

*Closing Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain (Green #70)

*Benediction/Dismissal

As you go from this place, remember that with God, nothing is impossible. May God the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit go before you, beside you, and with you wherever you go.

(Luke 1:37)

Amen

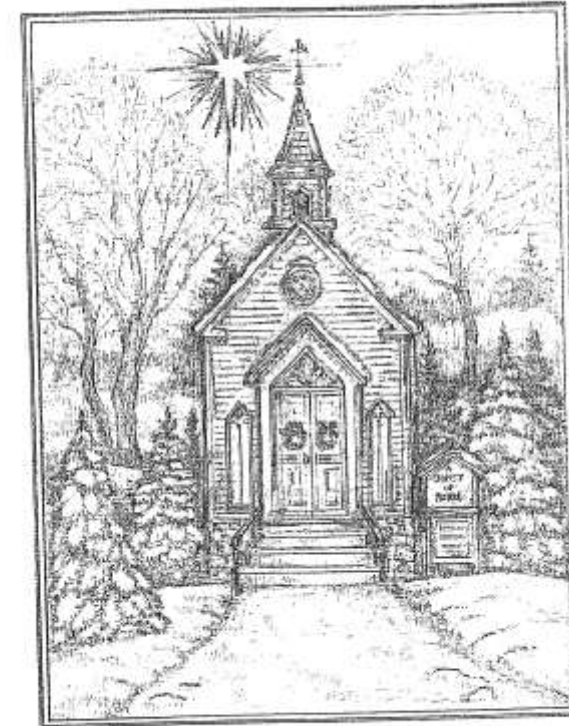
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

Bells/Postlude

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



DECEMBER 24, 2023

Our Saviour's-Fahlun Lutheran Parish—LCMC

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*Please stand (Page 4)

Prelude/Bells

Welcome/Announcements

*Confession/Absolution

In this season of waiting and watching for the return of Christ, we are gathered together to worship in the name of the Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a pathway for our God." Let us come humbly before our Lord, asking for forgiveness and mercy for our sins, known and unknown. (Isaiah 40:3)

(Silence for self-reflection and examination)

God of grace,

We confess that we have not been attentive to the urgent call to prepare for the coming of your Son. We have neglected to serve our neighbors, near and far. We have relied too much on our own strength rather than relying on your power, grace, and comfort in our lives. Grant us forgiveness and restore us to a right relationship through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The God who desires his people to depend upon him, offers us comfort in the knowledge that all our sins are forgiven. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God will stand forever. Live joyfully in the grace and mercy of our Lord. (Isaiah 40:8)

Amen.

*Opening Hymn

Angels, from the Realm of Glory Green #50)

*Advent Candle Lighting

Love Candle

So now faith, hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

(1 Cor 13:1-13)

See what kind of love the Father has given to us. (1 John 3:1-3)

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:4-8)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God...(1 John 4:7-16)

Keep loving one another...(1 Peter 4:8)

I have loved you with an everlasting love. (Jeremiah 31:3)

We light the first candle in the expectation of hope in the One, Jesus Christ..

We light the second Advent Candle in preparation of the One to Come

We light the third, pink candle in expected joy of the coming Son of God.

We light the fourth candle to proclaim the love of God in Christ coming as human flesh.

*Candle Hymn

We Light The Advent Candles (Insert)

*Kyrie/Hymn of Praise *(Glory to God)*

Green p.57-59

*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

***Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day, he rose again.

He ascended into heaven

And sits at the right hand of the Father

He will come again to judge the living and the dead

I believe in the Holy Spirit

The holy Christian church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting.

Amen.

Review of the Prayers of the People

Prayers of the People

Let us pray ...

(petition), Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

(Final prayer) Into your hands we commend for all whom we pray, trusting in you, through our Savior, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

Ushers collect the offering while special music is played.

*Offering Prayer

The congregation is invited to stand and sing as the offering is brought to the front:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free Spirit.

***Lord's Prayer**

And also with you.

Let us pray to together. Sir up your Power,
And come. With your great might,
give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins
may be speedily accomplished by your grace;
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace by greeting those around you.

1st Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹When the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?’ ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

¹⁶“And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Reading

Psalm 89:1-5 (*read responsively*)

I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;

with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

²For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your **faithfulness.**”

³You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:

⁴“I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your **throne for all generations.**”

⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

2nd Reading

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of Preparation

What Child is This (Green #40)

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (Green #39)