

Prelude

GATHERING

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

“Light of Hope, Light of Peace”

Mark Patterson

Litany (*responsively*)

During Advent, we remember the light that shines in the darkness,
but the darkness has not overcome it.

Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.

For all who face the sting of loss, God's word speaks:

Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.

For all who wrestle with the unknown of tomorrow, God's word speaks:

Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.

For all who battle the questions that arise in the silence, God's word speaks:

Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.

Candle Lighting

Prayer

Gathering Hymn "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" Hymn No. 242

Greeting

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

Kyrie

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Prayer of the Day

(Together) **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace
and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive
your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

Teaching Moment

Children's Sermon

First Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

(Continued on the next page)

¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

(After the reading:) The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

Senior Bell Choir

“It Is Well with My Soul”

Arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

Second Lesson

Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

(After the reading) The Word of the Lord **R/Thanks be to God**

Alleluia

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

(Spoken after the announcement) **R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

(Spoken after the reading) The Gospel of the Lord. **R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor David Echelbarger

Nicene Creed

(Together) 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

As we anticipate the fullness of Christ, we join with the church throughout the world, praying for all who are in need.

(After each petition:) let us pray. **Have mercy, O God.**

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, those spoken aloud and those known only to you, and grant us peace through Jesus Christ, our coming Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL**Choir Anthem**

"Carols for Advent"

Arr. Liebergen

Great Thanksgiving

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Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God, the Beginning and the End ...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes

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

Through him, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Page 145 (*Traditional - Right Column*)

Invitation

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation. All are welcome.

Distribution

We invite all baptized Christians and visitors of all denominations, even the youngest, to the table of the Lord. Children who desire a blessing rather than receiving the bread and the wine should stand with folded hands to indicate their preference. Please follow the ushers' directions to one of several communion stations in the sanctuary. If you need to have the sacrament brought to your pew, please inform an usher. Receive the wine or indicate a preference for grape juice by asking the server or pointing to the center of the tray. *Gluten free wafers available upon request.*

Lamb of God

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Distribution Hymn

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Hymn No. 28

See insert

Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

(Together) **God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

SENDING**Benediction**

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Fling wide the Door”

Hymn No. 259

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday in Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.