



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**  
**December 18, 2022**

**Opening Hymn #55**  
***Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come***

1. Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,  
Only Hope for sinful mortals!  
Come, O Savior of the world!  
Open are to Thee all portals.  
Come, Thy beauty let us see;  
Anxiously we wait for Thee.

2. Enter now my waiting heart,  
Glorious King and Lord most holy.  
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,  
Though I am but poor and lowly.  
Ah, what riches will be mine  
When Thou art my Guest Divine!

3. My hosannas and my palms  
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;  
Evermore, as best I can,  
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,  
And in faith I will embrace,  
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.

4. Hail, hosanna, David's Son!  
Help, Lord, hear our supplication!  
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,  
Bring us blessing and salvation,  
That forever we may sing:  
Hail, hosanna! to our King.

### **Invocation**

**P:** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### **Confession and Absolution**

**P:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

**C: Amen**

### **Kyrie – sing**

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

## Lighting of the Advent Candles

### Advent 4

**P:** *We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.*

**C:** **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

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

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

**P:** *Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.*

**C:** **Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*Four Advent candles are lit.*

The Angel's Candle is the candle of love and final coming. [Is. 9:1-6]

(To the Tune of "Away in a Manger")

**The glory of Christmas  
With beauty sublime  
Shines ever more brightly  
In fullness of time.  
The promise of ages  
Has finally come,  
The hope of our fathers  
Revealed in God's Son.**

### Prayer of the Day

**P:** Let us pray...

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

**C: Amen**

### The First Lesson – Isaiah 7:10-17

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put

the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup>And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

**Psalm of the Day – Psalm 24**  
**Antiphon - WS p. 25**

***Antiphon*** – *Let the Lord enter; He is King of glory.*

The earth is the Lord’s, and all its | fullness.\*

**The world and those who | dwell therein.**

For He has founded it up- | on the seas,\*

**And established it upon the | waters.**

***Antiphon*** – *Let the Lord enter; He is King of glory.*

Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you ever-| lasting doors!\*

**And the King of glory | shall come in.**

Who is this King of | glory?\*

**The Lord strong and mighty, The Lord mighty in | battle.**

Lift up your heads, O you gates! And lift them up, you ever- | lasting doors!\*

**And the King of glory | shall come in.**

Who is this King of | glory?\*

**The Lord of hosts, He is the King of | glory.**

**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.**

***Antiphon*** – *Let the Lord enter; He is King of glory.*

### **The Second Lesson – Romans 1:1-7**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **The Gospel – Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he  
did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but  
knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his  
name Jesus.

P: Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

### **The Alleluia – sing**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

These words are written that we may believe

That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### **Confession of Faith – 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.**

**Hymn of the Day #95**  
*Savior of the Nations, Come*

1. Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Thy home!  
Marvel now, O heaven and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2. Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh--  
Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.

3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child  
Of the Virgin undefiled!  
Though by all the world disowned,  
Still to be in heaven enthroned.

4. From the Father forth He came  
And returneth to the same,  
Captive leading death and hell--  
High the song of triumph swell!

5. Thou, the Father's only Son,  
Hast o'er sin the victory won.  
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;  
When shall we its glories see?

6. Brightly doth Thy manger shine,  
Glorious is its light divine.  
Let not sin o'ercloud this light;  
Ever be our faith thus bright.

7. Praise to God the Father sing,  
Praise to God the Son, our King,  
Praise to God the Spirit be  
Ever and eternally.

## **Sermon Text – Matthew 1:18-25**

### **Sermon**

*God's Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ  
Jesus, the Son of Mary*

### **Offertory**

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear. [Refrain]

### **Offering of Thankful Hearts**

#### **Prayer of the Church**

P: Lord God, You promised the virgin-born Son to reluctant King Ahaz, and in the fullness of time the Word became flesh. Open our hearts and strengthen our faith gladly to receive Your Son in the signs where He is present: not in signs of our own choosing, but in the Holy Word and Sacraments. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord God, preserve Your apostolic Gospel and its ministers. Cause the name and the resurrection of Christ Jesus to be proclaimed among all the nations, including among us who are called to belong to Him, that the obedience of faith may be brought about in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**



P: Lord God, it is Your will that we live chaste and decent lives in all that we say and do. Preserve all couples who are engaged to be married in faithfulness and honor, that they may come to their wedding day without fear, shame or disgrace. Since Christ is Immanuel, who saves His people from their sins, clothe all brides and grooms in the forgiveness of Jesus, in which all can stand before You cleansed and confident of Your blessing. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord God, You do not bear with the tiresome flattery and unbelief of kings and rulers forever. Have mercy on us, Lord, and spare our nation. Clear away all empty shows of piety and renew genuine faith in the virgin's Son, that His coming at the last may not be a sign against us. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord God, You named Your Son "Jesus" because He was born to save us from our sins. Give us repentant hearts. Do not let us bow to temptation or abuse His name by seeking our own way, but lead us to confess our sins and rejoice in His salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord God, look with kindness on the sick and those in any need [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is truly "God with us." Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; for You live and reign, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer**  
**Sermon Hymn #108**  
*We Sing, Immanuel, Thy Praise*

1. We sing, Immanuel, Thy praise,  
Thou Prince of Life and Fount of grace,  
Thou Flower of heaven and Star of morn,  
Thou Lord of lords, Thou Virgin-born.  
Hallelujah!

2. For Thee, since first the world was made,  
So many hearts have watched and prayed;  
The patriarchs' and prophets' throng  
For Thee have hoped and waited long.  
Hallelujah!

3. Now art Thou here, Thou Ever-blest!  
In lowly manger dost Thou rest.  
Thou, making all things great, art small;  
So poor art Thou, yet clothest all.  
Hallelujah!

4. From Thee above all gladness flows,  
Yet Thou must bear such bitter woes;  
The Gentiles' Light and Hope Thou art,  
Yet findest none to soothe Thine heart.  
Hallelujah!

5. But I, Thy servant, Lord, today  
Confess my love and freely say,  
I love Thee truly, but I would  
That I might love Thee as I should.  
Hallelujah!

6. I have the will, the power is weak;  
Yet, Lord, my humble offering take  
And graciously the love receive  
Which my poor heart to Thee can give.  
Hallelujah!

7. Had I no load of sin to bear,  
Thy grace, O Lord, I could not share;  
In vain hadst Thou been born for me  
If from God's wrath I had been free.  
Hallelujah!

8. Thus will I sing Thy praises here  
With joyful spirit year by year;  
And when we reckon years no more,  
May I in heaven Thy name adore!  
Hallelujah!

### **Prayer**

**P:** Let us pray...

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

**C: Amen**

### **The Benediction**

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

**C: Amen**

**Closing Hymn #647 (v.4)**  
***O Little Town of Bethlehem***

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

**Silent Prayer**

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