

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025**

GATHERING

The *Advent* (Latin: “coming”) wreath visually depicts the growing expectation we have for the coming of Christ, the light of the world. Royal purple candles reference the coming King. Pink stands for Joy and refers to Philippians 4:4 - “Rejoice! . . . the Lord is near.” And a white center candle indicates the purity of Christ, God incarnate.

Preservice Music: “Glory to God”

We are learning a new arrangement of the song “Glory to God” this Advent and Christmas. It is known as the “Angelic Hymn” since the lyrics include the angels’ song at Bethlehem “Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to God’s people on earth!”

Welcome

Congregation please rise

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn - melody line only, not entire accompaniment, from archives

Glory to God (Bolduc)

All: Refrain, st. 1, Refrain, Ending

P: In the Name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

C: Amen.

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light! Let us pray to Christ Jesus for grace and mercy, and walk in the light of the Lord.

Silence for prayer and reflection

P: Merciful God, always with us, always coming:

C: We confess that we have not consistently kept watch for you. We have looked to ourselves rather than to you and your healing Light. We have sinned. We repent! Help us to wait to know your will. Help us to look to the needs of others. Help us to watch for your love toward us. We ask you to make us ready for Emmanuel’s coming.

P: May almighty God instill in us through the Holy Spirit the patience, love, watchfulness, and hope for which we ask. This season of Advent and each new day Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, *God-with-us* comes, forgives, and heals us. 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.

Response to God’s Forgiveness How Beautiful on the Mountaintop

Congregation echoes leader:

How beautiful
On the mountaintop
Are the feet of those
Who bring Your Word

How beautiful
On the city street
Are the lips of those
Who speak Your peace

How beautiful
How beautiful

Congregation may be seated.

WORD

(Next week: ____).

Isaiah 7:10-17

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

Romans 1:1-7

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Congregation please rise

Advent Alleluia Andrew Wright © 1999, OCP Publications, used by permission

refrain: All

cantor: Show us, Lord, your love; show us, Lord, your love; and grant us your salvation, Alleluia!

refrain: All



L: The Good News according to St. Matthew

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Matthew 1:18-25

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Congregation may be seated

Young Time Lesson

Canticle of the Turning, music, traditional Celtic
Mary's Song, known as the "Magnificat," in response to the angel Gabriel's announcement that she would bear God's Son.

Sermon

Pastor Jesse Brubaker

THANKSGIVING

Congregation please rise

P: United through baptism in the triune God, we affirm the faith of the whole Church throughout time and place:

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 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**

Congregation please be seated

Offering

Voluntary, "Once He Came in Blessing" CTV low brass

Prayers of the People

following each petition:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Service of the Sacrament

Congregation please rise

Preface

Proper Preface

(Words only below, no music this time:)

P: It is truly good, right, and beneficial 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 Messiah, the very Lamb of God. Therefore, with Christ's mother Mary and with the saints through the ages proclaiming the Word made flesh, we join her song of praise and thanksgiving:

**Tell Out My Soul, LSB 935, st. 1 and 4, music, words
- organ only**

-from Mary's Magnificat, Luke 1:46-55 (add below music)

**side-bar blurb: This Advent season we replace the usual high praise in the Sanctus with Mary's high praise of the God who comes to fulfill every promise, strengthening the weak and lowly.*

The Words of Institution of the Lord's Supper

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."

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."

Lord, we pray as you have taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Pax Domini - the peace of God announced to all

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Congregation may be seated

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, choir

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence, LSB 621

What Feast of Love, *With One Voice*

Emmanuel, Bob McGee

SENDING

Congregation please rise

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

L: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel! By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

C: Amen!

- from the song by Zechariah, father of John the Baptist. Luke 1:68, 78-79

Blest Be the God of Israel, Advent hymn to English folk tune *Forest Green*

P: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

C: Alleluia!

Benediction

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 grant you His Peace.

C: Amen.