



4th Sunday in Advent

Grace Lutheran Church

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Rochester, Minnesota 55906

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The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Pastor Peter Gueldner

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Sunday December 21, 2025

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Serving Today

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Pastor Peter Gueldner

Hope Nelson

Ryan Kivimagi

Corey Nelson

LAY READER

Isaac Nelson

LIVESTREAM

Emilie Pentico

Silent Prayer Before Worship

Lord of all life, you promised salvation and peace. As we light the final candle of our wreath, draw us closer to you. Help us to be patient, to live in hope, and to share the love and peace of Christ with our world as we await His coming. Amen.



Prayer of the Day

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.

Congregational Prayers

✠ Diane Grieve

✠ Sam Konakowitz

✠ Pat Swanson

✠ Allen Kvittem

✠ John & Bea Beilke

✠ Don & Kathy Jungwirth

✠ Jon Swanson

Lectionary Summary for 4th Sunday in Advent

God's Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that *“the virgin shall conceive and bear a son”* (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, “God with us.” The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus *“descended from David according to the flesh”* (Rom. 1:3–4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called *“Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins”* (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately *“did as the angel of the Lord commanded him”* (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.

Order of Service

Divine Service 3 with Holy Communion LSB Pg. 184

Hymn of Invocation

LSB 340 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
ne: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.; Text and tune: Public domain



1 Lift up your heads, ye might-y gates! Be-hold, the King of
2 A righ-teous Help-er comes to thee; His char-iot is hu-
3 How blest the land, the cit-y blest, Where Christ the rul-er
4 Fling wide the por-tals of your heart; Make it a tem-ple
5 Re-deem-er, come and o-pen wide My heart to Thee; here,



glo-ry waits. The King of kings is draw-ing near; The
mil-i-ty, His king-ly crown is ho-li-ness, His
is con-fessed! O peace-ful hearts and hap-py homes To
set a-part From earth-ly use for heav'n's em-ploy, A-
Lord, a-bide! O en-ter with Thy grace di-vine; Thy



Sav-ior of the world is here. Life and sal-va-tion
scep-ter, pit-y in dis-tress. The end of all our
whom this King in tri-umph comes! The cloud-less sun of
dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov-'reign
face of mer-cy on me shine. Thy Ho-ly Spir-it



He doth bring; There-fore re-joice and glad-ly sing. To
woe He brings; There-fore the earth is glad and sings. To
joy is He Who comes to set His peo-ple free. To
en-ter in And new and no-bler life be-gin. To
guide us on Un-til our glo-rious goal is won. E-



God the Fa-ther raise Your joy-ful songs of praise.
Christ the Sav-ior raise Your grate-ful hymns of praise.
God the Spir-it raise Your hap-py shouts of praise.
God a-lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
ter-nal praise and fame We of-fer to Thy name.

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Exhortation

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Confession of Sins

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,*
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.
I wait for the LORD, my | soul waits,*
and in his | word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the | morning,*
more than watchmen for the | morning.
O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is | steadfast love,*
and with him is plentiful re- | demption.
And he will redeem | Israel*
from all his in- | iquities.

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.

Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,*
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

Gloria Patri

- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Kyrie

- C** Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.

- C** And with thy spirit.

- 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.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17 (see insert)

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.

- C** Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you;*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle

Romans 1:1–7 (see insert)

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.

- C** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

- C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25 (see insert)

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

- C** Glory to You, O Lord.

- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C 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.



Hymn of the Day

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent.; Text and tune: Public domain



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

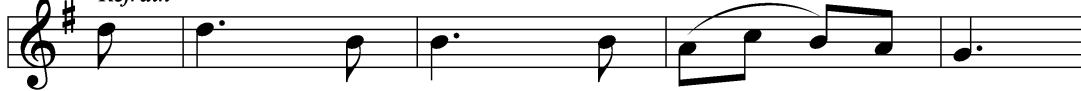


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



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



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.

Refrain

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.

Refrain

Sermon

Votum

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Offertory

C 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. Amen.

Offering

Prayer of the Church

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Full)

P It is truly meet, 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

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

C 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

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."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

In Preparation for Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, is asked first to speak with the pastor.

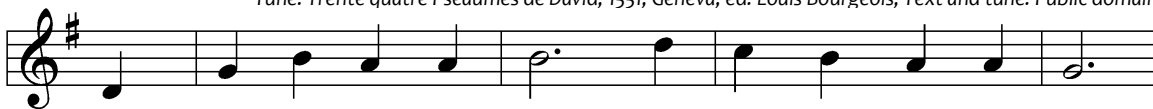
For further study, see Matthew 5:23, 10:32, 18:15-35, 26:29; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Distribution Hymn

LSB 628 Your Table I Approach

Text: Gerhard Wolter Molanus, 1633–1722; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois; Text and tune: Public domain



- 1 Your ta - ble I ap - proach; Dear Sav - ior, hear my prayer.
2 Lord, I con - fess my sins And mourn their wretch - ed bands;
3 Your bod - y and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
4 Search not how this takes place, This won - drous mys - ter - y;



Let not an un - re - pen - tant heart Prove hurt - ful to me there.
A con - trite heart is sure to find For - give - ness at Your hands.
Are tak - en at Your ta - ble, Lord, In blest re - al - i - ty.
God can ac - com - plish vast - ly more Than what we think could be.

- 5 O grant, most blessed Lord,
That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament
Raise doubt within my mind.

- 6 Oh, may I never fail
To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood,
O God, my peace and light.

Distribution Hymn

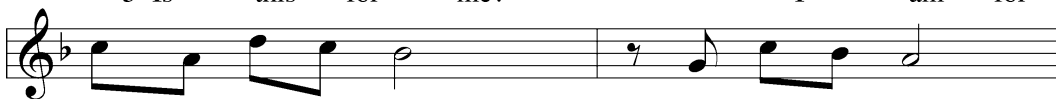
LSB 629 What is This Bread?

Text: Frederic W. Baue, 1946; Tune: Jean Neuhauser Baue, 1951

Text and tune: © 1991 Fred and Jean Baue. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003106



- 1 What is this bread? Christ's bod - y
2 What is this wine? The blood of
3 So who am I, That I should
4 Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By
5 Is this for me? I am for -



ris - en from the dead:
Je - sus shed for mine;
live and He should die
Word and prom - ise clear,
giv - en and set free!

This bread we break,
The cup of grace
Un - der the rod?
In mouth and soul
I do be - lieve



This life we take, Was crushed to pay for our re -
Brings His em - brace Of life and love un - til I
My God, my God, Why have You not for - sak - en
He makes us whole— Christ, tru - ly pres - ent in this
That I re - ceive His ver - y bod - y and His



lease. O taste and see— the Lord is peace.
sing! O taste and see— the Lord is King.
me? O taste and see— the Lord is free.
meal. O taste and see— the Lord is real.
blood. O taste and see— the Lord is good.

Distribution Hymn

LSB 350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, 1699, Darmstadt; Text and tune: Public domain



1 Come, Thou pre - cious Ran - som, come, On - ly hope for
2 En - ter now my wait - ing heart, Glo - rious King and
3 My ho - san - nas and my palms Gra - cious - ly re -
4 Hail! Ho - san - na, Da - vid's Son! Je - sus, hear our



sin - ful mor - tals! Come, O Sav - ior of the world!
Lord most ho - ly. Dwell in me and ne'er de - part,
ceive, I pray Thee; Ev - er - more, as best I can,
sup - pli - ca - tion! Let Thy king - dom, scep - ter, crown,



O - pen are to Thee all por - tals. Come, Thy beau - ty
Though I am but poor and low - ly. Ah, what rich - es
Sav - ior, I will hom - age pay Thee, And in faith I
Bring us bless - ing and sal - va - tion, That for - ev - er



let us see; Anx - ious - ly we wait for Thee.
will be mine When Thou art my guest di - vine!
will em - brace, Lord, Thy mer - it through Thy grace.
we may sing: Hail! Ho - san - na to our King.

Nunc Dimittis

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

A Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

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 ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.



Hymn to Depart

LSB 336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt.; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–47; Text and tune: Public domain

1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,

Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;

Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
Those who set at naught and sold Him,
Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,

Swell the tri - umph of His train:
Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
Claim the king - dom as Thine own.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!



Thank you for joining us today!
God's Blessings on your week!

Acknowledgments

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