

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ADVENT MID-WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE

December 21, 2022

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

Advent Mid-Week 4
"Look He Is Alive!"

PRELUDE

Organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

Peace Handbell Choir

"Come, All Ye Shepherds" – arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson

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

“Angels from the Realms of Glory” LSB 367

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o’er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation’s story,
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth. *Refrain*

Refrain

*Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.*

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o’er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
Yonder shines the Infant Light. *Refrain*

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star. *Refrain*

4 Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear. *Refrain*

△ 5 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One. *Refrain*

Text (sts. 1, ref, 2–4): James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.; (st. 5): Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, Salisbury, 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 42:1-25*

¹Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

²He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

³a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.

⁵Thus says God, the LORD,

who created the heavens and stretched them
out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from
it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶"I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;

I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,

⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.

⁹Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them."

¹⁰Sing to the LORD a new song,
his praise from the end of the earth,
you who go down to the sea, and all that fills it,
the coastlands and their inhabitants.

¹¹Let the desert and its cities lift up their voice,
the villages that Kedar inhabits;
let the habitants of Sela sing for joy,
let them shout from the top of the mountains.

¹²Let them give glory to the LORD,
and declare his praise in the coastlands.

¹³The LORD goes out like a mighty man,

like a man of war he stirs up his zeal;
 he cries out, he shouts aloud,
 he shows himself mighty against his foes.
¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
 I have kept still and restrained myself;
 now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
 I will gasp and pant.
¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
 and dry up all their vegetation;
 I will turn the rivers into islands,
 and dry up the pools.
¹⁶And I will lead the blind
 in a way that they do not know,
 in paths that they have not known
 I will guide them.
 I will turn the darkness before them into light,
 the rough places into level ground.
 These are the things I do,
 and I do not forsake them.
¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
 who trust in carved idols,
 who say to metal images,
 "You are our gods."
¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
 and look, you blind, that you may see!
¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
 or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
 Who is blind as my dedicated one,
 or blind as the servant of the LORD?
²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;
 his ears are open, but he does not hear.

²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
 to magnify his law and make it glorious.
²²But this is a people plundered and looted;
 they are all of them trapped in holes
 and hidden in prisons;
 they have become plunder with none to rescue,
 spoil with none to say, "Restore!"
²³Who among you will give ear to this,
 will attend and listen for the time to come?
²⁴Who gave up Jacob to the looter,
 and Israel to the plunderers?
 Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned,
 in whose ways they would not walk,
 and whose law they would not obey?
²⁵So he poured on him the heat of his anger
 and the might of battle;
 it set him on fire all around, but he did not
 understand;
 it burned him up, but he did not take it to heart.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 24

- P The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,
 the world and those who dwell therein,
- C for he has founded it upon the seas
 and established it upon the rivers.**
- P Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
 And who shall stand in his holy place?
- C He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
 who does not lift up his soul to what is false**

and does not swear deceitfully.

P He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

**C Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O
ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**C Who is this King of glory? The LORD, strong and
mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle!**

P Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O
ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**C Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory!**

NEW TESTAMENT *Revelation 9:1-2*

¹And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a
star fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to
the shaft of the bottomless pit. ²He opened the shaft of the
bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke
of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened
with the smoke from the shaft.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 1:39-45*

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into
the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the
house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when
Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her
womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she
exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this
granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to
me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to
my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed
is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what
was spoken to her from the Lord."

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

“When All the World Was Cursed” LSB 346

- 1 When all the world was cursed
By Moses’ condemnation,
Saint John the Baptist came
With words of consolation.
With true forerunner’s zeal
The greater One he named,
And Him, as yet unknown,
As Savior he proclaimed.
- 2 Before he yet was born,
He leaped in joyful meeting,
Confessing Him as Lord
Whose mother he was greeting.
By Jordan’s rolling stream,
A new Elijah bold,
He testified of Him
Of whom the prophets told:
- 3 Behold the Lamb of God
That bears the world’s transgression,
Whose sacrifice removes
The devil’s dread oppression.
Behold the Lamb of God,

Who takes away our sin,
Who for our peace and joy
Will full atonement win.

- 4 O grant, dear Lord of love,
That we receive, rejoicing,
The word proclaimed by John,
Our true repentance voicing,
That gladly we may walk
Upon our Savior’s way
Until we live with Him
In His eternal day.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt.
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HOMILY

Rev. Dennis Wenholz

“Look He Is Alive!”

OFFERTORY

“Prepare the Royal Highway” LSB 343 (verse 4)

- 4 His is no earthly kingdom;
It comes from heav’n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
For kindness so abounding: *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 “Angels We Have Heard on High” LSB 368

1 Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

Refrain

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav’nly song? *Refrain*

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

Text: tr. The Crown of Jesus, 1862, Part 2, London, alt.; French

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POSTLUDE

Organist