

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ADVENT MID-WEEK WORSHIP SERVICE

December 7, 2022

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

Advent Mid-Week 2

“An Angel of the Lord Brings a Message of Hope
in the Midst of Fear and not knowing”

PRELUDE

Organist

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

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” LSB 357 (verses 1, 4-7)

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

Refrain

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,
Free them from Satan’s tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave. *Refrain*

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death’s dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Text: Public domain

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 You will be the best and that You will never leave us nor forsake us. In Your Holy Name we pray.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 24:1-13*

¹Behold, the LORD will empty the earth and make it desolate,

and he will twist its surface and scatter its inhabitants.

²And it shall be, as with the people, so with the priest;

as with the slave, so with his master;

as with the maid, so with her mistress;

as with the buyer, so with the seller;

as with the lender, so with the borrower;

as with the creditor, so with the debtor.

³The earth shall be utterly empty and utterly plundered;

for the LORD has spoken this word.

⁴The earth mourns and withers;

the world languishes and withers;

the highest people of the earth languish.

⁵The earth lies defiled

under its inhabitants;

for they have transgressed the laws,

violated the statutes,

broken the everlasting covenant.

⁶Therefore a curse devours the earth,

and its inhabitants suffer for their guilt;

therefore the inhabitants of the earth are scorched,
and few men are left.

⁷The wine mourns,

the vine languishes,

all the merry-hearted sigh.

⁸The mirth of the tambourines is stilled,

the noise of the jubilant has ceased,

the mirth of the lyre is stilled.

⁹No more do they drink wine with singing;

strong drink is bitter to those who drink it.

¹⁰The wasted city is broken down;

every house is shut up so that none can enter.

¹¹There is an outcry in the streets for lack of wine;

all joy has grown dark;

the gladness of the earth is banished.

¹²Desolation is left in the city;

the gates are battered into ruins.

¹³For thus it shall be in the midst of the earth

among the nations,

as when an olive tree is beaten,

as at the gleaning when the grape harvest is done.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *72:1-7*

P Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!

**C May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!**

P Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!

**C May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,**

and crush the oppressor!

P May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!

**C May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!**

P In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

NEW TESTAMENT *1 John 1:1-2:17*

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an

advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. ³And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: ⁶whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

⁷Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment that you had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word that you have heard. ⁸At the same time, it is a new commandment that I am writing to you, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. ⁹Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. ¹⁰Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. ¹¹But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

¹²I am writing to you, little children,
because your sins are forgiven for his name’s
sake.

¹³I am writing to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the
beginning.
I am writing to you, young men,
because you have overcome the evil one.
I write to you, children,
because you know the Father.

¹⁴I write to you, fathers,
because you know him who is from the

beginning.

I write to you, young men,
because you are strong,
and the word of God abides in you,
and you have overcome the evil one.

¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions—is not from the Father but is from the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 1:18-25*

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

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

¹⁸Now 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. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

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

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

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

“If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee” LSB 750 (v. 1-3,7)

- 1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee
And hope in Him through all thy ways,
He'll give thee strength, whate'er betide thee,
And bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
Builds on the rock that naught can move.
- 2 What can these anxious cares avail thee,
These never-ceasing moans and sighs?
What can it help if thou bewail thee
O'er each dark moment as it flies?
Our cross and trials do but press
The heavier for our bitterness.
- 3 Be patient and await His leisure
In cheerful hope, with heart content
To take whate'er thy Father's pleasure
And His discerning love hath sent,
Nor doubt our inmost wants are known
To Him who chose us for His own.
- 7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,
Perform thy duties faithfully,
And trust His Word; though undeserving,
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.
God never yet forsook in need
The soul that trusted Him indeed.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.; Georg Neumark, 1621-81 Text: Public domain

HOMILY

Rev. Dennis Wenholz

**“An Angel of the Lord Brings a Message of Hope
in the Midst of Fear and not knowing”**

OFFERTORY

“Prepare the Royal Highway” LSB 343 (verse 2)

- 2 God's people, see Him coming:
Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *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

"The Night Will Soon Be Ending" LSB 337 (Tune: LSB 527)

- 1 The night will soon be ending;
The dawn cannot be far.
Let songs of praise ascending
Now greet the Morning Star!
All you whom darkness frightens
With guilt or grief or pain,
God's radiant Star now brightens
And bids you sing again.
- 2 The One whom angels tended
Comes near, a child, to serve;
Thus God, the judge offended,

Bears all our sins deserve.
The guilty need not cower,
For God has reconciled
Through His redemptive power
All those who trust this child.

- 3 The earth in sure rotation
Will soon bring morning bright,
So run where God's salvation
Glows in a stable's light.
As old as sin's perversion
Is mercy's vast design:
God brings a new creation—
This child its seal and sign.
- 4 Yet nights will bring their sadness
And rob our hearts of peace,
And sin in all its madness
Around us may increase.
But now one Star is beaming
Whose rays have pierced the night:
God comes for our redeeming
From sin's oppressive might.
- 5 God dwells with us in darkness
And makes the night as day;
Yet we resist the brightness
And turn from God away.
But grace does not forsake us,
However far we run.
God claims us still as children
Through Mary's infant Son.

Text: Jochen Klepper, 1903–42; tr. Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007
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POSTLUDE

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