

✠ Holy Cross Lutheran Church ✠

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Pastor Mark Huston

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Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

Divine Service, Setting Three

As We Gather

“And He shall be their peace.” That is how the prophet Micah described the coming Messiah. God’s people will not find their peace in a big bank account. Nor will our peace be found in being part of the right social circle. Nor will our peace be found in a political leader or even in a political ideology. Nor will our peace be found in our living good and upright lives. Our peace is found in the Messiah, in Jesus, in the Good Shepherd whose strength is the Lord. Mary’s circumstances were difficult; the angel’s announcement of her pregnancy had to be quite a surprise. Pondering all these things in her heart, she found peace in God, who blessed her. So she sang God’s praises, a song that we sing still today, the Magnificat, a powerful reminder that “He shall be their peace.”

342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se'sstem, A branch from Da-vid's line,
3 As ban - ner of God's love un-furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword— Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

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Confession and Absolution

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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Service of the Word

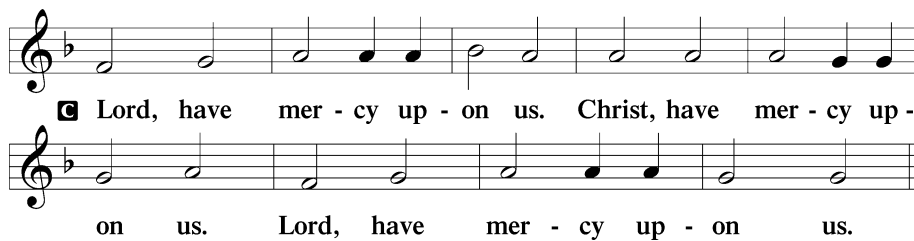
Introit

1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47

- P** My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.
- C** My mouth derides my | enemies,*
because I rejoice in your sal- | vation.
- P** There is none holy | like the LORD,*
there is none besides you; there is no rock | like our God.
- C** The barren has borne | seven,*
but she who has many children | is forlorn.
- P** The LORD kills and | brings to life,*
he brings down to Sheol and | raises up.
- C** The LORD makes poor and | makes rich;*
he brings low and | he exalts.
- C** Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- P** My soul magni- | fies the Lord,*
and my spirit rejoices in God my | Savior.

Kyrie

LSB 186



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

2

Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And with thy spirit.
- 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

Micah 5:2-5a

- P** ² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
- ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.
- ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure,
for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.
- ⁵ And he shall be their peace.
- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

- P** ⁵When Christ came into the world, he said,
 “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
 but a body have you prepared for me;
⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
 you have taken no pleasure.
⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
 as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”
⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt
 offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to
 do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been
 sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.
- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

LSB 190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39–45

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.
C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**
P ³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered
 the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby
 leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry,
 “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that
 the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears,
 the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of
 what was spoken to her from the Lord.”
⁴⁶And Mary said,
 “My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
 For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
 and holy is his name.
⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him
 from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
 he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
 and exalted those of humble estate;
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
 and the rich he has sent empty away.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
 in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers,
 to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”
⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.
- P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise be to Thee, 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

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 - jice! Re - jice! 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

Tune and text: Public domain

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

Sermon

Blessed is the Humble, Meek, and Lowly

Offering

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

C 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 Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

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

O Lord, mighty God, there is none like You in holiness, constancy and might; yet, You exercise Your power for the salvation of sinners. As we draw near to the celebration of Jesus' birth, fill our hearts with gratitude that Your Son humbled Himself and became flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, mighty God, Bethlehem was too small to be among the clans of Judah, yet from it came forth the King of kings. Remember the congregations of Your people where numbers are small and resources are scarce. Provide for their needs, and remind them that the Lord of lords dwells among them in His Means of Grace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, mighty God, You make poor and You make rich. Receive our thanks for Your gifts of daily bread. Give us contentment with what You provide, preserve us from coveting what You do not give and grant that we would be wise stewards of Your blessings. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, mighty God, You sent Your Son to shepherd His flock in strength and to be great to the ends of the earth. Grant wisdom to our leaders and peace among the nations, that we may dwell secure. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P O Lord, mighty God, You helped Your servant Israel, and Your mercy endures forever. Look upon those brought low by illness, injury, grief or other affliction [*especially* _____]. Have mercy upon them, grant them healing and strength, and maintain in them the certain hope of Your faithfulness to them for Jesus' sake. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

- P** O Lord, mighty God, You have sanctified us through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, once for all, on the cross. Prepare the hearts of all who commune this day with penitence and trust in Your promises, and so make us holy with Your Son's body and blood. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** O Lord, mighty God, You have done great things for us, most of all delivering us from death to life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Mercifully hear our prayers and answer them according to Your will for the sake of Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Welcome to our Visitors

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; 1 Corinthians 11:17–34.

Service of the Sacrament

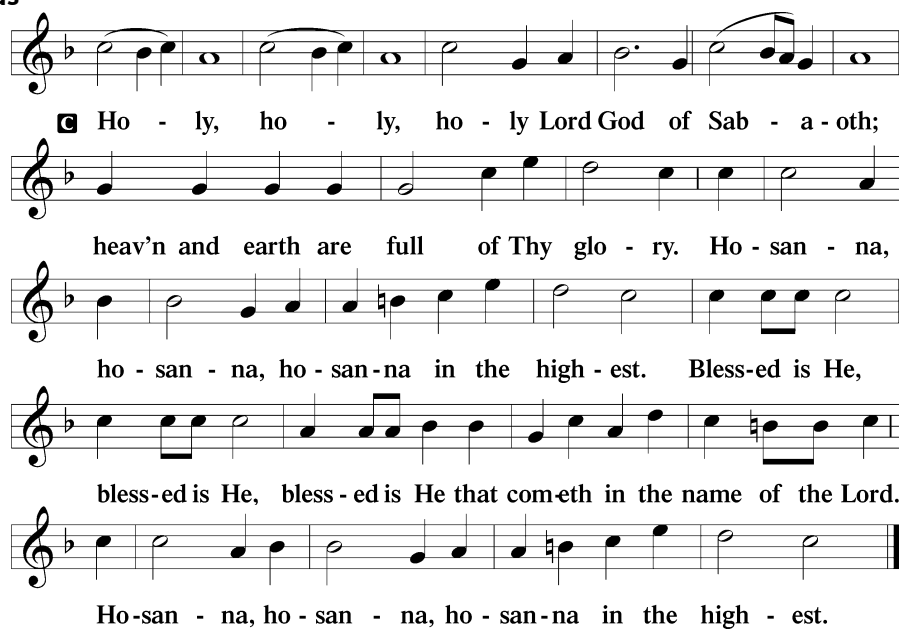
Preface

LSB 194

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And with thy spirit.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- C** **It is meet and right so to do.**
- P** It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

- P** 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.

C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

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

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

934 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
 2 For He a - lone who shows such might Has done a -
 3 His arm is strong; His strength is great. He scat - ters
 4 He feeds the hun - gry as His own; The wealth - y
 leaps for joy in Him. He keeps me in His kind re -
 maz - ing things to me. His mer - cy flows; His name like
 those of proud in - tent And casts them down from high es -
 leave with emp - ty hands. He gives His help to Is - ra -
 gard, And I am blest for time to come.
 light Re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.
 tate, Then gives the low His nour - ish - ment.
 el; His gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.

624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
 2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con
 3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own
 4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who



ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
 of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
 al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels
 hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the



forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
 sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
 hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.
 Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

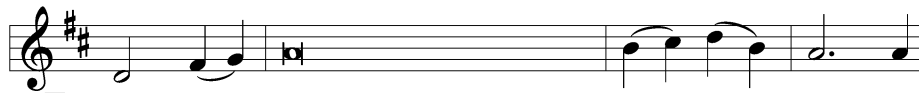
- 5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
 As at the rail on bended knee
 Our hungry mouths from Him receive
 The bread of immortality.
- 6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
 A priestly food and priestly meat;
 On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
 His quenching blood that life restores.
- 7 With cherubim and seraphim
 Our voices join the endless hymn,
 And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
 To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

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Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
C and His mercy endureth forever.

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

814 O Bless the Lord, My Soul

1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with - in me join
2 O bless the Lord, my soul, Nor let His mer - cies lie
3 'Tis He for - gives thy sins; 'Tis He re - lieves thy pain;
4 He crowns thy life with love When ran - somed from the grave;

And aid my tongue to bless His name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.
For - got - ten in un - thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die!
'Tis He that heals thy sick - ness - es And makes thee young a - gain.
He that re - deemed my soul from hell Hath sov - 'reign pow'r to save.

5 He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff'ers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His belovèd Son.

Announcements

Adult Sunday School is studying Genesis at 9am on Sunday mornings.

The **Flowers** that beautify our altar this morning are given to God's glory.

The **Ladies Bible Study** next meets Wednesday **Jan 29** at 10am. They are studying the Book of Numbers.

Church Council next meeting is **Jan 9** at 8am.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Dec 24th at 7pm

Christmas Day Divine Service: Dec 25th at 10am

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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