



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, E.L.C.A.
255 W. Lincoln Ave.
Hartford, WI 53027
The 4th Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2020



Welcome to worship – May you experience the Presence of Christ this morning, and walk through this week with His peace and gentle love.

WE REALIZE OUR NEED FOR FORGIVENESS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Silence for reflection

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: **We confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN ELW NO 843 "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"**

Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light; praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight. Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease, calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word; praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand; from this well comes living water quenching thirst in every land.

Praise the One true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our peace; Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done. Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

P: The grace of our risen Lord Jesus Christ, the uplifting love of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you**

KYRIE

Assistant: In peace, in peace,

Refrain
Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save and de - fend us, O
God. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

All: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, 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; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ELW 257 "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (Fourth Sunday)

ELW 257 "O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL"

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.



FIRST READING from 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 89: 1-4, 19-26

Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

"I will establish your¹ line forever, and preserve your throne for all¹ generations."

You spoke once in a vision and said to your¹ faithful people: "I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out¹ of the people.

I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.

My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong.

No enemy shall deceive him, nor shall the wicked bring him down.

I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him, and he shall be victorious through my name.
I will set his hand on the sea, and his right hand on the rivers.
He will say to me, 'You are my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

SECOND READING from Romans 16: 25-27

L: The Word of the Lord C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION- “Aleluia, Aleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go”

Congregation:
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

GOSPEL READING from Luke 1: 26-38

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

MESSAGE – Rev. Aida Muñiz

***HYMN OF THE DAY ELW NO. 266 “All Earth Is Hopeful”**

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last! Furrows lie open for God’s creative task: this, the labor of people who struggle to see how God’s truth and justice set everybody free.

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell: “A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”; she conceived him, “God with us”, our brother, whose birth restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared; new highways opened; new protocols declared. Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace! All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib. This same Lord Jesus today has come to live our world; he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;
and 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 sited at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
INVITATION TO THE OFFERING
ANNOUNCEMENTS
LORD'S PRAYER

BLESSING

P: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, now and forever.

SENDING HYMN *ELW NO. 244* "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh. Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry. The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near; go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand. The saints, who here in patience their cross and sufferings bore, shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more. Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold; in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

DISMISSAL

P : Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**