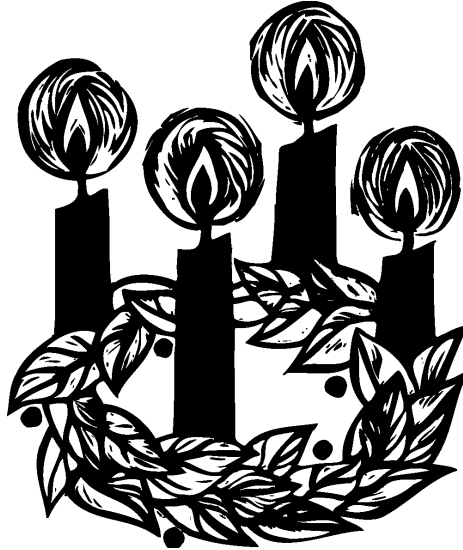




December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday in Advent
[Online Guest Form](#)



On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

Good Morning and Welcome!

Guests, we are so glad you are here. Please fill out the yellow "Connection Card" in the pew and place in the offering basket or give to the usher or the pastor as you leave. *Sound Assistance and staffed nursery available.*

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

*Bread of Life from **With One Voice** with the Lord's Supper*

** Please stand as you are able*

THE PRELUDE: "Once He Came Among Us" (David Paxton) Melanie Payne, Organist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERLUDE: "Magnificat, 2nd Movement" (Jean-Francoise Dandrieu)

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

*LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Finches

"When the angel Gabriel visited Mary... and we question, "How can this be?"

Congregation: We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.

*HYMN: "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

(verse 4)

WOV 630



4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800–1894, sts. 1–3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 4

Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

*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.

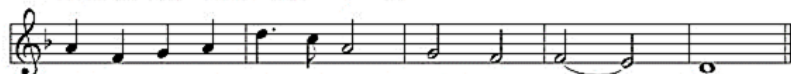
*THE KYRIE



☒ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ☒ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



☒ Chri - ste e - le - i - son: ☒ Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



☒ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ☒ Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

*HYMN OF PRAISE



☒ Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



☒ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we

Song Continues on Reverse →

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

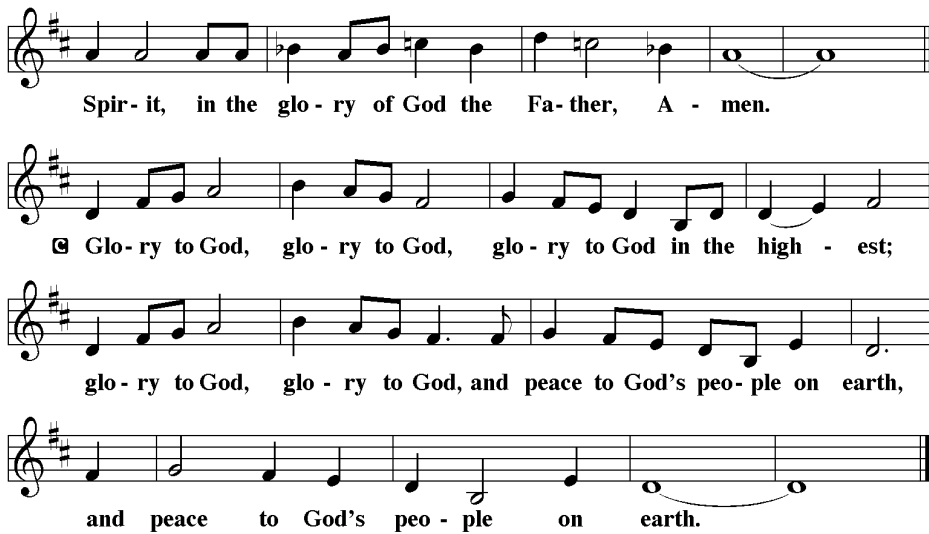
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

☐ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

THE FIRST LESSON

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

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 RESPONSIVE READING

Luke 1:46b-55

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

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

^{48f}**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

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

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

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

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

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

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

THE SECOND LESSON

Romans 16:25-27

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Bonnie Flowers

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go"



*THE GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*THE GOSPEL

Luke 1:26-38

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.

THE SERMON

*HYMN: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW 257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

*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

*THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

... Merciful God, receive our prayer.

*THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

THE OFFERING

Choir Anthem: "Dixit Maria (Hans Leo Hassler)

Sung in Latin, a translation of "Dixit Maria"

Mary said to the angel, "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word.

*THE OFFERTORY: "Let the Vineyards be Fruitful, Lord"

Let the vine-yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, Lord,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

God our provider,

by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

***GREAT THANKSGIVING & PREFACE**

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.

***SANCTUS**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

***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 AGNUS DEI

□ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness"

ELW 251/WOV 730

- 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.



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."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924

Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: "Thankful Hearts"

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God,
and lead us forth in joy with shouts
of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

*POST COMMUNION PRAYER

*THE BLESSING

With One Voice
A Lutheran Resource for Worship
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1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin, and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748
 Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

THE DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" (arr. James Mansfield)

WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

=

THE FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God by members and friends of MLC to honor and remember loved ones as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord. Names of those honored and remembered will be in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

A NURSERY, staffed by Katrina Strand, is through the double doors in the Narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms. Newborns, toddlers, and children up to Pre-K are welcome.

ALL ARE INVITED to coffee in the Fellowship hall following service.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP with the Lord's Supper will be tonight at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The 5:00 p.m. service will be livestreamed on mlutheran.org.

MLC's ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GIVING MALL runs through December 24. Giving Mall instructions, forms and Gift Cards are located at the "Mission Control Center" in the Narthex.

KIT MINISTRY ITEM - Dark Towels 27 x 52

FOOD PANTRY Mac & Cheese

Pastor Kristine Schroeder
Music & Choir Director Randall Fields
Organist/Accompanist Melanie Payne
Director of Outreach Ministries Claire Strand
Communication & Tech Director Meredith Kilby
Office Managers Bobbey Huwaldt
Meredith Kilby
Nursery Attendant Katrina Strand

Acolyte Hannah Seitz
Lectors Jutta DeMarsh
Ushers Owen Wasmoen, Paul Arnold
Altar Guild Jutta DeMarsh
Tech / Stream Desk Glen Long, Lee Seitz
Flower Guild Beverly Berry, Jean Stuart
Gary & Linda Heideman

Pastor Kris Schroeder

Email: pastor.kris@mlutheran.org

Pastor Cell Phone: 480-338-6519

Pastor's Office Hours are M-TH

MLC staff will never directly solicit you to purchase gift-cards or withdraw money for "sensitive matters". If in doubt call the church office.

CHURCH CALENDAR*

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. - *Service of Worship: *Candlelight Service* w/the Lord's Supper

7:00 p.m. - Service of Worship: *Candlelight Service* w/the Lord's Supper

Monday, Dec. 25 - Monday, Jan. 1

Church Office Closed - Limited staffing

December 31, 2023 - Lessons & Carols

10:00 a.m. - *Service of Worship: *Lessons & Carols*

No Sunday School

**These services are live streamed on mlutheran.org*

LOOKING AHEAD

January 3, 2024 - Messiah Choir Rehearsals resume

January 7, 2024 - Epiphany, Sunday School resumes

January 10, 2024 - Wednesday Night Dinners, youth choirs resume

February 3, 2024 - Talent Show

Attendance:

December 10: Online - 68

December 17: 8:30 a.m. - 132, 11:00 a.m. - 84

ONLINE GIVING

Scan the QR code to give
to MLC today.



VOLUNTEER SIGNUP



