

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ADVENT MID-WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE

December 14, 2022

ADVENT MID-WEEK CHRISTMAS SERIES
ANGELS: THE ULTIMATE DIVINE MESSENGERS OF HOPE

Advent Mid-Week 3

“The Angel Gabriel Brings a message of Hope
in the Midst of the Seemingly Impossible”

PRELUDE

Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace Handbell Choir

“O Worship the King” – Hayden/Callahan

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

PASTORAL WELCOME

INVOCATION *(stand)*

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of Holy Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of
the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true
heart and confess our sins unto God our Father,
beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,



C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

INVITATORY

P Behold, the King comes.

C Oh, come, let us worship Him.

OPENING HYMN *“From East to West” LSB 385*

1 From east to west, from shore to shore
Let ev’ry heart awake and sing
The holy child whom Mary bore,
The Christ, the everlasting king.

2 Behold, the world’s creator wears
The form and fashion of a slave;
Our very flesh our maker shares,
His fallen creatures all to save.

3 For this how wondrously He wrought!
A maiden, in her lowly place,
Became, in ways beyond all thought,
The chosen vessel of His grace.

4 And while the angels in the sky
Sang praise above the silent field,
To shepherds poor the Lord Most High,
The one great Shepherd, was revealed.

△ 5 All glory for this blessed morn
To God the Father ever be;
All praise to You, O Virgin-born,
And Holy Ghost eternally.

Text: Coelius Sedulius, 5th cent.; tr. John Ellerton, 1826–93, alt.
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THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus ✠ Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C And with your spirit.

KYRIE

P Lord, have mercy upon us.
C Lord, have mercy upon us.

P Christ, have mercy upon us.
C Christ, have mercy upon us.

P Christ, have mercy upon us.

C Christ, have mercy upon us.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, we ask that you be with us this evening as we open Your Word. Coach us, teach us and help us to see that there is nothing too hard for You. Speak to us, Oh Lord, and help us understand that Your will is the best and that You will never leave us nor forsake us. In Your Holy Name we pray.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 30:15-26*

¹⁵For thus said the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel,
“In returning and rest you shall be saved;
in quietness and in trust shall be your strength.”

But you were unwilling, ¹⁶and you said,

“No! We will flee upon horses”;

therefore you shall flee away;

and, “We will ride upon swift steeds”;

therefore your pursuers shall be swift.

¹⁷A thousand shall flee at the threat of one;

at the threat of five you shall flee,

till you are left

like a flagstaff on the top of a mountain,

like a signal on a hill.

¹⁸Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you,

and therefore he exalts himself to show mercy to

you.

For the LORD is a God of justice;

blessed are all those who wait for him.

¹⁹For a people shall dwell in Zion, in Jerusalem; you shall weep no more. He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you.

²⁰And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet your Teacher will not hide himself anymore, but your eyes shall see your Teacher. ²¹And your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, “This is the way, walk in it,” when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left. ²²Then you will defile your carved idols overlaid with silver and your gold-plated metal images. You will scatter them as unclean things. You will say to them, “Be gone!”

²³And he will give rain for the seed with which you sow the ground, and bread, the produce of the ground, which will be rich and plenteous. In that day your livestock will graze in large pastures, ²⁴and the oxen and the donkeys that work the ground will eat seasoned fodder, which has been winnowed with shovel and fork. ²⁵And on every lofty mountain and every high hill there will be brooks running with water, in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall. ²⁶Moreover, the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day when the LORD binds up the brokenness of his people, and heals the wounds inflicted by his blow.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 146

P Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**C I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**

P Put not your trust in princes,
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

**C When his breath departs he returns to the earth;
on that very day his plans perish.**

P Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the LORD his God,

**C who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is
in them, who keeps faith forever;**

P who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives
food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free;

**C the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts
up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the
righteous.**

P The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

**C The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion,
to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

NEW TESTAMENT *Revelation 2:1-29*

¹“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

²“I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. ³I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have

not grown weary. ⁴But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

⁸“And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

⁹“I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. ¹¹He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

¹²“And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: ‘The words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.

¹³“I know where you dwell, where Satan’s throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. ¹⁴But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food

sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality. ¹⁵So also you have some who hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. ¹⁶Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth. ¹⁷He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.'

¹⁸"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze.

¹⁹"I know your works, your love and faith and service and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed the first. ²⁰But I have this against you, that you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols. ²¹I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. ²²Behold, I will throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, ²³and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you as your works deserve. ²⁴But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. ²⁵Only hold fast what you have until I come. ²⁶The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, ²⁷and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself

have received authority from my Father. ²⁸And I will give him the morning star. ²⁹He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:26-38*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth

in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES’ CREED (*stand*)

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.
From thence 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.**

MESSAGE HYMN

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” LSB 356

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.”
Gloria!
- 2 “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.”
Gloria!
- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady,
Gloria!
- 4 Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.”
Gloria!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924; Basque, c. 18th cent.
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HOMILY

Rev. Dennis Wenholtz

**“The Angel Gabriel Brings a message of Hope
in the Midst of the Seemingly Impossible”**

OFFERTORY

“Prepare the Royal Highway” LSB 343 (verse 3)

- 3 Then fling the gates wide open
To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev’ry nation
Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him!
All nations, now adore Him! Refrain

Refrain

*Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God’s Word!*

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.
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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(stand)*

After each petition:

- P Let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**

After the final petition:

- P ... one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER

- P Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:
C **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.**

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**
P Prepare the way of the Lord.
C **Make His paths straight.**

BENEDICTION

- P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Savior of the Nations, Come” LSB 332 (v. 1-3, 7-8)

- 1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n 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 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

△ 8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546; (sts. 1–2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76; (st. 3): tr. Lutheran Service Book, 2006; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973; (st. 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001
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POSTLUDE

Organist