

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 22, 2024
"Secure in the Strength of Our Lord"

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #354 "Arise, O Christian People"



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
2 Pre - pare the way be - fore Him; Pre - pare for Him the
3 The hum - ble heart and low - ly God rais - es up on
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -



day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
best. Cast out what would of - fend Him, This great, this
high; Be - neath His feet in ter - ror The haugh - ty
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed



sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
heav'n - ly guest. Make straight, make plain the way: The
soul shall lie. The heart sin - cere and right, That
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come



truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
low - ly val - leys rais - ing, The heights of pride a -
heads God's in - vi - ta - tion And makes true prep - a -
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es



heav - en To all the world is shown.
bas - ing, His path all e - ven lay.
ra - tion— It is the Lord's de - light.
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 32:5; 80:7; 124:8*

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.
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: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

C: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

P: We have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.

C: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

P: Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in His name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this Lord, unto us all.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P: Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life." (*John 8:12*)

C: We light these candles anticipating the coming light of Christ.

P: Until that day, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

(The Advent candles are lit)

THE PSALM OF THE DAY *Psalm 80, selected verses*

P: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel.

C: You who lead Joseph like a flock!

P: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth,

C: stir up Your might and come to save us!

P: Restore us, O God;

C: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

P: O LORD God of hosts,

C: how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?

P: You have fed them with the bread of tears

C: and given them tears to drink in full measure.

P: You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,

C: and our enemies laugh among themselves.

P: Restore us, O God of hosts;

C: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

THE KYRIE *(page 204 in the hymnal)*

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mer-cy; Christ have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mer-cy; Christ have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

P: For the Holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mer-cy; Christ have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mer-cy; Christ have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Lord, have mer-cy; Christ have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come among us with great might; and because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Micah 5:2-5a (ESV)

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me One who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore He shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of His brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And He shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth. And He shall be their peace.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE Hebrews 10:5-10 (ESV)

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, He said, "Sacrifices and offerings You have not desired, but a body have You prepared for Me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings You have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do Your will, O God, as it is written of Me in the scroll of the book.'" When He said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then He added, "Behold, I have come to do Your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE VERSE "Let All Together Praise Our God" (#389 verses 1 & 7)

**Let all together praise our God
Before His glorious throne;
Today He opens heav'n again
To give us His own Son,
To give us His own Son.**

**Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore
And praise to God the Father yield
And Spirit evermore.
We praise You evermore.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:39-45, 46-56 (ESV)

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has looked on the humble estate of His servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to His offspring forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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.

(please be seated)

THE MEMORY VERSE from Luther's Small Catechism, The Lord's Supper

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: "forgiveness of sins."

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #352 *"Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord"*



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

**5 Bruise for me the serpent's head
That, set free from doubt and dread,
I may cling to You in faith,
Safely kept through life and death.**

**6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.**

THE SERMON *“Secure in the Strength of Our Lord”* Text: Micah 5:2-5a

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS

THE CHOIR #403 *“O Savior of Our Fallen Race”*

The congregation is invited to please stand and join in singing the final verse:

**O Christ, Redeemer virgin-born
Let songs of praise Your name adorn,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit evermore. Alleluia!**

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the words: “Lord, in Your mercy,” “hear our prayer.”)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #333 "Once He Came in Blessing"



1 Once He came in bless - ing, All our sins re -
2 Now He gent - ly leads us; With Him - self He
3 Soon will come that hour When with might - y
4 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re -



dress - ing; Came in like - ness low - ly,
feeds us Pre - cious food from heav - en,
pow - er Christ will come in splen - dor
lease us. Keep our hearts be - liev - ing,



Son of God most ho - ly; Bore the cross to
Pledge of peace here giv - en, Man - na that will
And will judg - ment ren - der, With the faith - ful
That we, grace re - ceiv - ing, Ev - er may con -



save us; Hope and free - dom gave us.
nour - ish Souls that they may flour - ish.
shar - ing Joy be - yond com - par - ing.
fess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

Text (sts. 2-3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001990
Text (sts. 1, 4) and tune: Public domain

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS