

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 20, 2020 10:30 a.m. Service

She will bear a son,
and you are to name
him Jesus, for he
will save his people
from their sins.



Matthew 1:21

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL.'



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

'HEARING, SHARING AND LIVING THE GOSPEL'

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THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

Administrative Assistant – Sonya Gorman

You are invited to use the yellow Prayer Cards located in the pew for prayer requests. Please hand this card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

** Please turn off cellphones **

Holy Communion is offered today:

The Lord's Supper is a wonderful gift given to us by God. In the bread and wine, just as He says, Christ gives us His body and blood to forgive sins, renew faith, and cause Godly and brotherly love to grow. In this sacrament we proclaim Christ's death on the cross to atone for the sins of the world and His triumphant resurrection over the grave, to the glory and praise of God. To receive this means of God's grace properly we should be able to positively answer the following: "Do I need forgiveness for sin?" "Do I believe the pastor's forgiveness is God's forgiveness?" "Do I believe in Christ as my Savior?" "Do I trust that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine?" "Do I desire to live anew to God and others in love and

service?” In our ‘yes’ to these questions we join in a close and holy communion – a fellowship of faith.

Out of Pastoral concern and care, and taking to heart God's Word in 1 Corinthians 11:28-29: “*A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself*” – if you are unsure of what it means to recognize the body of the Lord in the Lord’s Supper, or if you cannot confess these beliefs, please feel free to remain seated or speak to the Pastor or an Elder prior to the service.

If you need to receive the Sacrament at your seat, please tell an usher. For those who so desire, the cups in the center have water infused with a drop of wine. Also, non-communing children and adults are welcome to come to the altar rail and receive a blessing. (Please keep your hands folded to indicate this choice.)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Divine Service – Setting Four

December 20, 2020 10:30 a.m.

Welcome & Announcements

+ INVOCATION +

LSB 203

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

[P] We begin in the name into which we are baptized; In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[C] **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

[P] As we prepare to light the fourth candle of our Advent wreath, known as the angels' candle,

[C] **we are reminded that angels not only announced our Lord's birth, but were present at His resurrection and ascension and will come with Him when He comes again in glory.**

P Therefore, we want to be ready at all times to receive Him. So we pray:

C Come Lord Jesus, into our hearts, into our church, and into our world. Amen.

Opening Hymn

LSB 338 sts. 1-2

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”



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



From our fears and sins re-lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, Now Thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine 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 Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo-rious throne.

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Stand

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION + *LSB 203*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness;
therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination in light of the Ten Commandments.)

Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:

Luke 18:13

☐ God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

☐ God be merciful to you and strengthen your faith.

LSB 292

☐ Amen.

☐ Do you believe that my forgiveness is God's forgiveness?

☐ Yes.

LSB 293

☐ Let it be done for you as you believe.

☐ Almighty God in His

LSB 203

mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

LSB 204

Introit

Ps. 19:1, 4c, 5-6; antiphon: Is. 45:8a, b

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

C The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. In them he has set a tent for the sun,

P which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

C Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

P C Glory be 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.

P Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47, LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

(During Advent, the HYMN OF PRAISE is omitted) *LSB 187*

Salutation and Collect of the Day *LSB 205*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading *2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 11b, 16*

4 That night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

5 “Go and tell my servant David, ...

11 ...““The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ...

16 Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.””

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zech 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.

A C Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle Reading

Romans 16:25-27

25 Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past,

26 but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him—

27 to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

John 20:31, LSB 205



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke,
the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel
to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man
named Joseph, a descendant of David. The
virgin's name was Mary.

28 The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

30 But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 He 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, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

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

35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon 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. 36 Even Elizabeth

your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. 37 For nothing is impossible with God.”

38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May it be to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

LSB 370 sts. 1-3

“What Child Is This”

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let

shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the

Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar-y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar-y!

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Sermon

“Christmas Plans” Pastor Tom Rhodes

Stand

*Together We Confess our Common Faith Using
the Nicene Creed* *LSB 206*

**☐ ☐ I believe in one God, the Father
 Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of
 all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of
the virgin Mary and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under
Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to**

**judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and
apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the
remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✕ of the world to come. Amen.**

Offering

*In quiet devotion and responding in personal
stewardship of God's abundant provision to you,
please use the offering plates in the back as you enter
or exit. (This is just as it says: An offering to God*

through His church. As a reassurance to those in worship today, especially our guests - this is not an obligation - the good news of Jesus is free to all!)

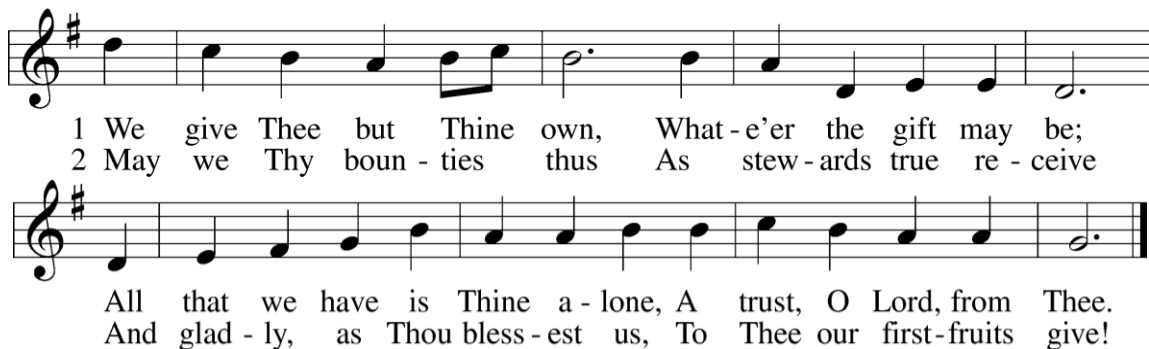
Stewardship Prayer

✠ **☪** O Lord, grant that this happy season draw us ever closer to You. May we serve You with our tithes and offerings, that Your Name may increase and Your Kingdom be enlarged according to Your gracious will. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Offertory

LSB 781 sts. 1-2

We Give Thee But Thine Own



1 We give Thee but Thine own, What-e'er the gift may be;
2 May we Thy boun - ties thus As stew - ards true re - ceive

All that we have is Thine a - lone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
And glad - ly, as Thou bless - est us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

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Prayer of the Church

LSB 207

P Let us pray for all the people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P Lord, the time of preparation is almost over, and Your visitation is near, as You planned. Keep us focused on the Gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ. May it bring about the joyful obedience of faith in us as it did with Mary, and for all who hear Your Word this season. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, You continue to provide pastors for Your Church to proclaim the coming of Your Son. Be with all Your people through the ministry of the gifts of Word and Sacrament. Allow us all to boldly speak and share the revelation of the mystery that has now been disclosed by Your Living Word, according to Your plan. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord of the nations, look with mercy upon Donald, our president; Mike, our governor; and all those who make, administer, and judge our laws. May they use their authority wisely, compassionately, and according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, we thank You for those who look out for our well-being and protect us from harm. Give Your blessing and protection to police, firefighters, medical workers, the members of our armed forces and all first responders whose vocations put them on the front lines of danger, trouble, and disaster. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, nothing is impossible with You. You sent Your Son into the world to be the great physician of body and soul. Give to all who are ill comfort and healing, according to Your will, and patience and trust knowing that, come what may, You have come and You are with them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lord, while we await the coming of Your Son, we remember with thanksgiving those who were before us in the faith and are now with You. Keep and preserve us in the one true faith to life everlasting until You bring us together with them into Your Eternal Kingdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Into Your hands, we commend to You all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

Preface

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.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9; LSB 208*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo - ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 209*

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children

from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy,
You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your
Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a
life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have
prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us
Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and
drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the
blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that
come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has
taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

**☐ 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 Words of Our Lord

LSB 209

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;
1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

[P] Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

[P] In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is

the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

John 20:19, LSB 209

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29, LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION

Distribution Hymn

LSB 383 sts. 1-5

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”



- 1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: “To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!”

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Distribution Hymn

LSB 332 sts. 1-8

“Savior of the Nations, Come”



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it
3 Here a maid was found with child, Yet re - mained a
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—
vir - gin mild. In her womb this truth was shown:
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.
God was there up - on His throne.
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32, LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

LSB 212

P Let us pray.

P Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

LSB 212

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

Sit

Closing Hymn

LSB 387 sts. 1-4

“Joy to the World”



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
play, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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