



December 20, 2020

4th Sunday in Advent

Joint Worship to be the church together.

Voices from Augustana & First Lutheran

Worship broadcast via radio and YouTube. YouTube links found on:

www.augustanalutheran.org www.firstlutheranchurchff.org

PRELUDE

Meghan Stringer

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - PEACE

READER 1 - Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;

READER 2 - Love and faithfulness go before you.

READER 1 - Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you.

READER 2 - Who walk in the light of your presence, O Lord.

READER 1 - They rejoice in your name all day long;

READER 2 - They exult in your righteousness.

READER 1 - For you are their glory and strength.

GATHERING HYMN

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

HYMN #251 v.1-3

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.

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.**

KYRIE

p. 184 Congregation sings the refrain

Refrain S 184

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen!**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen!**

Pause for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen!**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

p.187

Refrain S 187

This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

peo-ple of God. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and

Refrain

hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his. This is the feast of

vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-

le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain
 This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
 Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray: Stir up your power Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

VICKI HANNEMAN

READING: Luke 1:46b-55

“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me--holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
 words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

The holy gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

REV. DAVID STROM

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came

HYMN #265, v.1-3

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;

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.

"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."

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

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

WORSHIP & PRAISE #41

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

COMMUNION

This is the Lord's Table, all are welcome here. In your home is an ordinary table now set apart and holy, Christ is present there. All are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper, wherever you may be.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

Holy God, throughout the generations you have come to be present with us at our tables, turning ordinary meals into holy moments for us to experience your grace in tangible ways. In an upper room of a guest house in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The body of Christ given for you. *(all share in eating the bread)*

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The blood of Christ shed for you. *(all sharing in drinking of the cup)*

Together as the body of Christ, trusting that the distance that separates us is bridged by the Holy Spirit who makes us one, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION HYMN*People, Look East***HYMN #248 v. 1,4**

Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new
 of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming
 trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 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 Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
 Music: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

BESANÇON
 87 98 87

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.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

HYMN #267, v.1,4

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the
 ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -
 room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 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.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

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

ANTIOCH
 CM and repeat

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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FIRST LUTHERAN ANNOUNCEMENTS SUNDAY DECEMBER 20, 2020
Church phone number 739-3348 and email office@flcff.org

The flowers on the altar are given by Joe, Kelsee and Kinsee Ellig in loving memory of Noah Christian Ellig.

The radio broadcast is sponsored by the Smestad Family in honor of Jennifer and Richard's parents, Richard and Alice Osgood (MA) and Eugene and Noreen Smestad (AZ). We will miss celebrating with them this holiday season.

Please keep Vicar Lynn and family in your prayers. Lynn's Dad, Berle, passed away on December 16th.

In-person worship is paused. Worship continues to be with Augustana and will be broadcast on the radio and YouTube. **On-site meetings (except for recovery groups) and education** also continue to be paused. Staff will be in the office through December 23.

Coming up this week:

- Monday, December 21, 2020 deadline for 2021 requests to the First Lutheran Foundation. Requests should be sent to c.felstul@pemplaw.com, or dropped off at the church office.
- Wednesday, December 23 from 4:30 to 5:30 pm FLY K-6 Zoom Christmas Party.
- Wednesday, December 23 NO Confirmation, NO Hosanna Handbells.
- Wednesday, December 23 - There will be an additional Advent Reflection added to Youtube today.
- Thursday, December 24 at 3:00 pm Christmas Eve worship on Youtube.
- Friday, December 25 at 10:00 am Christmas Day worship on YouTube. This service will also be broadcast on the radio, 1020 AM or FM 97.7, on Sunday, December 27 at 9:30 am.
- Sunday, December 27 at 9:30 am First Lutheran Talent Show will be streamed on YouTube. Be sure to check out the submissions from many church members!
- Sunday, December 27 FLY Game Event, FLY 10-12 at 1:00 pm and FLY 7-9 at 2:00 pm.
- Wednesday, December 30 NO FLY K-6, NO Hosanna Handbells, NO Confirmation

The church office will be closed from December 24th through January 3, 2021. If you have an emergency, you can contact Pastor Gretchen through December 29 at 218 321-0995 and Vicar Lynn through January 8 at 218 321-0967.

How Can I Help? If you have items to drop off, please call the church office and we will open the door for you. 739-3348.

- **The Riverside Lions collect eyeglasses** for reuse. Drop off bin in the Narthex.
- **Change to Make a Change** – There is a large plastic bottle in the Narthex. The money collected will go to help feed the hungry – 75% locally and 25% worldwide.
- **Green Living is promoted by Lion Clubs International.** There is a receptacle in the narthex for recycling clean plastic bags & wraps.

Meals by Wheels Board of Directors is looking for additional people to join their board. The board meets four times a year. If you are interested, please contact one of the board members from First Lutheran: Joan Anderson 218-731-7664 or Dolores Simdorn 218-770-5530.

Sponsorship Sheets for 2021 Radio broadcasts and Altar flowers are on the kiosk in the Narthex. Radio broadcasts are \$100.00 and flowers are approximately \$45.00. You can call the office to check on available dates.

Don't Forget! Offerings need to be received by the church office before December 28 to be recorded on your 2020 Giving Statement. Thank you!

Christ in Our Home Devotional booklets for January – March 2021 are available in the Narthex or the Little Free Library.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 31, 2021. There will be a drive-through meal and drive-through Communion that day. Watch for additional information.

Financial Update: As of December 14, 2020, year-to-date revenue: \$442,923, year-to-date budget \$497,730, last year: \$460,999.