



Worship Guide for Sunday, December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent
First Lutheran Church of Sandpoint

Introduction to the day

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP -

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Written for two leaders (L1 and L2) and assembly.

Week 4

Litany

L1: At every beginning there is a yearning
for the one who is coming.

O Emmanuel,

Surprise us by your coming.

L2: We gather together to let God's good news
reorient our lives.

O Emmanuel,

Surprise us by your coming.

L1: We wait for the day
when all the world will see the sign
that God is with us.

O Emmanuel,

Surprise us by your coming.

L2: We are shocked by how God comes close,
even at this very moment.

O Emmanuel,

Surprise us by your coming.

L1: Jesus, we welcome your presence now
with the lighting of these candles,
whose flames bring warmth to winter
and fill this place with the glow of hope.

Amen.

Light all four candles.

Adapted from the Clayfire Collection, "What Happens When God Comes Close," by Ryan Marsh, Church of the Beloved, Edmonds, Washington. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

Song O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257, v 1 & 5

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.

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

GATHERING SONG - *People, Look East* ELW 248, v 1 & 4

People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who



crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
brings new life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley



a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple look
nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Micah.

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

The psalm for the day is sung.

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (*Lk. 1:52*)

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness ¹ of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in ¹ God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your ¹ lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will ¹ call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great ¹ things for me
and holy ¹ is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on ¹ those who fear you,
from generation to ¹ generation. R**

⁵¹You have shown strength ¹ with your arm
and scattered the proud in ¹ their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty ¹ from their thrones
and lifting ¹ up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry ¹ with good things
and sent the rich ¹ away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your ¹ servant Israel,
to remember the prom- ¹ ise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made ¹ to our forebears,
to Abraham and his chil- ¹ dren forever. R

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The reading may be announced:

A reading from Hebrews.

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The reading may be concluded:

The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING ELW 270 VERSE
3 (ELW p. 142)**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

Refrain Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly is seated.

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY - *Canticle of the Turning* (ELW 723)

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

Canticle of the Turning



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
 2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
 3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
 4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
 work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
 stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
 mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
 depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
 jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
 liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



Refrain
 My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness (*especially*). Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING SONG - REFLECTIVE MUSIC FOR TIME OF GRATITUDE

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

*You may share your offering as you return to your seat at Communion or
give online through our <https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>.*

The offering plates are in the front corners and near the exit doors.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

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.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Once in Royal David's City* (ELW 269)

If "Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace" was not sung at the end of the communion, it may be sung here, or another sending song may be sung.

Once in Royal David's City



- 1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
- 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
- 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
- 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav' n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

WORSHIP NOTES:

Cover Image from sundaysandseasons.com

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Scripture text from the NRSV (New Revised Standard Version, sundaysandseasons.com)

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Worship Team:

Piano: Colleen Culwell

Pastors – Amber Remillard and Steve Neuder

AV/Tech - Scott Youngren and Don Farnham

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Prayers - Milt Jacobs, Katheryn Braatz and her family, Jack and Darlene Dickman, Kathy Bradetich, Don Harms, Steve Harms, Debbie Haberlock, Mary Laker, David Hollyer, Frances Cavagnaro, Carrie Cummings, Alyssa Grant, Betty Mitchell, George Marker, Chris Ingham; Charles Shobe Sr., Nicky Schripsema; Wendi Lies; Kara Schripsema; Trey Haberlock; Tom Taylor; Hunter Taylor; Mike Shobe; Marguerite Suttmeier;; Janet Merrill, and those on your hearts and minds today.

The Family and Friends of Dar Cogswell

Luther Park residents, their families, and staff.

All healthcare workers and facilities trying to offer care during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Save the Date:

Congregation Budget Meeting: January 23rd after Services.

The Meeting will be available in person in the Fellowship Hall and also via Zoom.

Annual Congregation Meeting and Elections: February 6th after Services.

The Meeting will be available in person in the Fellowship Hall and also via Zoom.