



**Sunday, December 18, 2022 Service
Advent 4, Year A
Officiated by a Lay Minister**

**GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
MANISTEE, MICHIGAN**

GATHERING

GATHERING VOLUNTARY

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel”, *Praeludium*
Setting by Marilyn Biery (b. 1959)

WELCOME

All who are able, stand at the invitation of the presiding minister.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Today we light the first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE.

Let us pray,

Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen

HYMN

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” ELW 240 Verse 4

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

As we prepare for this great gift, let us confess our sins and hear the promise of forgiveness.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will. And walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ as given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“People, Look East” ELW 248

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.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us
 free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and
 strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.
 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the
 hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and
 might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain
 has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

All are seated.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from Isaiah:

The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore 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. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For 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."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Sung by all.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19



**Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
O Lord | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.**

**Glory to the Father, and | to the Son,
and to the | Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will | be forever.
A | - - men.**

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from Romans:

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

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

All who are able, stand for the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Now 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. Her husband Joseph,

being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
(verses 1, 2, 7, 8) ELW 257

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; 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

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Heavenly Father, You have wonderfully created all things and with Your grace and mercy, granted us new life through Christ our Savior. Clear the path before us that we may remain in Your grace and mercy and do those things which are pleasing to You. Guide our footsteps and enliven our hearts that in all we do, we bring praise to You by the grace You grant through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

Hear our Prayer.

Lord Jesus, the One who was, who is, and who is to come, You have given us Your word of hope and promise. You are the living Gospel which has been poured into our hearts and given us hope through the promise of the redemption which is ours through You. By the grace You have poured out from the cross, lead us in the way of the cross that we might now and forever abide in You as You abide in us. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

Hear our Prayer.

Come Holy Spirit and kindle in us the fire of Your love. Renew in us a right spirit and cleanse our hearts and minds that we may be prepared to live in the hope which is ours in the redemption of Christ our Savior. Lead us this day, and all of the days You grant us, in order that we may be prepared for all that is to come. Keep our hearts and minds close to the truth which has been revealed through the Gospel. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

Hear our Prayer.

We thank You Almighty God for the manifold benefits which are ours through the promise which produces the hope within us in the saving knowledge of the Gospel which You have given us. In Your mercy and grace, guide us into all righteousness, conforming our lives to the image of Your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

Hear our Prayer.

All authority belongs to You Lord God. You grant authority to whom You grant authority. Help us to obey all of Your commands and honor those whom You have appointed to positions of oversight. Be with all who are in positions of authority and be the One who leads them. Watch over our president, governor, and all

who are in authority. Lead our bishop, dean, and all pastors to rightly proclaim the Gospel You have given us. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

Hear our Prayer.

Great Physician, bring healing into our midst. Bind up those who are hurting, heal those who are sick, and let the truth of Your Gospel heal those who are estranged from You. Be with all caregivers and help them to be mindful of the tasks You have given them to do. Hear us now as we pray for those for whom we have concern, lifting their names up to You, whether spoken aloud or in the silence of our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy . . .

Hear our Prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The people exchange signs of peace, all are seated.

ANTHEM

“Creation Will Be at Peace”

Words by J. Paul Williams (1937–2010)

Music by Anna Laura Page (b. 1943)

MEAL

PRAYER

Let us pray,

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit Be with you.

Amen.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Father, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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**

LAMB OF GOD (ELW4)

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

All are welcome to commune.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY

“Christum wir sollen loben schon”
Setting by Healey Willan (1880–1968)

All who are able, please stand.

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

COMMUNION HYMN

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” ELW 265

PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

SENDING HYMN

“Joy to the World” ELW 267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

SENDING VOLUNTARY

“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!”
Setting by Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)



Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
(A congregation of THE NORTH AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH)
521 Cypress Street, Manistee, MI 49660, (231) 723-7161
Website: <http://gslcman.org>, Email: gslc49660@gmail.com