

# KOUNTZE MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## A CITY-WIDE CHURCH WITH A WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY

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December 24, 2017

9:00 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT



*God keeps the promise made to David, to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."*

## PRELUDE

## GATHERING

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(stand)*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who comes to wake us from sleep,  
who leads us into the light of grace.

**C** Amen.

**P** Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** God of all time,

**C** **we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us.  
We ignore our neighbors in need  
and fail in the labor of justice and peace.**

**In your mercy forgive us.**

**Grant us wisdom to welcome your light  
and to seek the things that will endure  
until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

**P** Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

In † Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new.  
Rejoice in this good news!

**C** Amen.

### PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*“People, Look East”*

**ELW 248**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

- P** Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
- C** **In your Son, Emmanuel, you have shown us your light and saved us from the power of sin.**
- P** Bless us as we light the fourth candle of this wreath.
- C** **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.**

*We light the fourth candle.*

## HYMN

*"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"*

ELW 240



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

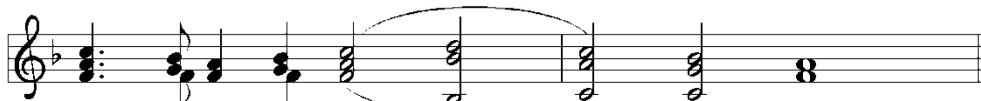
## APOSTOLIC GREETING

- 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.**

## THE KYRIE



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.  
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.  
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
Chris - te e - le - i - son.  
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.
- ☑ **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

(sit)

### FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for the Lord, the Lord promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, the Lord's anointed.*

**N**ow when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I 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 and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now 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 to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and 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. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from 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. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Luke 1:46b–55** (*read responsively*)

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed;**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on those who fear you,**

**from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength with your arm; and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty from their thrones**

**and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,**

**To remember the promise of mercy.**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made to our forebears,

**to Abraham and his children forever.**

**SECOND READING**

**Romans 16:25-27**

*Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.*

**N**ow to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

**A** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

(stand)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(sung three times)*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

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**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**G** Glory to you, O Lord.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 1:26-38**

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people (Mary) from little-known places (Nazareth). This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in his gospel.*

**I**n the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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 ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**P** The Gospel of our Lord

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

(sit)

## **CHILDREN’S BLESSING**

*Children (aged 3 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to come forward for a blessing. Then, they may either follow the teacher upstairs for an extended children’s sermon (joining us again later in time for Communion) or they may return to their seat and use the Spark Bible and/or activity bags during the regular sermon.*

## **SERMON**

Pastor Hall

(stand)

**HYMN OF THE DAY**      *“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”*

**ELW 265**

## **THE NICENE CREED**

**C** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Response:   **P** Lord, in your mercy,  
                  **C** hear our prayer.

*(In our prayers today, during a time of silence, pray for those listed below and for others according to their needs)*

**Illness:** Marvin Andersen, Donna Crouse, Jr Green (husband of Marvel), Eunice Grunberg, Virginia Jensen, Ed White

**Other Prayers: *Those serving in the military*** – Amy Dyer, Brennan Hron, Michael McNeill, Daniel Milstead, Sheldon Skovgaard, Michael Vutov, and Joel Woosley

**Other Prayers: *Those serving in mission*** – Rev. Chandran Paul Martin, India; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson, Tanzania; Krystle Moraska & Ignacio Madrussan, Argentina; Lindsay Mack, Mexico; Our sister congregation, the American Church in Berlin

## **THE PEACE IS SHARED**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

# MEAL

(sit)

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

*Advent is an annual reminder that God is patient with us – patiently forgiving us again and again; while giving us – again and again – all we need to live as his disciples. In response, Sunday after Sunday – again and again – we give our offerings in thankfulness to God. Thank you for your faithful giving!*



## THE TABLE IS PREPARED

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“My Soul Glorifies the Lord”*  
(Mary’s Magnificat)

by David Foley

(stand)

### OFFERTORY HYMN

*“All Earth is Hopeful”*

ELW 266



1 All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!  
4 We first saw Je-sus a ba-by in a crib.



Fur-rows lie o-pen for God’s cre-a-tive task: this, the  
This same Lord Je-sus to-day has come to live in our



la-bor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how  
world; he is pres-ent, in neigh-bors we see our



God’s truth and jus-tice set ev-’ry-bod-y free.  
Je-sus is with us, and ev-er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946

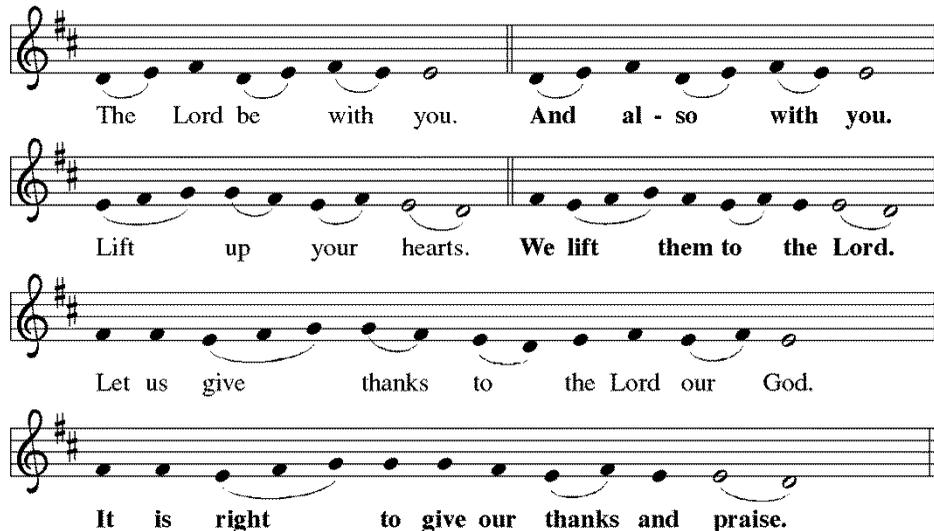
Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

## OFFERING PRAYER

- ☐ Savior of the nations, come,
- ☑ **Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.**

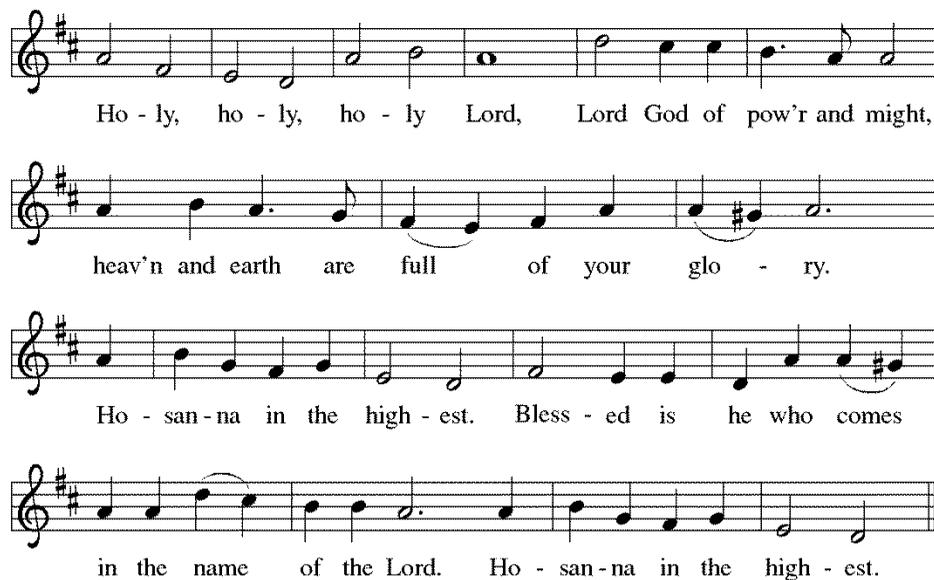
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE FOR ADVENT

### SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### 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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**☩** Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.  
**☩** Share in the feast of salvation.

*(sit)*

### HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

*“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”*  
*“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

**ELW 272**  
**ELW 631**

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** *“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”*  
*Verses 1 & 4*

**ELW 244**

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;**  
**the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.**  
**The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.**  
**Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;**  
**arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.**  
**With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see**  
**the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

(stand)

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- ☞ God for whom we wait:
- ☞ **You come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share.  
Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts,  
and send us forth to be your people in the world,  
announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING

## BLESSING

- ☞ 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.

## THREE-FOLD AMEN

## HYMN

*“Savior of the Nations, Come”*

**ELW 263**

## DISMISSAL

- ☞ Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
- ☞ **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

† † †

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