

December 22, 2024

4th Sunday in Advent



Prepare for Worship

In the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you, loving Lord, for cleansing me of my sins and adopting me into your family through the miracle of Holy Baptism. As I worship today, help me remember what my baptism means to me. Lead me to feel genuine sorrow for my sins and empower me to put down the sinful nature that still lives in me. Lift me up as I hear your promise of forgiveness and give me strength to live a life pleasing to you.

Amen.

333 O Little Town of Bethlehem



- 1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
- 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
- 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
- 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–190 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. *James 4:6,10*

Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared. *Psalms 130:3,4*

Absolution

God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was fulfilled in the coming of his Son. Jesus Christ humbled himself by submitting to God's law. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross. God promises to lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich. *2 Corinthians 8:9*

Even as we await Christ's second coming, he comes to us here and now in the words he gives his messengers to speak: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

975 My Soul Will Magnify the Lord

CW 975 st. 1

1 My soul will mag - ni - fy the Lord; I re - joice in God my

Sav - ior, in the won - der of his fa - vor.

For he has done great things for me, he was mind-ful

of his ser-vant; ev-'ry age shall call me bless-ed.

The hope of A - bra - ham come in the

giv - ing of a Son; for he who prom-ised is

[illegible]

might - y in re - mem - ber - ing his mer - cy.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974 Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974 Text and tune: © 2005 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518

Lighting of the Advent Candles

We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity. **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.

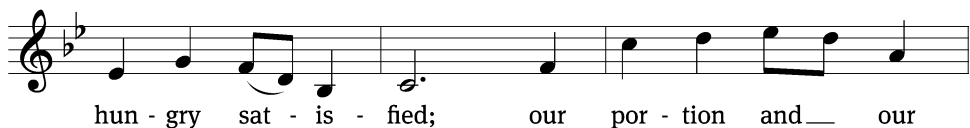
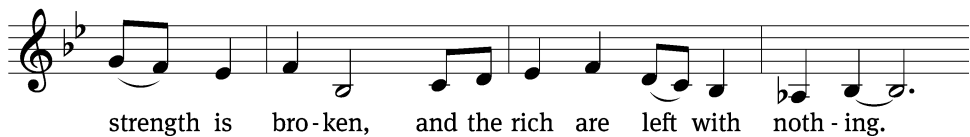
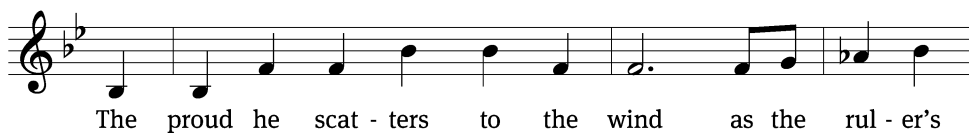
Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Four Advent candles are lit during the song.

975 My Soul Will Magnify the Lord

CW 975 st. 2





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The Word

Salutation

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, 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.**

Be seated

First Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.

³Therefore the LORD will give them up,
until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child.
Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.
⁴He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.
⁵This one will be their peace.

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

85A LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer

Refrain



LORD, in your mer - cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

Tone



You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people
and covered / all their sins.

You set aside / all your wrath
and turned from your fierce / anger.

Show us your unfailing / love, LORD,
and grant us your sal- / vation. *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the / LORD says;
he promises peace to his / people.
Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him,
that his glory may dwell / in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;
righteousness and peace kiss each / other.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

**as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Text: Hal H. Hopson Tune: Hal H. Hopson Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said:

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but you prepared a body for me.

⁶You were not pleased with burnt offerings and sin offerings.

⁷Then I said, “Here I am. I have come to do your will, God.

In the scroll of the book it is written about me.”

⁸First he said:

Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law,
both burnt offerings and sin offerings, you did not desire,
and you were not pleased with them.

⁹Then he said: Here I am. I have come to do your will.

He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23



Refrain



Tone



Refrain



Gospel

Luke 1:39–55

In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

⁴⁶Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

⁴⁸because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

327 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



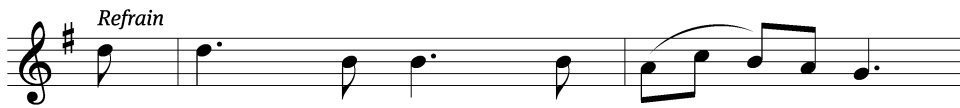
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from
 3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us
 4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your
 by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y
 wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



Refrain
 Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Tune: French, 15th cent., alt Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon A Real Christmas Will Lift Up the Lowly Luke 1:39-55

Stand

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.
Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.
Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.
Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.
Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Be seated

Good News for Kids/Offering

343 Once in Royal David's City

CW 343



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him through his own re -
 4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble with the ox - en



cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 deem - ing love, for that child, so dear and gen - tle, is our
 stand - ing by shall we see him, but in heav - en, set at



man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and mean and
 Lord in heav'n a - bove, and he leads his chil - dren
 God's right hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren



mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 on to the place where he is gone.
 crowned, all in white, his praise will sound.

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1818–1895, abr., alt. Tune: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

Blessing

**The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.**

315 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly
 2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'
 3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
 4 Sav - ior, hear my wel - come cry— loud ho - san - nas



kept his word and at last to us did send
 heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y a year
 Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—
 lift - ed high! King of glo - ry, en - ter in;



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
 stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
 tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
 cleanse my soul of ev - 'ry sin.

- 5 Crush for me the serpent's head that, set free from doubt and dread,
 I may cling to you in faith, safely kept through life and death,
- 6 And, when you shall come again as a glorious king to reign,
 I with joy may see your face, freely ransomed by your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; (sts. 1–3, 5–6): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 2021 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter Text (st. 4): © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 722518 Text (sts. 1–3, 5–6) and tune: Public domain

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THIS WEEK AT LINCOLN HEIGHTS

December 22 - 29, 2024

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday | 8:00 am | Worship |
| | 9:00 am | Homeless Meal Delivery |
| | 9:15 am | Bible Class |
| | 10:30 am | Worship |
| | 10:30 am | Kunama Worship |
| | 12:00 pm | Christmas Caroling |
| Tuesday | 3:00 pm | Christmas Eve Worship |
| | 6:00 pm | Christmas Eve Worship |
| Wednesday | 10:00 am | Christmas Day Worship |
| Sunday | 8:00 am | Worship with Communion |
| | 9:00 am | Homeless Meal Delivery |
| | 9:15 am | Sunday School |
| | 10:30 am | Worship with Communion |
| | 10:30 am | Kunama Worship |

Welcome to Lincoln Heights!

We are glad you are here today to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Please speak with an usher for any help.

Yellow Cards

Please fill out a yellow card and place it in the offering plate when passed. Thank you.

In Our Prayers

The Lord is eager to hear the prayers of thanks and petitions for help from his people. Please keep these members and families in your prayers. Contact Pastor to add someone to this list:

Ukraine

Ray & Gloria Overson, Sherry Just and Randy Michael- shut-ins

Larry Borchert, Jeff Overson, Pat Oswald, Makenzie Phippen- health

Lucas Gilman & Karri Pippett, Daniel Pfeifer & Paige Harman, Isaiah Luellen & Andie

Schlabach - engaged couples

Online Giving

Thank you for your generous and cheerful offerings to the Lord.



www.LHELC.org/giving

Prepare for Next Sunday

For a simple devotional reading plan, review the readings for this week on Monday through Wednesday. Then read the Scripture for next Sunday on Thursday through Saturday. The Word for next Sunday:

Isaiah 50:4-9, Hebrews 2:10-18, Luke 2:41-52

Thank You to Today's Helpers

Accompanist: Buffy Kokke

Altar Guild: Karen Pippett & Karen Pippett

Counters: Karl Kuhrt & Steve Winecke

Streaming: Open

Ushers 8 am: Chad Virden & James Norton Jr.

Ushers 10:30: 2 open spots

Next Sunday's Servants

Accompanist: Kris Olson

Altar Guild: Karen Pippett & Karen Pippett

Counters: Greg Lewis & Jeff Overson

Streaming: Open

Ushers 8 am: Chad Virden & James Norton Jr.

Ushers 10:30: 2 open spots

Christmas Caroling

Join us after church today from noon - 2 pm to go caroling. All ages are welcome.

Christmas Worship

We are offering an earlier service at 3 pm on Christmas Eve especially for those who do not like to drive after the sun sets. Both services will be the same – rejoicing in the “Gift of God” who is God himself in the flesh, our Savior. We will sing lots of favorite Christmas carols and conclude with Silent Night by candlelight. Invite someone who needs the “Gift of God” in their life. And don’t forget about Christmas morning! This festival service is a joyful time of reflection on the Son of God who made his dwelling among us to be our Savior.



December 24

3:00 & 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

December 25

10:00 am Christmas Day Worship

Pastor’s Christmas Gift

If you are interested in contributing to a monetary Christmas gift for Pastor and his family, please see Steve Winecke, Greg Lewis or Peter Nolte by December 24. Thank you.

Poinsettias Given By...

Larry & Pat Borchert in Thanks to God for their 61st wedding anniversary on Dec. 21
Denise & Paul Menzel in memory of Denise’s dad Dennis and in Thanks to God for Althea’s health
Sheri Pender in memory of Marlan & Joan Green and Peg Pender
Greg & Kathy Lewis
Fred Wegner
Kir Zuor

New Year’s Eve Worship in Indianola

Good Shepherd invites us to join them for a 7 pm worship service followed by snacks and games. The address is 202 N. Kenwood Blvd, Indianola.

Streaming for 2025

Thank you to everyone who helped stream our worship services this year. If you'd like to help out in 2025, the monthly sign up sheet is on the table in the narthex. If you've never streamed before and are interested in helping out, please put your name and email on the training sign-up sheet to learn how to do it and get on the schedule. We are always looking for volunteers to help out! Contact Lee Bowman with questions at lbowman870@gmail.com. Thank you.

Photo Updates

We would like some updated photos for our next photo directory. When your family is gathered together here for worship, Paul White will take a quick photo of you. If you'd rather send us your own photo, please send to pastor@lhelc.org. Thank you.

LINCOLN HEIGHTS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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