

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023
9:00am Worship



Central Lutheran Church
1857 Potter Street
Eugene, Oregon
541-345-0395
www.welcometocentral.org

Welcome to Worship!

Central Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Oregon Synod, is a Reconciling in Christ community: We affirm that Christ has made us one body with many members, all sharing in God's wondrous grace and unconditional love. We celebrate both the human variation and inclusive unity of God's family. Following Jesus' example, we embrace all of God's people regardless of ethnicity, physical and mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic circumstance. With welcoming hearts, we invite you to join us in worship, fellowship, and ministry.

Our mission is to be the hands and feet of Jesus by *loving* God and one another, *nurturing* faithful living, *servicing* those in need, and *sharing* the Gospel.

Central Lutheran Staff

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CALL TO WORSHIP

The Carillon

PRELUDE

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Held

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *(please stand as you are able)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace. **Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

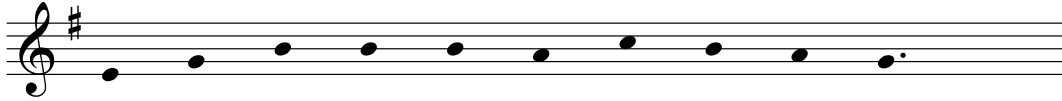
Silence for reflection and self-examination.

God of grace and mercy, we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.

“Comfort, O comfort my people,” says our God. In ☩ Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news! **Amen.**



PROCESSIONAL CAROL # 257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - - - u - el,
 2. O come, O wis - dom from on high,
 3. O come, O come, O Lord of might,
 4. O come, O Branch of Jes - - - se, free
 5. O come, O key of Dav - - - id come,



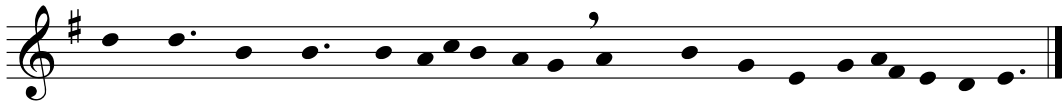
and ran - som cap - tive Is - - - ra - el,
 em - brac - ing all things far and nigh;
 as to your tribes on Si - - - nai's height
 your own from Sa - tan's tyr - - - an - ny;
 and o - pen wide our heav - - - n'ly home;



that mourns in lone - ly ex - - - ile here
 in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
 in an - cient times you gave the law
 from depths of hell your peo - ple save,
 make safe the way that leads on high.



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 And close the path to mis - - - e - ry.

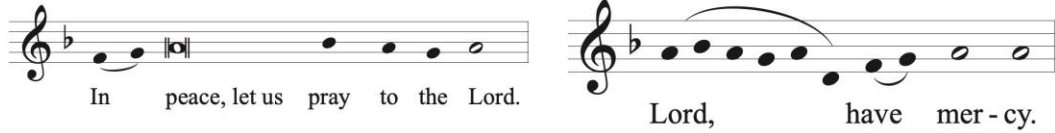


Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u-el Shall come to you, O Is - ra-el.

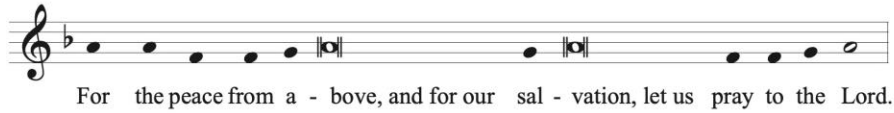
GREETING

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.**

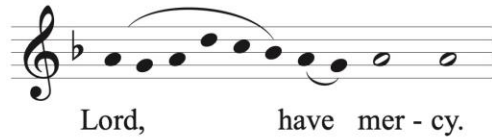
KYRIE



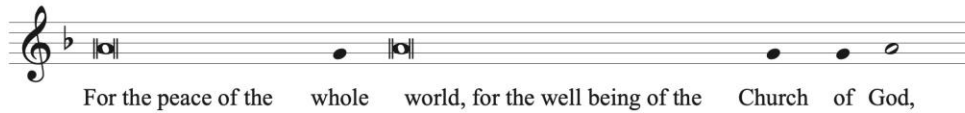
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



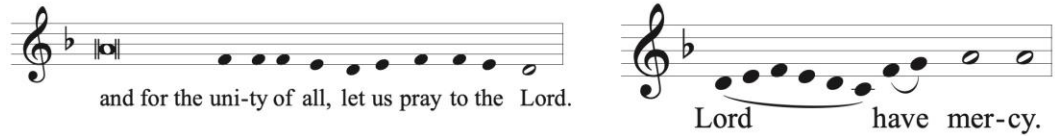
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



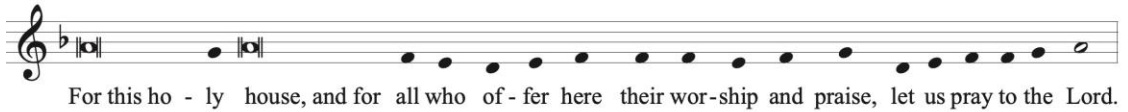
Lord, have mer - cy.



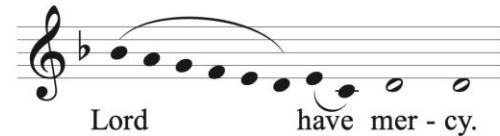
For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God,



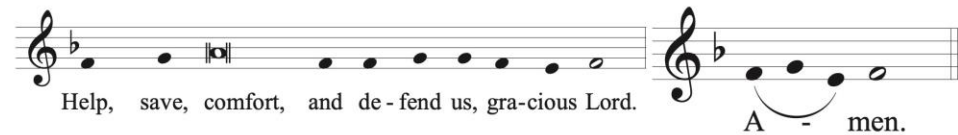
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer-cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor-ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

The Canticle of Praise is omitted during Advent until we join the angels singing "Glory to God in the highest" on Christmas.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Stir up your power, Lord Jesus, 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. Amen.** *(please be seated)*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES

Four candles are lit as we sing...

HYMN Light One Candle



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

PRAYER

Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As the light of these candles glow among us, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

FIRST READING 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the 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."

³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I 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. ⁷Wherever 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?" ⁸Now 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; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹from 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. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

MAGNIFICAT from **Luke 1** (*Congregation sings entire text; move after [|]*)
The Song of Mary



1. My soul magni[|] fies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in[|] God my Savior,
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your[|] lowly servant.
From this day all generations will[|] call me blessed:

2. You, the Almighty, have done great[|] things for me
and holy[|] is your name.

You have mercy on[|] those who fear you,
from generation to[|] generation.

3. You have shown strength[|] with your arm
and scattered the proud in[|] their conceit,
casting down the mighty[|] from their thrones
and lifting[|] up the lowly.

4. You have filled the hungry[|] with good things
and sent the rich[|] away empty.

You have come to the aid of your[|] servant Israel,
As you promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his chil[|] dren forever.

5. Glory be to the Father, and[|] to the Son, and to the[|] Holy Spirit.
As it was in the begin-[|] ning, is now, and will be fore-[|] ver. Amen.

ALLELUIA



Cantors: Here I am, the servant[|] of the Lord;* let it be with me according[|] to
your word. *Repeat antiphon.*

GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

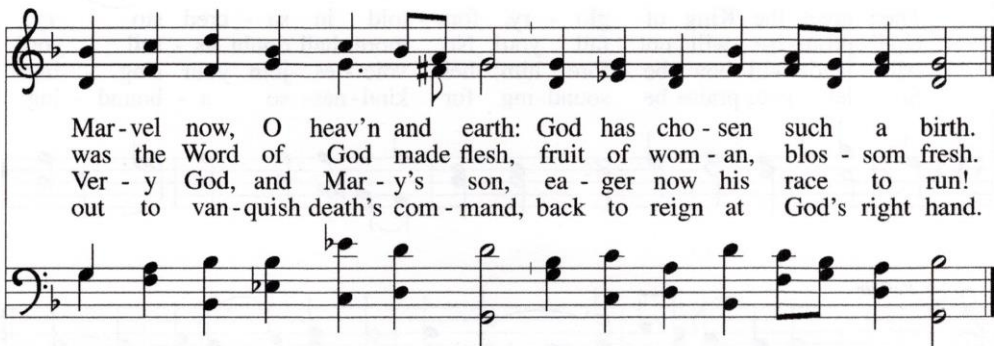
HOMILY

Pastor Laurie A. Jones

CAROL #263 Savior of the Nations, Come (*please stand*)



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth— oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

NICENE CREED

With the church through the ages, let us confess our Christian faith using the words of the Nicene creed.

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. *(please be seated)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OFFERING

You may place your offering in the plate as you come forward for communion.

OFFERTORY HYMN #290 Go Tell It on the Mountain *(please stand)*

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.



Refrain

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
Lift up your hearts.
And al - so with you.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of two staves each. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first system contains the first two lines of lyrics. The second system contains the last four lines of lyrics. The music is a simple, melodic line with some rests and ties.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...And so, with the Church on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav'n_ and
earth_ are full_ of your glo ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho -
san-na in the high-est, Blest is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est, ho - san-na in the high-est.

The musical score is written in F major (two flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The music is a simple, melodic line with some rests and ties. The score ends with a double bar line.

Richard Proulx

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

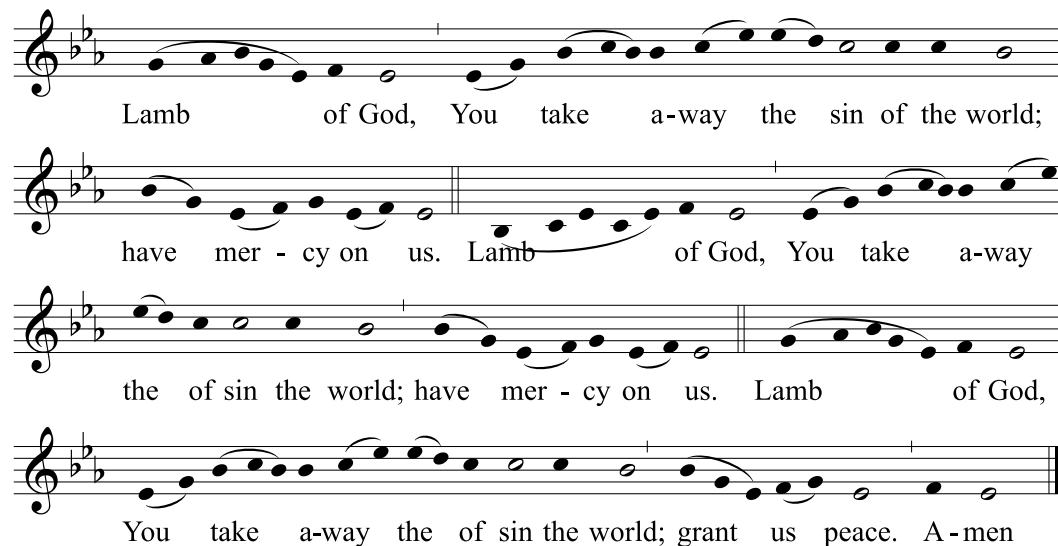
LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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. (*be seated*)

COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS & DISTRIBUTION

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way
the of sin the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
You take a-way the of sin the world; grant us peace. A - men

ANTHEM

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Cantors

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER *(please stand)*

Let us pray. 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.**

BENEDICTION

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. **Amen.**

CAROL #267 Joy to the World *(see next page)*

DISMISSAL

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY *Fling Wide the Door*

Hudson

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Cantors: Alyse Jamieson & John Shields

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT CENTRAL

† Christmas Eve Manger Service at 4:30pm

† Christmas Eve Festival Worship with Communion at 9:30pm

† Christmas Day Worship with Communion at 9am

† Seventh Day of Christmas Worship (Sunday, *Dec. 31st at 9am)

*note time change and only one service at 9am on 12/25; & 12/31; all services will be livestreamed or available later as a podcast on our church's website.

CAROL #267 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,