

**SERVICE of WORSHIP**  
*Setting 2 from Lutheran Book of Worship*

THE PRELUDE: *Mary, Did You Know?*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(silence for reflection and self-examination)*

Most merciful God,

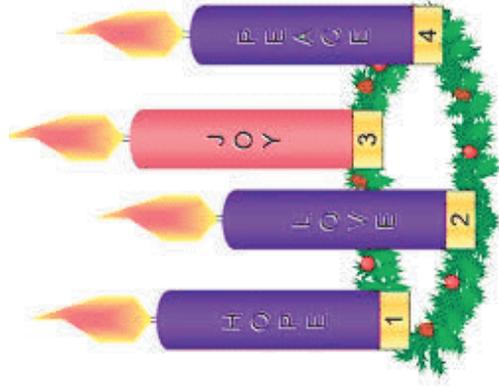
**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**

# December 20, 2020

## *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*



If you are an online guest today, please leave a record of your visit, below. Thank you!

**[Online Guest Form](#)**

**Messiah Lutheran Church**

7740 Hwy 72 West, Madison, AL 35758  
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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.

THE 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.**

THE KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mer - cy.**  
 For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mer - cy.**  
 For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
 and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mer - cy.**  
 For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,  
 let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mer - cy.**  
 Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.  
**A - - - men**

THE SALUTATION

The Lord be with you.

And al - so with you.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen**

*VIOLIN SOLO: The Huron Carol*

Gretchen Perry

THE FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

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

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 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. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders<sup>[a]</sup> of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 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; 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. 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, 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.

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

THE CANTICLE: "My Soul Proclaims the Greatness of the Lord"

**6** My Soul Proclaims the Greatness of the Lord

*Magnificat*

1 My soul proclaims the greatness . . . of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in . . . God my Savior, 3 From this day all gen - er - ations will . . . call me blessed. 5 He has mercy on those who fear him in every . . . gen - er - ation.

2 for he has . . . looked with favor on his . . . low - ly servant. 4 The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy . . . is his name. 6 He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scattered the proud in their con - ceit.

7 He has cast down the mighty . . . from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. 9 He has come to the help of his . . . ser - vant Israel, for he has remembered his prom - ise of mercy, 11 Glory to the Father, and . . . to the Son, and to the . . . Ho - ly Spirit;

8 He has filled the hungry . . . with good things, and the rich he has sent a - way empty. 10 the promise he made . . . to our fathers, to Abraham and his chil - dren for - ever. 12 as it was in the begin - ning, is now, and will be forev - er. A - men

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Return to the Lord"

THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

HYMN: "Of the Father's Love Begotten" vs 1,2,3

42

Of the Father's Love Begotten

have  
deem  
pect  
si

And that fu - ture years shall see,  
First re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

A - - men

THE SERMON

HYMN: "Lo, How a Rose Is Growing" vs 1,2,4,5

58

Lo, How a Rose Is Growing

1 Lo, how a rose is grow - ing, A bloom of fin - est  
2 The rose of which I'm sing - ing, I - sa - iah had fore-  
3 The shep - herds heard the sto - ry The an - gels sang that  
4 This flow'r, so small and ten - der, With fra - grance fills the

grace; The proph - ets had fore - told it: A branch of Jes - se's  
told. He came to us through Mar - y Who shel - tered him from  
night: How Christ was born of Mar - y; He was the Son of  
air; His bright - ness ends the dark - ness That kept the earth in

race  
cold.  
light.  
fear.

Would bear one per - fect flow'r  
Through God's e - ter - nal will  
To Beth - le - hem they ran  
True God and yet true man,

Here in the  
This child to  
To find him  
He came to

cold of win - ter And dark - est mid - night hour.  
us was giv - en At mid - night calm and still.  
in the man - ger As an - gel her - alds of  
save his peo - ple From earth's dark night sang -  
of sin.

5 O Savior, child of Mary,  
Who felt all human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory,  
Who triumphed o'er our foe:  
Bring us at length, we pray,  
To the bright courts of heaven  
And into endless day.

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
and born of the virgin Mary,  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
He will come again 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

THE OFFERTORY: "Create in Me"

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a  
right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from  
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

### THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
And also with you.

### THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all  
people according to their needs.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting  
in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen**

### 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.**

### THE BENEDICTION

# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 30

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.

THE DISMISSAL

THE POSTLUDE: *Born Is He, the Divine Christ Child*