

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT—DECEMBER 19, 2021

A MOMENT OF SABBATH REFLECTION

“Rejoice, Rejoice!”

—setting, Cathy Moglebust

Resurrection Bells

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father,
and of ✝ the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.**

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

**We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.**

Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
 Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✝ your sins are forgiven.
 You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients
 of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
Amen.

***KYRIE**

(from the Greek "Kyrie Eleison," meaning "Lord, have mercy")



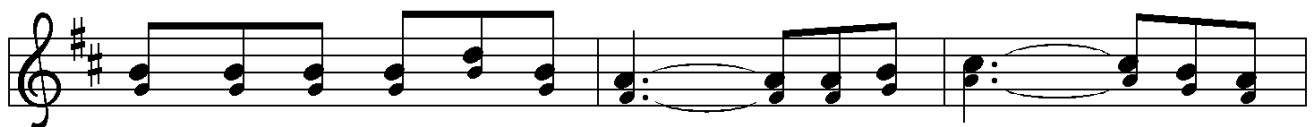
Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
 Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .



so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -
 mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on



dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
 us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.



Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
 Christ, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Christ, have . .



so - tros. Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie -
 mer - cy. Christ, . . have mer - cy on



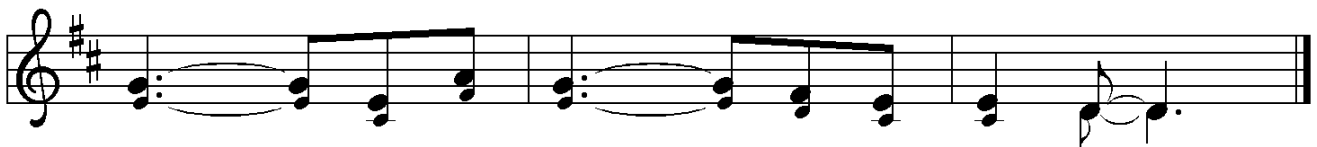
dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Christ, have . . mer - cy.



Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .



so - tros. mer - cy. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -
Lord, . . have mer - cy on



dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.
us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.

*GLORIA



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



¡Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria en las al - tu - ras a Dios!
Glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ria, glo - ry to God . . on high!



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.



Y en la tie - rra paz pa-ra_a-que-llos que_a-ma_el Se - ñor.
And on earth . . . peace to God's peo-ple. Glo - ry to God.

*BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray. Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.

As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.

O house of David, come,

**let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel,
comes to be with us. Amen.**

Light all the candles.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

ELW # 257

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,
embracing all things far and nigh:
in strength and beauty come and stay;
teach us your will and guide our way.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Let us 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. Amen.**

HANDBELL OFFERING

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

–Cathy Moglebust

Resurrection Bells

READING Micah 5:2-5a

²But 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.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And 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;
^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

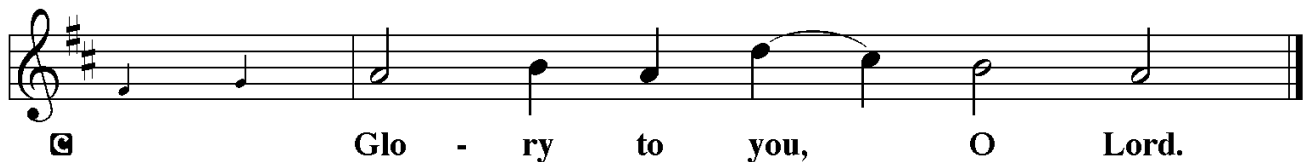
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

TEACHING MOMENT

*GOSPEL Luke 1:39-55

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.



³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness
of his servant.

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

⁴⁹for 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 the proud in the thoughts
of their hearts.

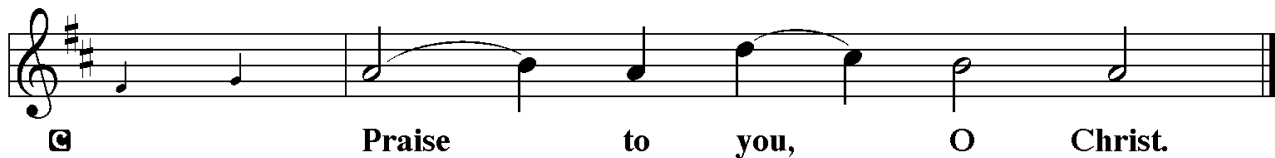
⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

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

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The gospel of the Lord.



HOMILY “In the Middle of It All”

Pastor Dave Helfrich

***SONG OF THE DAY** “Joy to the World”

ELW, # 267

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Public Domain

**Joy to the world,
the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth,
the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin
and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;**

he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world
with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will 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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need. May your comforting and healing presence be felt with all who suffer in mind, body or spirit.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

***EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming”

–Michael Praetorius

*Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow’ret bright, Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.*

*Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, The Virgin Mother kind.
To shew God’s love aright She bore to us a Saviour,
When half-spent was the night.*

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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**

HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONGS

“Canticle of the Turning” ELW # 723

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat

Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. One License #A-701897

**My soul cries out
with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,**

**And my spirit sings
of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.**

**You fixed your sight
on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,**

**So from east to west
shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

**Though I am small,
my God, my all,
you work great things in me,**

**And your mercy will last
from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.**

**Your very name
puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,**

**You will show your might,
put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

**From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.**

**The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn.**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

**Though the nations rage
from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:**

**God's mercy must
deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.**

**This saving word
that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,**

**Till the spear and rod
can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

COMMUNION HYMN “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

ELW # 295

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. Composite; Public Domain

**Of the Father’s love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending he,**

**Of the things that are,
That have...been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.**

**Oh, that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race,**

**And the babe,
The world’s redeem...er,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!**

**his is he whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word;**

**Now he shines,
The long-expect...ed;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.**

Let the heights of heav'n adore him;
Angel hosts, his praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him
And extol our God and King;

Let no tongue on earth be si...lent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant an high thanksgiving
And unwearied praises be:

Honor, glory, and domi...nion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.
A...men.

***COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

Amen.

***SENDING PRAYER**

***BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

–John Ness Beck



New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Used by permission. All rights reserved

Liturgy from Sundays and Seasons.com.

Copyright 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #21774.