

*Fourth Sunday of*  
**ADVENT**

December 24, 2023



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# Historic Trinity Lutheran Church

December 24, 2023

## PRELUDE

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

*Johannes Brahms*

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“A Great and Mighty Wonder”

LSB 383 v. 1-2, 4



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:  
2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,  
4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!  
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.  
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.

*Refrain*



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: “To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!”

## INVOCATION *Mt 28:19*

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

## THE OPENING SENTENCES

*(The Great O Antiphons/December 23)*

**Pastor:** Throughout the Scriptures, our God is acclaimed and worshiped as the King of kings. In a psalm specially associated with the Advent season, the psalmist exults, “Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.” In our time and place, we welcome our Advent King with the words of an ancient antiphon of the Church:

**People:** **O Emmanuel, our king and our Lord, the anointed for the nations and their Savior: Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS/ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors,

**People:** **that the King of glory may come in.** *Psalm 24:9*

Pastor: Who is this King of glory?

**People:** **The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him for the sake of His promised Son to grant us forgiveness and grace.

**People:** **O holy Lord, we are not the people You created us to be; sin is cast over us like a veil and our sinful thoughts, words, and deeds offend Your holiness. We confess that we have done that which is wrong in Your sight and have failed to do the good You desire. Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ whom You sent as Savior and Redeemer. Grant us the gift of Your Spirit to amend our sinful lives. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world. By His death we have life. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, speak God's grace to you and forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** ♪ **Amen.**

## THE INTROIT *Psalm 19:1, 5-6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b*

Pastor/Choir: 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. which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them.

## THE GLORIA PATRI

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

## ADVENT KYRIE

*The Kyrie Eleison ("Lord have mercy") for Advent is drawn from the familiar Christmas tune "Coventry Carol", first written in 1534 at the time of Luther. The Hymn of Praise is traditionally removed during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent.*

O Je- sus Christ, have mer- cy Lord. Grant us Thy ho- ly peace. Have  
mer- cy Lord, Im- man- u - el. Be Thou our "God with us".

**ADVENT HYMN**

"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

LSB 374

1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;  
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;  
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;

There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.  
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.  
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?  
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;  
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.  
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.  
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

**THE SALUTATION** 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People:

☐ And with thy spir - it.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: O Lord, You fulfilled Your promise to Mary that she would conceive in her womb and bear the Son of the Most High, grant that we would hold fast to all Your promises in certain confidence of Your faithfulness; through Jesus

Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:**     ♪ **Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

*(God promises that David's throne shall endure forever.)*

<sup>1</sup> Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>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." <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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?"' <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup>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, <sup>11</sup> 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...

<sup>16</sup> And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

**Pastor:**     In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**People:**     **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**

## **EPISTLE**

Romans 16:25-27

*(The mystery long hidden has finally been revealed in Jesus Christ!)*

<sup>25</sup> 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 <sup>26</sup>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— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ!  
Amen.

Pastor: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

People: **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**

**SOLO**

“O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings of Zion”  
(Messiah)

G. F. Handel  
Norma Sander, Alto

**GOSPEL**

Luke 1:26-38

*(The annunciation of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary and her faithful response.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

People:



<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People:



## CONFESSION OF THE LUTHERAN FAITH

Pastor: Jesus became man, conceived and born without sin, of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin, that he might become Lord over sin;

People: **moreover, he suffered, died and was buried that he might make satisfaction for me and pay what I owed,**

Pastor: not with gold and silver, but with his own precious blood.

People: **All this in order to become my Lord.**

Pastor: For he did none of these things for himself, nor had he any need of them.

People: **Afterward he rose again from the dead, swallowed up and devoured death, and finally ascended into heaven and assumed dominion at the right hand of the Father.**

Pastor: The devil and all powers, therefore, must be subject to him and lie beneath his feet until finally, at the last day, he will completely divide and separate us from the wicked world, the devil, death, and sin.

People: **To God alone be the glory!**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

LSB 356



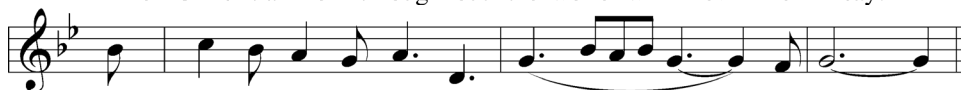
1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
“To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.  
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
“My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”  
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
“Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

## SERMON

“Why a Baby?”

John 1:18

*Rev. James Rolf, Cathedral Pastor  
Historic Trinity Lutheran Church*

## OFFERTORY

*The offertories during the season of Advent will lead us to the manger, where God's greatest Gift to the world may be found. In response, we offer to Him our hearts and lives.*

♪ **Said the shepherd boy to the mighty king, do you know what I know?  
In your palace warm, mighty king, do you know what I know?  
A Child, a Child shivers in the cold, Let us bring Him silver and gold.  
Let us bring Him silver and gold.**

## GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*Please consider continuing to support the work of the Lord at Historic Trinity with a sacrificial gift.  
You can donate at [historictrinity.org/give](http://historictrinity.org/give), or mail to 1345 Gratiot Ave, Detroit, MI 48207.*



## VOLUNTARY

“What Child Is This?”

*Ralph Vaughan Williams*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

**\* The Order of Holy Communion \***

### THE PREFACE AND PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Tim. 4:22*

People:   
☐ And with thy spir - it.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *Lam 3:41*

People:   
☐ We lift them up un - to the Lord.



Pastor: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God. *Ps 100:4*



It is meet and right so to do.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for You fulfilled Your promise of a Savior by sending Your Son to be David's greater Son, who rules over all things for ever and ever. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### SANCTUS



Ho-ly, O ho - ly Lord most high, Lord God of Sa - ba - oth! Dis -  
Ho-ly, O ho - ly Lord most high, Lord God of Sa - ba - oth! Ho -



play His glo - ry heav'n and earth! Bless-ed is He who comes.  
san - na in the high - est! Bless-ed is He who comes.

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION *Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Co 11:23-25*

#### THE PAX DOMINI *Jn 20:19*

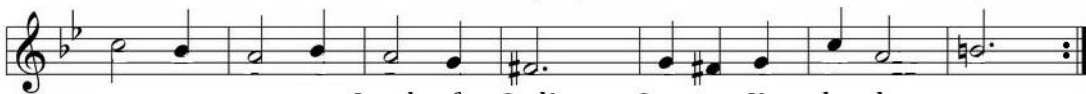
Pastor: The peace of Lord be with you all.

People:  The musical notation is a single eighth note G4 followed by the word "Amen".

#### THE AGNUS DEI *Jn 1:29*



O Christ the Lamb of God we pray: Take this world's sin a-way. Have



mer - cy on us, Lamb of God! Grant us Your ho - ly peace.

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### DISTRIBUTION

*For those with health concerns, there are gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic white wine available.  
Communion will take place in two continuous lines at the altar.*



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en, Who is  
 3 For He is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by  
 4 And our eyes at last shall see Him, Through His  
 5 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble With the



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
 God and Lord of all, And His shel - ter was a  
 day like us He grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and  
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and  
 ox - en stand - ing by Shall we see Him, but in



ba - by In a man - ger for His bed: Mar - y  
 sta - ble, And His cra - dle was a stall; With the  
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us He knew; And He  
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; And He  
 heav - en, Set at God's right hand on high. Then like



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 feels for all our sad - ness, And He shares in all our glad - ness.  
 leads His chil - dren on To the place where He is gone.  
 stars His chil - dren, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound!

**DISMISSAL**


**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that Your promises have been fulfilled among us today. Give us joy in knowing that the same One who became flesh in the Virgin's womb still comes to us today in His body and blood at this altar; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People:  Amen.

**BENEDICTION** *Num. 6:24-26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The \* Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace.

People:   
A-men, a-men, a - men.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**

**“What Child Is This”**

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is  
2 Why lies He in such mean es-tate Where ox and ass are  
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to  
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While  
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The  
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let  
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the  
Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;  
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

**POSTLUDE**

**“Magnificat”**

*Jean François Dandrieu*