



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 22, 2024

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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PRELUDE/PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin. As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come, **let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through ✚ Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

“All Earth is Hopeful”

#266

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

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HYMN OF PRAISE

“This is the Feast”

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Mary Did You Know”

Faith Factor

SCRIPTURE READINGS

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

SERMON

Pastor Karen Hofstad

SERMON SONG

“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”

#251

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

Lord, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERTORY

