.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

O Lord, stir up your power and come. Mercifully fulfill all you have promised your Church to the end of the world; you live and reign, now and forever. **Amen.**

P R A Y E R S

✠ The Sacrament ✠

PREFACE and PROPER PREFACES

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is good and right so to do.

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, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Sanctus)

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 -
na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Stand

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.

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, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei)



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

320 – As Angels Joyed with One Accord



1 As an - gels joyed with one ac - cord up - on the
2 He came, not clothed in maj - es - ty nor pow'r that
3 This done, he soared to God's right hand, yet or - phaned
4 In ev - 'ry age— let praise a - bound— he comes; we



ad - vent of our Lord, so let us glad - ly
suits his de - i - ty. In low - ly state he
not his cho - sen band, for he, not bound in
hear his voice re - sound. His glo - rious gos - pel



praise the name of him who from the Fa - ther came.
walked till he in dy - ing set us cap - tives free.
grace and pow'r, at - tends his own each day and hour.
does not cease to bring us com - fort, joy, and peace.

- 5 He comes in water to the child
and cleanses it, from birth defiled.
This washing seals his pard'ning grace
and shows the Father's kindly face.
- 6 He comes to us in bread and wine
to give himself and gifts divine.
O praise him for this sacrament,
redeeming love's great testament!
- 7 Lift up your heads! All grief and pain
shall vanish when he comes again.
Where we shall see him face to face,
there joy alone shall have a place.

Stand

PRAYER AND BLESSING

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

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

318 – Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



1 Hark! A thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is
2 See, the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with
3 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the
4 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, do - min - ion to the



near," we hear it say. "Cast a - way the
par - don down from heav'n. Let us haste, with
world is wrapped in fear, he will shield us
Fa - ther and the Son with the ev - er -



works of dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day."
tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
last - ing Spir - it while e - ter - nal a - ges run!

Be seated

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Hymn 328 – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Text: Basque, c. 18th cent., para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.

Tune: Basque, c. 18th cent.; setting: C. Edgar Pettman, 1865-1943, arr. by John Wickham

Scripture references: Lk 1:26-38; Isa 7:14

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Hymn 495 – The King Shall Come

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925, abr., alt.

Tune: Irish; setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949

Scripture references: Da 7:13,14; Mt 25:31; Heb 2:9; 9:28; 2 Ti 4:8; Rev 22:20

Text and tune: public domain

Setting: ©2006 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House

Psalm 139G

Text and tune: ©1992 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP

Hymn 327 – O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Koin, 1710

Tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent., alt.; setting: C. Winfred Douglas, 1867-1944

Scripture references: Isa 7:14; Mt 1:23; 20:28; Isa 11:1,10; Lk 1:78,79; Isa 22:22

Text and music: public domain

Hymn 320 – As Angels Joyed with One Accord

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905-1996, abr., alt.

Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621; setting: George R. Woodward, 1848-1934

Scripture references: Lk 2:13,14; Php 2:7,8; Ac 10:36; Tit 3:5-7; 1 Co 11:23-25

Text: ©1993 Werner H. Franzmann, admin. Northwestern Publishing House

Music: public domain

Hymn 318 – Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Text: Latin, c. 5th-10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, alt.

Music: William H. Monk, 1823-1889

Scripture references: Ro 13:11-14; Mk 1:1-5; Eph 5:8-14

Text and music: public domain

Prayer of the Church

Response is adapted from Psalm 89:17, 26.

Closing collect is from The New Ancient Collects, #39, Gelasian, (Old edition, p. 16.1).

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