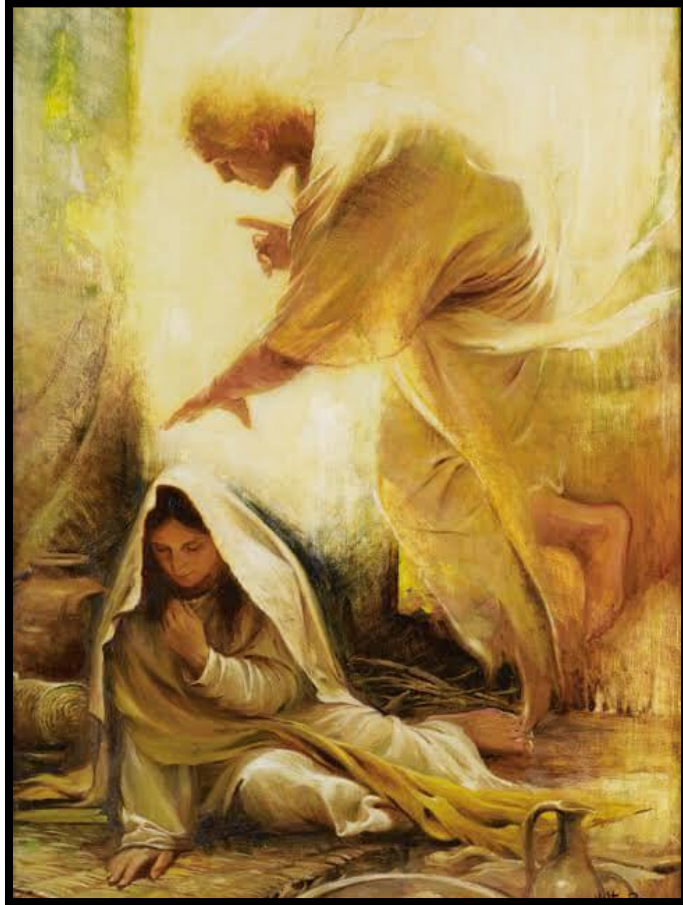


+DIVINE SERVICE IV+
OF THE GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
+FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT + 24 DECEMBER 2023+



The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A member congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

902 S. Maple

Inglewood, CA 90301-3824

tgsicms.org

The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

“A Church where God gives and we receive.”

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- ❖ Ms. Moira Killian, Secretary (Office) 310.671-7644
 - ❖ Mr. Jay Rogers, Organist/Music Director
 - ❖ Mr. Jose Lopez, Congregational Chairman
 - ❖ Mr. Greg Griffin, Acolyte

Welcome to our Divine Service!

We are pleased that you are with us.

+Worship Notes+

The entire service, including the rubrics of when to sit and when to kneel or stand, and what to say, is printed out in this folder so you may follow along.

Welcome to weekly Divine Service at The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church! We are a congregation that confesses the Holy Bible as inerrant, that justification is by faith according to the Holy Bible and confessed in the 1580 Book of Concord. God bless you.

To all of you who are visiting our service this morning, we extend a most cordial welcome in Jesus' name. Please introduce yourself to our pastor. It is our hope that you will feel at home in our midst and will be blessed by our message of Christ crucified and risen for the sins of the world. If you are looking for a church home and would like to know about our membership, pastor would love to speak with you!

A Note From The Organist:

Jacob Weber's setting of "Veni Emmanuel" uses phrases from the melody as interludes, with the straightforward melody entering periodically. He calls for a registration of flutes and strings, with no changes throughout.

Timothy Shaw has received many honors for his compositions, and has music published by most of the major publishers of church music. To lead us into our Christmas Eve, rather than the usual loud postlude, we have a quiet setting of "Gabriel's Message."

Confession and Absolution

Hymn of Invocation

349 Hark the Glad Sound



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51
 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Kneel/Stand

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Gloria in Excelsis is omitted during Advent

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

God's Covenant with David

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in?' ⁶I 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 for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"" ⁸Now, 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, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And 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. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from 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. . . .

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

I Will Sing of the Steadfast Love of the LORD

¹I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

²**For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."**

³You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:

⁴**I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations."**

⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

¹⁹**Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:
"I have granted help to one who is mighty;
I have exalted one chosen from the people.**

²⁰I have found David, my servant;
with my holy oil I have anointed him,

²¹**so that my hand shall be established with him;
my arm also shall strengthen him.**

²²The enemy shall not outwit him;
the wicked shall not humble him.

²³**I will crush his foes before him
and strike down those who hate
him.**

²⁴My faithfulness and my steadfast
love shall be with him,
and in my name shall his horn be
exalted.

²⁵**I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.**

²⁶He shall cry to me, 'You are my
Father,

my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'

²⁷**And I will make him the firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth.**

²⁸My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,
and my covenant will stand firm for him.

²⁹**I will establish his offspring forever
and his throne as the days of the heavens.**



Epistle

Romans 16:25-27

Doxology

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Birth of Jesus Foretold

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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 father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
 2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
 heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
 Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
 gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Edward Killian

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Proper response is "hear our prayer".

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. O Lord, our God, nothing is impossible with You. Grant us faith to believe Your Word and follow the example of Your servant Mary, to receive the miraculous gift of Your Son, our Immanuel. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Eternal God, Your Word has been sent forth into the world to the joy and edification of Your holy people. Encourage, comfort and strengthen all who hear it. Grant faith to those who do not know You, both here and abroad, that all peoples may sing to Your name and extol Your goodness. By the power of the Holy Spirit, fill all who hear Your Word with joy and peace in believing. Lord, in Your mercy,

P O Lord, our God, bless Matthew, our Synod president; Mike, our district president; Edward, our circuit visitor; and Edward, our pastor, that like the angel Gabriel, they may be faithful messengers of Your Good News. Lord, in Your mercy,

P O Lord, our God, let Your favor rest upon all pregnant women and mothers of young children, that they may rejoice in the blessing of new life You give. Lord, in Your mercy,

P Lord of lords, by the reign of Your Son You govern all things in heaven and earth. Raise up true Davids among us to govern our land in faithfulness and in humble strength to do Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

- P** O Lord, our God, uphold, our *mothers, Adrianna and Sydney, and their babies especially for Alice, Cynthia, Gene, Johnathan, Lynette, Margret, Marion and her family, Owen, Rosita, Sophia, and Timothy, and all who suffer in mind or body.* Give them the knowledge of Christ, their Immanuel, who is with them in their trials. Grant them health and healing in accord with Your perfect will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** O Lord, our God, give us joy that as surely as Your Son was conceived in blessed Mary at Your Word, so He comes to abide in us also at Your Word in the blessed Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy,
- P** O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Offering *Collected after service in the back of the church.*

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 208

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome

sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 208



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

- 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.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.



Agnus Dei

LSB 210



- C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;

O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,

Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

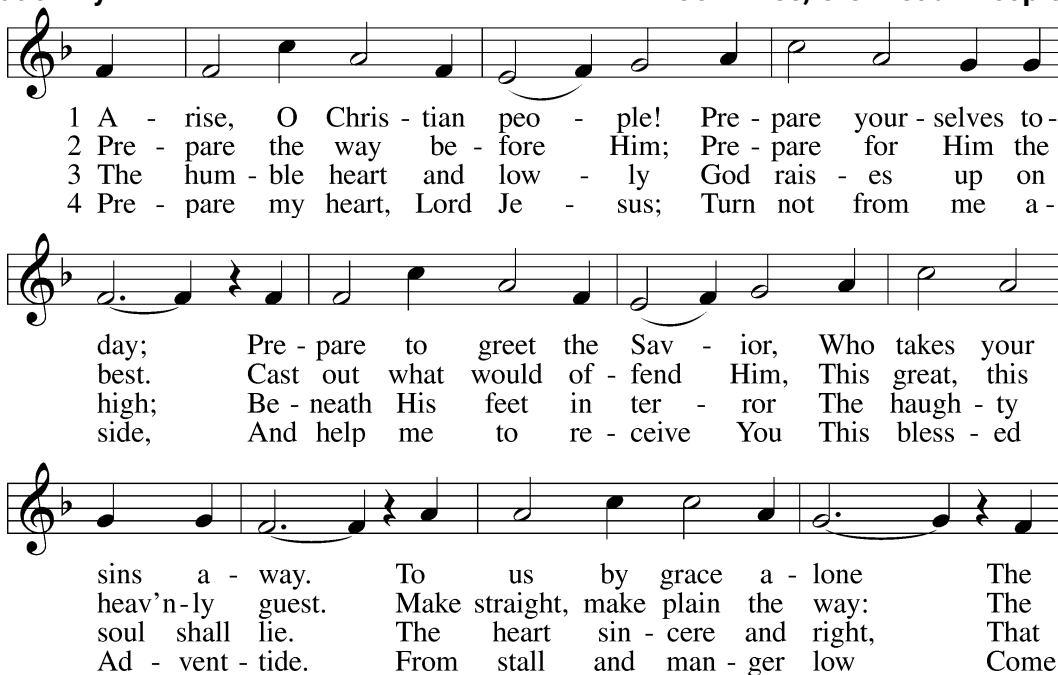
Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymn

354 Arise, O Christian People



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
 2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
 3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
 4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -

day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
 best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
 high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
 side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed

sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
 heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
 soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
 Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
 low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
 heeds God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
 now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
 bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
 ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
 glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–62; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, alt.
 Tune: New Catechismus Gesangbüchlein, 1598, Hamburg, alt.
 Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn

637 Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord



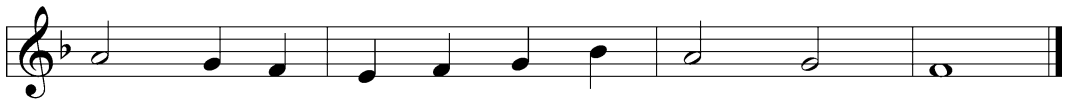
1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord,
 2 He who His saints in this world rules and shields,
 3 Come for - ward then with faith - ful hearts sin - cere,



And drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured;
 To all be - liev - ers life e - ter - nal yields;
 And take the pledg - es of sal - va - tion here.



Of - fered was He for great - est and for least,
 With heav'n - ly bread He makes the hun - gry whole,
 O Lord, our hearts with grate - ful thanks en - dow



Him - self the vic - tim and Him - self the priest.
 Gives liv - ing wa - ters to the thirst - ing soul.
 As in this feast of love You bless us now.

Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
 Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 211

C 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
 2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

- P** Let us pray.
 We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

Benedicamus

LSB 212

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Hymn to Depart

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

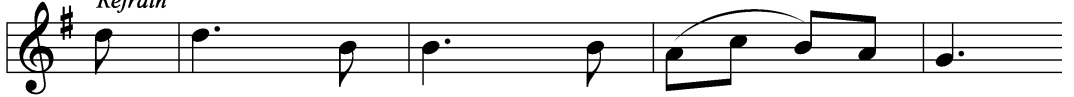


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joyce! Re - joyce! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 O come, Thou 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
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent.
Text and tune: Public domain

The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

Timothy Shaw (b. 1976)

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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Joy to the World! Celebrate Christmas at the Good Shepherd

December 24th Christmas Eve –

Organ Recital @ 3:30 pm

Service of Lessons and Carols @ 4pm

December 25th Christmas Day – Divine Service @ 10am

✠ THIS WEEK'S NOTES ✠

Announcements

+ **Last Sunday's Attendance: 34**

+ **Altar Guild Set Up:** December 24th Marie
December 25th Everyone
December 31st Jill

Cleanup for December: Onja and Sydney

+ **Ushers for December:** Richard Huhn and Olaf Teitell

+ **Join us this afternoon for our annual organ recital at 3:30pm, performed by our talented organist, Jay Rogers! Service of Lessons and Carols will follow the recital at 4pm. Invite your family and friends!**

+ **Thank you to everyone who ordered poinsettias to help decorate the sanctuary to celebrate the birth of our Savior!**

Lectionary Summary for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh

When King David *"lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,"* he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, *"conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary"* (Apostles' Creed). That holy child, the incarnate *"Son of the Most High,"* receives *"the throne of his father David"* and begins to reign *"over the house of Jacob forever"* (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest. That is *"the mystery that was kept secret for long ages"* but is now *"made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God"* in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).

Verse of the Week

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." **Galatians 4:4-5**

A Snippet From 1517

...Who is this miracle child? What has He done, and what does He continue to do? In his announcement to Mary in this text, Gabriel describes the boy in three different ways. Each of them highlights something unique about His identity or work. They all have significance for your hearers. A sermon on this text could be divided into three parts. You might even break the sermon into three separate reflections and couple each part with a corresponding verse of a Christmas hymn (If you have been singing mostly Advent hymns this month, this is a way to get in a few more Christmas favorites). I will make a hymn verse suggestion below for each part of the sermon. If you follow this suggestion and reflect on these titles of Jesus, make sure you do not only talk *about* Jesus in these ways. Instead, use these titles to proclaim the specific promises of God in Christ associated with each of them.

#1: "You shall call His name *Jesus*" (verse 31).

Unlike his announcement to Joseph ([Matt 1:21](#)), Gabriel did not explain to Mary what this name means, but you should. It is not done as a source of trivia, and not to drag details from Matthew into a sermon on Luke. Instead, reflect on His name as a means to proclaim what Jesus does. The name is simple. It means "he saves," and not only from sin. This son of Mary saves from everything which makes life in this world such an unbearable mess. This includes sin, but it also includes much more. Today is Christmas Eve, a day that should be filled with family unity and joy. But so much works against this. Death. Division. Debilitating loneliness. Most (if not all) of your hearers know these more intimately than they wish. Without betraying any confidence or putting anyone on the spot, spend some time sharing a few of the things your specific hearers need to be saved from. Then proclaim the promise of Jesus as the one who saves us all from *that*.

This son of Mary saves from everything which makes life in this world such an unbearable mess.

#2: "He will be called the *Son of the Most High*" (verse 32a).

The "most high" (Υψίστου; hypsistou) is not a common name for the Father. Isaiah is among the few who speak this way (refer to [Isaiah 57:15](#)). Not only does such a name for God stand in sharp contrast to every other so-called god or lord, but it also contrasts starkly with the lowliness of Jesus' incarnation, the humiliation, and the passion. *This* son is unlike the sons (and daughters) of the most high who eat with silver spoons and enjoy a life of privilege. Despite His lofty pedigree, humility is this child's defining characteristic. We preach Christ crucified, after all. *This* son sets aside His authority and His position for the sake of the lowliest. Mary's song, later in this chapter, captures this well. The Most High God cares for and exalts the lowly and humble. First, His Son. Second, all those who humble themselves before Him.

#3: "The Lord God will give to Him *the throne of David*, and He will reign over the *house of Jacob* forever" (verse 32b-33)...

Peter Nafzger, December 24, 2023, 1517.org