



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The 4th Sunday of Advent

December 23, 2018

10:30 Service of the Word

Today is the final Sunday in the Advent season. Christmas is just around the corner! Several things happen in our worship today: We will read the "O Aniphons" from the ancient church. These gave rise to the hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. Our Sunday school children will present their Christmas program and tell of God's love through puppets. And our confirmation class will share a different vision of Jesus' mother, one deeply rooted in the meaning of her name.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Nursery care is available during the service. Please see one of the ushers if you need more information.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn Mary Had a Baby
(For music see Hymn 100 in the Songbook Binder)

1. **Mary had a baby,
Yes, Lord!
Mary had a baby.
Yes, my Lord!
Mary had a baby.
Yes, Lord!
The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.**

2. **What did she name him?
Yes, Lord!
What did she name him?
Yes, my Lord!
What did she name him?
Yes, Lord!
The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.**

3. **She named the baby Jesus.
Yes, Lord!
She named the baby Jesus.
Yes, my Lord!
She named the baby Jesus.
Yes, Lord!
The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.**

4. **Where was he born?
Yes, Lord!
Where was he born?
Yes, my Lord!
Where was he born?
Yes, Lord!
The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.**

5. **Born in a manger.
Yes, Lord!
Born in a manger.
Yes, my Lord!**

Born in a manger.

Yes, Lord!

The little child of Bethlehem was born for us.

Text and music: spiritual

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Gathering Dialog (John 1)

A: In the beginning was the Word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

† WORD †

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

A: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence, that at the celebration of your Son's birth his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever.

C: Amen

As the fourth candle on the wreath is lit we sing:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(For music turn to Hymn 257 in the Red Hymnal)

**1. Oh come, Oh come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

*Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.*

**3. O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. Refrain**

**4. O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. Refrain**

**5. O come O 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**

Readings: The "O Antiphons"

O Wisdom,

proceeding from the mouth of the Most High,
pervading and permeating all creation,
mightily ordering all things:

Come and teach us the way of prudence.

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel,
who appeared to Moses in the burning bush
and gave him the Law on Sinai:

Come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

O Root of Jesse,

standing as an ensign before the peoples,
before whom all kings are mute,
to whom the nations will do homage:

Come quickly to deliver us.

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel,
you open and no one can close,
you closed and no one can open:
Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness
and the shadow of death.

O Dayspring,
splendor of light everlasting:
Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness
And in the shadow of death.

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for,
The cornerstone uniting all people:
Come and save us all, whom You formed out of clay.

O Emmanuel,
Our king and our Lord,
The anointed for the nations and their Savior:
Come and save us, O Lord our God.

Children's Christmas Program

Hymn of the Day The Friendly Beasts
(For music see Hymn 101 in the Songbook Binder)

- 1. Jesus, our brother, strong and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus our brother strong and good.**
- 2. "I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"I carried his mother up hill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;
I," said the donkey shaggy and brown.**
- 3. "I," said the cow all white and red,
"I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him hay to pillow his head;
I," said the cow, all white and red.**
- 4. "I," said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,**

**he wore my coat on Christmas morn;
I,” said the sheep with curly horn.**

5. **“I,” said the dove from rafters high,
“we cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,
we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;
I,” said the dove, from rafters high.**
6. **Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in a stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.**

Text: 12th Century French. Music: Based on *Orientis Partibus*, a medieval French melody, arr. Bonnie Bridger Coffman, copyright Bonnie Bridger Coffman, 2011

Mary’s Protest Song

by the Rev. Doug Stewart, Pastor, Incarnate Word Lutheran Church, Rochester

Apostles’ Creed

P: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

A: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,**

and the life everlasting. Amen.

A: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

C: pray in the Holy Spirit.

(Jude 20)

A: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. *(Jude 21)*

A: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

C: Everything old has passed away;

behold, everything has become new!

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

Confession of Sins

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore let us be reconciled to God and to one another.

(A moment of silence for reflection)

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In your great compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen

Peace

A: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. *(2 Corinthians 13:11)*

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

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

✠ PRAYER ✠

Offering & Special Music

Hymn of Thanksgiving As the offering is brought forward:

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

open to the seed of your Word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Thanksgiving Prayer

A: Let us pray: Savior of the nations, come.

C: Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,

*The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

The pastor concludes the prayer:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

A: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

† SENDING †

Blessing

P: May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Go Tell It on the Mountain
For music turn to Hymn 290 in the Red Hymnal

Refrain

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**2. The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

**3. Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain***

Text: African American spiritual, refrain: John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt. Music: African American spiritual

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-20-2001

**SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ... GOD
HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE TONIGHT**

CAKE OR DEATH

by alex baker

GENTLEMEN, DO
WE HAVE THE
PRESENTS ?

YES! SOME GOAT,
HANDKERCHIEFS
AND HERBS

I THINK I
ATE MY SHOE

Alex

FORTUNATELY, THE STAR NEVER
APPEARED TO THE UNWISE MEN



Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Laura and Rob Stroup
Acolyte	Joe Wyman
Nursery Care	Judy VanDeVelde
Counters	Beth Perdan and Bettina Kalish
Coffee Hour	Cookies

Worship assistants for next Sunday, December 30, 2018

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Lisa Kurilovitch
Acolyte	Tierney White
Nursery Care	Kristi Bullwinkle
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	Joy Lethbridge, Ella Schuller, Becky Nohe

Variable worship texts from *Sundays and Seasons 2018* copyright 2017 Augsburg Fortress.

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