



ON YOUR MARK. Get Set... Go!
GOD WORKS THROUGH PEOPLE LIKE US.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Week 16, December 24, 2023- 10am

ADVENT IV: THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

God sends people to point us toward Jesus.

Welcome to worship!

The ushers are ready to assist you in any way.

Please help yourself to materials at the Family Worship Resource Table or the Child Comfort Corner at the sanctuary entrance.

Prelude

Fum, Fum, Fum

-arr. Richard Lind

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you.

**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

God's

covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. Amen.

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(vv. 1, 2, 7, & 8)

Hymn 257

- 1 O come, O 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.

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*

7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*

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

Greeting

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

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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. **Amen.**

**Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray, **You call us into one Body of Christ for the good of the world. Strengthen us through your word and meal, that we might support and sustain one another in all that you call us to do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.** *sit*

Welcome and Greeting

Response *stand*

Prepare the Royal Highway (verse 4)

Hymn 264

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:5-25, 57-80

The gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

⁵In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. ⁸Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, ⁹he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. ¹⁰Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹²When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³But the angel said to him,

Higher voices: **"Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or**

strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

¹⁸Zechariah said to the angel,

Lower voices: **"How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years."**

¹⁹The angel replied,

Higher voices: **"I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."**

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. ²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people. ²⁶Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ²⁷Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. ²⁸On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ²⁹But his mother said,

Higher voices **"No; he is to be called John."**

³⁰They said to her,

Lower voices: **"None of your relatives has this name."**

³¹Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ³²He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ³³Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ³⁴Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ³⁵All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. ³⁶Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

Lower voices: **³⁷"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. ³⁸He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, ³⁹as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, ⁴⁰that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. ⁴¹Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, ⁴²the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us ⁴³that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, ⁴⁴in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. ⁴⁵And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, ⁴⁶to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. ⁴⁷By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, ⁴⁸to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

⁴⁹The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hymn 254

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Apostles' Creed

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.

Ministry Announcements

Prayers of Intercession **Response:** hear our prayer

LITURGY OF THE MEAL

Offering

www.engagedbygrace.org/offering



Offertory

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen. *sit*

Communion

All baptized believers of Christ as their Savior are invited to the table. Please approach the table as you are ready.

Children are invited to receive a blessing.

You may request gluten-free bread or grape juice by raising a finger to the communion server.

Blessing *stand*

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Hymn 267

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Prayer after Communion

Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SENDING

Benediction & Dismissal

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Keep awake. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Chancel flowers today are given by Beth and Doug Myser in memory of Beth's father, Kenneth Sauer.

Liturgical Ministers

Preacher & Presiding Minister: Pastor Steve Wachtman

Minister of Music: Joshua Brodbeck

Intern: Vicar Jaren Summers

Director of Equipping Ministers: Laura Hudson

Director of Faith Formation: Noelle Fox

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