



# MOUNT CALVARY

## LUTHERAN CHURCH

Worship Program  
December 23 & 24, 2023

*4<sup>th</sup> week of Advent*

## Introduction

*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."*

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **A: Amen.**

P: 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)*

P: Everlasting God,

**A: 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.**

P: 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. **A: Amen.**

## Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A: And also, with you.**

## Gathering Song

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" (ELW 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.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

**A: Amen.**

## First Reading: 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 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 word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody: Luke 1:46b-55

L: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

**A: For you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed.**

L: You, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

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

L: You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit.

**A: Casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

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

**A: You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy.**

L: The promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Second Reading: 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! **A: Amen.**

The word of the Lord, **A: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

*"Alleluia"*

(Setting 1, ELW pg. 102)

**Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Alleluia, Alleluia.**

### 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.

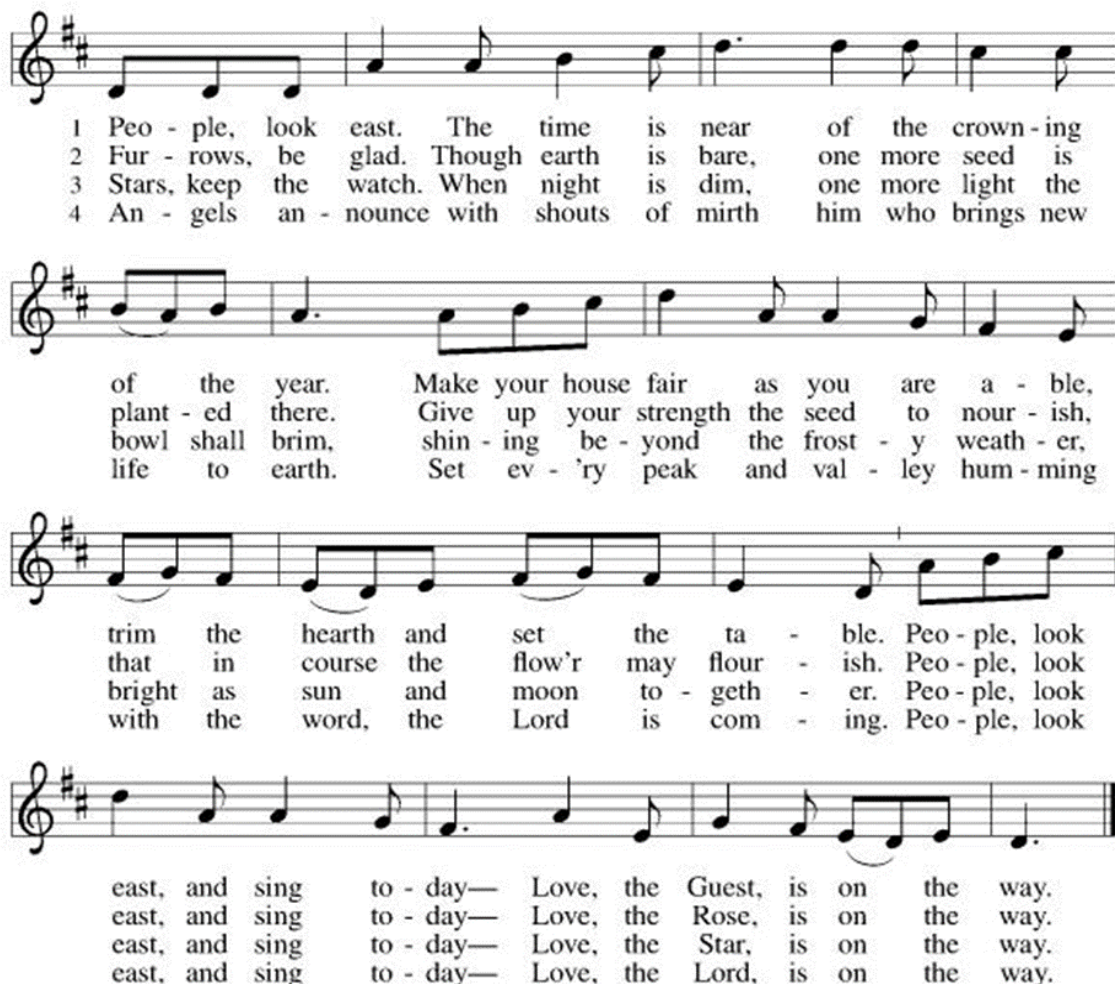
For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. The gospel of the Lord, **A: Praise to you, O Christ!**



## Hymn of the Day

"People Look East" (ELW 248)

### People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. 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 Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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## Nicene Creed

**A: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

L: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

L: You promise mercy to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever. Bring your church into thoughtful, caring, and collaborative relationship with those of other faiths. Strengthen our shared values, that we work together in caring for our world.

Merciful God, **A: Receive our prayer.**

L: As fields and crops lie dormant, bless them with holy rest. Prepare them to thrive, that they provide abundant food in due season. Protect animals who hibernate and provide for all who scavenge for food in the lean season.

Merciful God, **A: Receive our prayer.**



L: You raise up the lowly and cast down the arrogant. Teach humility to all in positions of authority. Break down systems of oppression, especially systems that perpetuate inequity and exclusion. Do not allow wealth, power, or pride to become idols that obscure your call to justice.

Merciful God, **A: Receive our prayer.**

L: Look with favor upon all who cry out to you. Accompany with tenderness all who are afraid or ill (*especially*). Rescue all who experience abuse or who live under threat of violence, especially refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers in search of a safe and stable home.

Merciful God, **A: Receive our prayer.**

L: You are pleased to make your home among us. Make our homecomings joyful as we gather with friends, families, and chosen families in celebration.

Grant safety to all who travel. Sustain the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and other ministries that assist in setting up new homes.

Merciful God, **A: Receive our prayer.**

L: Blessed are you for Mary and all your servants in every generation who lived according to your promise of mercy. Strengthen us by their example until the revelation of your glory is made known.

Merciful God, **A: Receive our prayer.**

L: Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **A: Amen.**

### Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also, with you.**

### Offertory Song

“Angels We Have Heard on High” (ELW 289, ver. 1)

### Offering Prayer

P: 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. **A: Amen.**

## The Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, holy, holy” (Setting 2, ELW pg. 108)

## Thanksgiving at the Table

P: 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.

P: 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. **A: Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**A: 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.**

### Invitation to Communion

P: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

**A: Amen.**

“O Lamb of God” (Setting 1, ELW pg. 112)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

### Featured Music

“Little Drummer Boy” performed by For King & Country

### Prayer after Communion

P: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **A: Amen.**

### Blessing

P: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ☩ remain upon you now and forever. **A: Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (ELW 257) v.1-2

**1        O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
          and ransom captive Israel,  
          that mourns in lonely exile here  
          until the Son of God appear.**

*Refrain*

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.**

- 2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain***

Dismissal

**P: Go in peace. Keep awake. A: Thanks be to God.**

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December Readers/ Communion Assist

<b>Dec 23</b>	Corlee Louder
<b>Dec 24 8:45</b>	Ray Leverknight
<b>Dec 24 4:00</b>	Missy Brodt
<b>Dec 24 7:00</b>	Noelle Berkey

<b>Dec 30</b>	Joan Bunell
<b>Dec 31</b>	Ray Leverknight

December Ushers/ Greeters

<b>Dec 16</b>	Missy Brodt
<b>Dec 17</b>	The Swartz's

<b>Dec 23</b>	<b>**HELP NEEDED**</b>
<b>Dec 24 8:45</b>	Todd Moss
<b>Dec 24 4:00</b>	Mark & Deb Rychak
<b>Dec 24 7:00</b>	Mayket Family

<b>Dec 30</b>	<b>**HELP NEEDED**</b>
<b>Dec 31</b>	Todd Moss

