

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

December 20, 2020

10:00 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—"BREATH OF HEAVEN"



*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 *The Angel Gabriel*

Basque carol; arr. K. Robertson
Janell Lemire, harp

WELCOME

INVOCATION

Blessed be the Holy Trinity + one God,
the God who comes to set us free;
the Breath of Heaven who comes as hope among us;
the Dawn from on high leading us into peace and joy.
Amen.

KYRIE

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. For your
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your
 word, let us pray to the Lord.
 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have
 Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.
 mer - cy. A - men.

God does have mercy upon us.
 Breathe deeply the forgiveness we have been given in the name of + Christ.
Amen.

APOSTOLIC 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We await your coming, O Holy One. Your faithfulness is magnified in the coming of Christ, in the long-awaited birth of the promised Messiah. May we, like Mary, proclaim your greatness as we rejoice in the coming of our Savior.
Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

God of branch and blaze, our circle of light began with hope and is completed with love. Always we are returned to the promise of Your love birthed among us through one of Your chosen ones. May we, too, give birth to You. **Amen.**

MUSIC FROM TAIZE *Within Our Darkest Night*

With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the

The first system of music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The bass staff begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note F#2.

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a -

The second system of music continues the melody. The treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The bass staff begins with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note F#2.

way. With - in our dark - est night, you kin - dle the

The third system of music continues the melody. The treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The bass staff begins with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note F#2.

fire that nev - er dies a - way, nev - er dies a - way.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece. The treble staff begins with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note F#4. The bass staff begins with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note B2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note G2, and a quarter note F#2.

WORD

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

read by Karen Dale

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the 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.” ³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live 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 and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever 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?” 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 to 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 live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers 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.

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

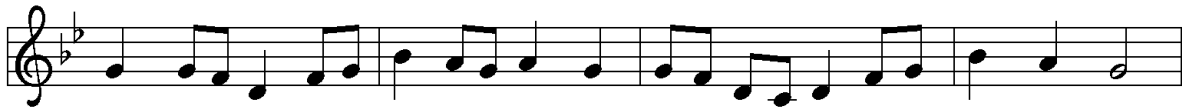
The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN #254 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

SECOND READING *Romans 16:25-27*

read by Jane Miller

²⁵Now 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 ²⁶but 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—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Breath of Heaven* words and music by Chris Eaton and Amy Grant
prerecorded by Dana Varland, soloist; Bryan Gatten, guitar

Refrain



Breath of Heav-en, hold me to - geth-er, be for-ev - er near me, Breath of
Heav-en. Breath of Heav-en, light - en my dark-ness, pour o - ver me your
ho - li-ness, for you are ho - ly, Breath of Heav-en.

GOSPEL *Luke 1:26-38*

The Holy Gospel according to Luke
Glory to you, O Lord.

26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35The 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. 36And 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. 37For nothing will be impossible with God." 38Then 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Dianne O. Loufman

HYMN OF THE DAY #265 *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each prayer petition is followed by silence, then we respond after the words, we pray:



In si - lence we wait, in dark - ness you



come to us; bring us your light.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to 218-325-9525 with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

OFFERTORY MUSIC *Breath of Heaven*

words and music by Chris Eaton and Amy Grant
prerecorded by Dana Varland, soloist; Bryan Gatten, guitar

*I have traveled many moonless nights, cold and weary with a babe inside
and I wonder what I've done. Holy Father, you have come
and chosen me now to carry your Son.*

*I am waiting in a silent prayer; I am frightened by the load I bear.
In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now, be with me now.*

*Refrain: Breath of Heaven, hold me together, be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness, pour over me your holiness, for you are holy,
Breath of Heaven.*

*Do you wonder as You watch my face, if a wiser one should have had my place?
But I offer all I am for the mercy of Your plan.
Help me be strong, help me be...help me. Refrain*

OFFERING PRAYER

Generous God,
you have created all that is,
and you provide for us in every season.
Bless all that we offer,
that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.
Amen.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

I will bring her into the wilderness and speak tenderly to her. Hosea 2:14

As we travel through this wilderness of time
even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.

We break off a piece of bread, touching, tasting and seeing,
remembering our God- Breath of Heaven, Body of Earth. As we eat
this bread, we remember all the ways God draws near, sustaining us until
the day we gather again around this table in this place. We live in hope.
Amen.

HYMN #257 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*



7 O come, O King of na - tions, come, O Cor - ner - stone that
8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el; and ran - som cap - tive



binds in one: re - fresh the hearts that long for you,
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here



re - store the bro - ken, make us new. Re - joice! Re - joice!
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Trusting that our God draws near, we 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.**

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN #251 *My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.
the prom-ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Joy to the World*

tune *Antioch*, arr. Wilbur Held
Karen Sande, organ

MINISTERS All People of First Lutheran Church
PASTOR The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
PASTORAL INTERN Logan McLean Strike
PROGRAM STAFF Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate
Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship
MUSICIANS Janell Lemire, harp; Liz Raduege, Barb LaMaster, Dave LaMaster, David Haavik
and Michael Fuchs, singers; Dana Varland, soloist; Bryan Gatten, guitar
VIDEOGRAPHER Shania Krause, Sam Weston
DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER Stacie Curnow

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First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.
We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

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Order Poinsettias for Advent & Christmas

Help beautify the sanctuary with poinsettias for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please fill out this form and attach a check (made out to FLC) for \$13 per plant. Return to church office by Monday Dec. 14th.

Name _____ Phone # _____

Plants _____ at \$13 each = \$ _____

Given in memory of / in honor of (circle one):
