



Fourth Sunday in Advent
St. John's Lutheran Church
 Red Bud, Illinois
December 23-24, 2017



THE PRELUDE: "Merton"

setting by James Brauer

THE RINGING OF THE BELL calls us to holy worship.

OPENING HYMN: 345 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding" (*please stand for last stanza*)

Divine Service Three, page 184ff.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION: pages 184-185

We Share God's Peace With and Greet One Another

INTROIT: Psalm 19



Shower, O heavens, / from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;
 let the earth / open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.
 The heavens declare the glory / of God, and the sky above proclaims His | handiwork.
 In them He has set a tent | for the sun, which comes out like a groom leaving his | chamber,
 and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the / heavens,
 and its circuit to the | end of them, and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.
 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.
 Shower, O heavens, / from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;
 let the earth / open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit.

KYRIE: (*sung*)

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

(We omit the *Gloria in Excelsis* during Advent.)

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY:

P: The Lord be with you. C: (*sung*) And with thy spirit.

L: Let us pray. C: **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. Amen.**
 (*please be seated*)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING:

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, 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: Would you build Me a house to dwell 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 for My dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges 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, that you should 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 dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men 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. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL:

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**
 Behold, your king is coming to you; **righteous and having salvation.**
 Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord. **From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

THE EPISTLE READING:

Romans 16:25-27

Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(please stand if able) **ALLELUIA and VERSE:** page 190

(sung) **Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL:

Luke 1:26-38

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter. C: (sung) **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name 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 father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: (sung) **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed: page 192

(please be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE SONG:

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope,

He brings hope to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace,

He brings peace to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy,

Ev'ry nation will find salvation in Beth-l'em's baby boy.

Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love,

He brings love to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!

He brings love to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!

Text: Copyright © 1976 by Hinshaw Music, Inc. Used by permission; CCLI#3196726

HYMN OF THE DAY: 333 "Once He Came in Blessing"

SERMON: "Christmas Cards: Glory Be to God Forevermore!" Romans 16:25-27

- I. God's Mystery is Secret For Long Ages
- II. God's Mystery is Disclosed Through the Prophets
- III. God's Mystery is Revealed and Proclaimed in Jesus Christ to All Nations
- IV. God's Mystery Brings About the Obedience of Faith
- V. God's Mystery Believed Results in Glory Given to Him

(please stand if able) **OFFERTORY:** pages 192-193

(please be seated)

OFFERING: "Gottes Sohn ist Kommen"

setting by Ronald A. Nelson

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (please stand if you are able)

(Each petition ends "**Lord, In Your mercy**" and we respond, "**hear our prayer.**")

HEALING AND COMFORT: Wilma Uffelmann, Bill Smith, Nina Guebert, Dorothy Peters, C. John Prigge, Edward Luttman, Donald Kueker, Paulette Kueker, Iona Burgdorf, Jane Donjon, Diana Becker, David W. Stellhorn, Timothy Koen, Jonathan Koen, Addalyn Schloemann; *Family and Friends of St. John's Members:* Lori Voges, Elaine Goetting, Harlan Burmester, Jamie Brandt, Eric Frazier, Rev. Mike and Melanie Maddick, Ethel Montroy, Dwain Schrader, Brian Ulione, Brenda Manning, Bobby Wood, Derrick DeWilde, Donna Sandersfeld, Dan Krebel, Michelle Gibbs, Caleb Oakley, Collin Ratliff, Con Healey, Boniface Becker, Dorothy F. Gross. *Help us keep this list current!*

MILITARY: (Please call with the names to include in prayer.) Army- Nathan Koen, Jonathan Koen, Tim Healy, Christopher Dupertius, Jacob Adams, Donald Roberts, Casey Vallet, Matthew Kraus, Paul Craft, Jr., Dustin Krack, Austin Scheibe, Trevor Buckner; Navy- Brad Koester, Carl Muehler; Air Force- Brian Hubbard, Jason Nehrt, Curt Hatten, Terry Koester, David Livingston, Matt Sabo, Ryan Kozarich, Christina Cavan, Tanner Hackstadt, Ched Wagner; Marines- Alex Renner, Cody Koch, Josh Butterworth, Garrett Carnahan, Brent Knop, Thomas Lewis

+thanksgiving for the 70th anniversary of Leonard and Norma Vogt on December 27th

+thanksgiving for the birth of a son. Jake Michael, to Curtis and Kristine Stoll on Dec. 18

+those suffering from the wildfires in the Los Angeles area

THE LORD'S PRAYER AND CLOSING PRAYER: "Amen."

BENEDICTION: page 202

CLOSING HYMN: 367 "Angels From the Realms of Glory"

THE POSTLUDE: "Regent Square"

setting by H. Smart

Acknowledgments: Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.