

Fourth Sunday of Advent

22 December 2024

HIGHWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Meeting ID: 411 134 0591 # Passcode: 592794 #



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+ **HOLY COMMUNION – SETTING FIVE** +

**ORGAN PRELUDE** “Saviour of the Nations, Come” arr. J.S. Bach

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

In those days, Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town on the hill country, where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. (Luke 1:39-42)

**HYMN** Saviour of the Nations Come **No. 263**

### ADVENT CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** In the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen**

**P** The Lord of Advent tells us to be watchful for his coming, keeping our lamps lighted and our hearts clean. Therefore, let us confess to the Lord.

*Silence for reflection.*

P God and Father of all:

**C We prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, confessing our sins, confessing our attraction to a godless world that does not know Christ. Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts, and keep us faithful for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of + Christ, who came and will come again.

**C Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

**No. 257**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verses 1-4)

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

**Pg. 156**

**ADVENT KYRIE**

A O Lord, have mercy and come to us.

**C Come, Lord Jesus.**

A O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you close and no one can open:

**C Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.**

A O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

**C Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

A O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

**C Come quickly to deliver us.**

A Come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

**C Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pg. 159**

P We pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, 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.

**C Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

### Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labour has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

*Sung*

### Psalm 80:1-7

Hymnal

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.

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 forever. | Amen.

### SECOND LESSON

### Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, "See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

A The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Please stand as you are able.*

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**THE HOLY GOSPEL** **Luke 1:39-55**

**C Glory to you, O Lord**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P The gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn

No. 242

THE APOSTLES CREED

Inside Front Cover and Page 105

ADVENT LITANY *Please stand as you are able.*

- A As the days of Advent hasten on and we draw nearer to the day of Christ's coming, let us pray with fervent hearts for the needs of the world:
- C Come, Lord Jesus, and do not tarry.**
- A Lord Christ, in joy and anticipation, we await your coming with lamps lighted and hearts aglow with faith.
- C Come now and illumine the whole universe.**
- A All creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God.
- C Come soon and save those who wait in darkness.**
- A The suffering and the poor look to you for their hope.
- C Come and raise us to glory in your presence.**
- A The troubled and oppressed have no where to turn but to you.
- C Come quickly and banish the powers of evil and darkness around us.**
- A The sick and weary, the dying and faint-hearted cry out in their despair.
- C Come and bring us eternal wholeness and health.**
- A Even the martyrs and the blessed dead make their plea, "O Lord, how long?"
- C Come now and give us eternal life.**
- A The Spirit and the Church cry out:
- C Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A All those who await your appearance pray:
- C Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A The whole creation pleads:
- C Come, Lord Jesus.**
- A For those who are oppressed; for soldiers and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and their families; for neighbors who have no access to medical care; for those who are ill and those who mourn especially, Anna Berwanger, Simret Bogale, Chrystine Cuch, Mariette Erasmus, Adeline Erick, Ruth

Gummo, Dolores Hollowell, Donna Harbor, Genevieve Janssen, Julie Janssen Downe, Eleanora Lahoda, Fay Larsen, Amy Lynch, Jean McCowan, Mark Mutschlechner, Bruce and Judith Nagel, Jerry Rasmuson and family, Jim and Joyce Rasmussen, David Sr. and Joan Richardson, Vern Schnell, Rose Sinclair, Sam Skogen, those we name aloud ... and those we carry in our hearts. We pray,

**C Come, Lord Christ.**

P Hearken to the prayers of your servants, Lord Jesus. By the sign of the manger of Bethlehem, give us hope in the promise of your return. Come quickly, Lord, and bring us to the joys of heaven, where we will praise you with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.

**C Amen.**

**THE PEACE**

Pg. 106

P May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

**C And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** "A Carol of Hope" by Don Besig

*Setting of the altar and reception of the Offerings.*

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING PRAYER FOR ADVENT**

Pg. 64

A God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Saviour and Lord.

**C Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Pg. 161

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (III)**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (Version II)**

Pg. 163

**THE FRACTION**

P This is the body of the One foretold by the prophets. This is the blood of Him who will return for you at the end of time.

**C Come to us now, O Lord, in the breaking of bread. As once you were born in a manger in Bethlehem, come to us again in the manger of our hands and hearts. Amen.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

Pg. 164

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

*Please be seated. Assistants and those in need commune first.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came **No. 265**  
Of the Father’s Love Begotten **No. 295**

TABLE BLESSING *Please stand as you are able.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A We pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

C **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

BENEDICTION Pg. 114

SENDING HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem **No. 279**

DISMISSAL Pg. 115

P Go in peace...

C **Thanks be to God!**

ORGAN POSTLUDE Toccatina on “Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (#490) arr. R. Gibson



**WELCOME** to all gathered here today. Join us for refreshments and conversation downstairs after worship, Questions? Ask one of today’s servants or speak with the pastor.

**WE THANK TODAY’S SERVANTS**

Usher: David Richardson  
Lector: Ahmed Conteh  
Assistant: Cam Schneider  
Altar Guild: Clarice Rasmuson, Jennifer Hanson  
Refreshments: Ahmed Conteh, Mariette Erasmus  
Zoom Host: Phil Tang, Ahmed Conteh

**OFFERING AND ATTENDANCE**

|               |             |             |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Last week     | 15 December | Budget 2024 |
| Current       | \$ 1,140    | \$2,911     |
| Benevolence   | \$ 0        |             |
| Building Fund | \$ 0        |             |
| Other         | \$ 0        |             |
| Attendance    | 41          |             |

**ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK**

|           |        |          |                                                                          |
|-----------|--------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Today     | 22 Dec | 11:45 PM | Fellowship and Refreshments                                              |
|           |        | 2:00 PM  | CFMA Worship                                                             |
| Monday    | 23 Dec | 7:00 PM  | 12 Step Program                                                          |
| Tuesday   | 24 Dec | 6:00 PM  | Christmas Eve Joint Service with<br>Calgary Filipino Methodist<br>Church |
| Wednesday | 25 Dec | 10:30 AM | Nativity of Our Lord                                                     |
|           |        | 7:00 PM  | 12 Step Program                                                          |
| Friday    | 27 Dec | 7:00 PM  | 12 Step Program                                                          |
| Saturday  | 28 Dec | 9:00 AM  | House of Hope Worship                                                    |
| Sunday    | 29 Dec | 10:30 AM | First Sunday after Christmas                                             |

**ETERNITY FOR TODAY** booklets for January, February and March 2025 have just arrived and are in the narthex.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** – join us at 6:00 PM on Tuesday 24 December as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord in a joint candlelight worship service with the Calgary Filipino Methodist Church. Pr. Mike is preaching.

**CHRISTMAS DAY** – our service begins at 10:30 AM on Wednesday 25 December 2024.

**END OF YEAR DONATIONS** – 2024 is almost over. It's time to consider those year-end donations, which in turn benefit you on your taxes. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our church throughout the year.

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** – If you need a ride to church, contact Elizabeth Anderson 587 897 0548 or Bill Strand 403 239 9894



**MEN'S BREAKFAST** – All men and your guest(s) are welcome to join us at Ace Casino Airport for our monthly breakfast on Saturday 4 January.

**DROP-IN CENTRE DONATIONS** – Christmas 2024. A very big THANK YOU for all the donations of socks, toques, scarves, gloves and mittens, and sets of shawls and hats. The count for the above is: Toques 144, Socks 120, Scarves 13, Sets 12, Gloves/mittens 11. Many of the above were hand knit. A thank you for all the knitters that make this possible.

These were all delivered to the Drop In Centre on Monday with a big “Thank you” from the volunteer who came to the door to collect the bags. It always makes our hearts glad to be able to do this. It means many warm heads, hands and feet through our Calgary winter.

|                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>NEXT WEEK'S READINGS</b> | First Sunday of Christmas Year C |
| 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26        | Psalm 148                        |
| Colossians 3:12-17          | Luke 2:41-52                     |