



St. Mary's Lutheran Church ~ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Sunday, December 21st~ 9:00am
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT WORSHIP

*Please respect the beauty of reverence and quiet reflection as we prepare for worship.
Turn off phones or silence them.*

Also know that St. Mary's Lutheran Church celebrates Holy Communion for ALL! This is Christ's table and His invitation. You do not need to be a Lutheran, or a member of our church to participate. Also, if you wish to come up for only a blessing, please tell us when you approach, and we will bless you! If you are unable to come up for communion, tell the usher that you would like to receive communion at your seat, and someone will bring it to you.



PRELUDE

*St. Mary's Jubilate! Handbells "Silent Night" ARR. CATHY MOKLEBUST
& St. Paul's Brass Ensemble*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Hymn #242 "Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn", all verses.

Please stand in body or spirit.

GATHERING SONG

Hymn 269 "Once in Royal David's City"

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.
Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✠ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(see yellow insert)*

PLEASE BE SEATED

SPECIAL MUSIC

Jubilate! Handbells

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" ARR. CYNTHIA DOBRINSKI

WORD *(see yellow insert)*

FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19 *(read responsively)*

SECOND READING: Romans 1:1-7

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED

SERMON

Please stand in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Hymn #246 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!"*

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

PLEASE BE SEATED

MEAL

MUSICAL OFFERING

Adult Choir

“Advent Peace ” - LLOYD LARSON

Peace will come to those who wait on the Lord. Peace will come to those who trust in the Lord.

Our King will come.

The Lord is good to those who wait, for His mercies never cease.

Put your trust in Him, the promised King. He is coming, the Prince of peace.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples win one heart and mind;

bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Please stand in body or spirit

OFFERING *Hymn #264 “Prepare the Royal Highway”, vs. 1*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

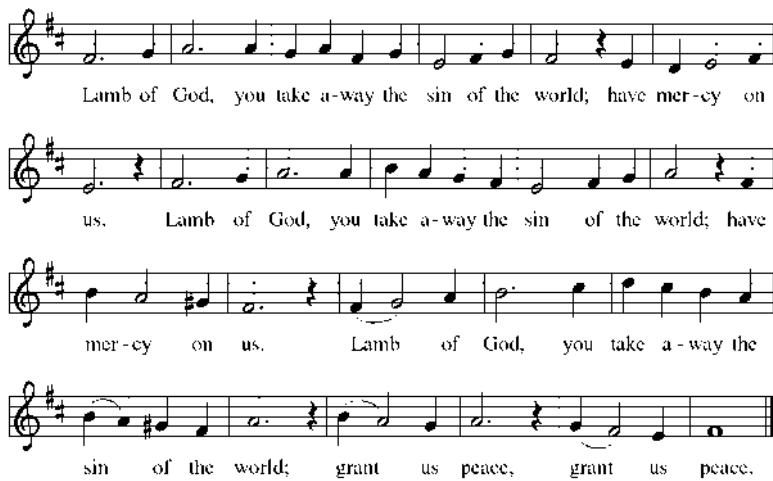
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

PLEASE BE SEATED

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG



DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

St. Paul's Brass Ensemble, "The First Noel"

Please stand in body or spirit.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

BLESSING

May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

SENDING SONG *Hymn #257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 1, 6, 7, 8*

DISMISSAL

We are God's people.

Followers of Jesus Christ.

Gifted by the Spirit.

Go Pray. Go Love. Go Serve. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Thank you for Serving!

A/V Sound Tech: Art Kotenko

Sacristy Help: Pat Gallo, Lisa Zanin

Saturday:

Assisting Minister: Kevin Larsen

Pianist: Willy Mueller

Reader: Pat Gallo

Sunday:

Lead Pastor:

The Rev. Dr. Jordan Miller-Stubbendick

Assisting Minister: Beth Kerscher

Reader: Kathy Basler

Organist: Deb Black

Adult Choir: Dr. Dick Sjoerdsma,

Director

Jubilate! Handbells: Nathan Larsen,

Director

SPECIAL MUSIC: St. Paul's Brass

Ensemble, John Whyte, Leader

Communion Assistants: Cheryl Hayes,
Laura Miesbauer, Andy Schroeder

Greeters: Sharon & Keith Corso

*The altar flowers this weekend are in
memory of Charles King given by
Beverly King and Kevin & Carole
King.*