

Fourth Sunday in Advent



Sunday, December 24, 2017

Immanuel Lutheran Church

**1440 Cortlandt St.
Houston, TX 77008
ImmanuelHouston.org
713-864-2651**

As We Gather

What a letdown when people break their promises! A father tells his ten-year-old son, “I know I promised to be at your soccer game, but something has come up.” Maybe we have been a victim of a broken promise like this, or perhaps we’ve been the one who’s broken a promise. In today’s Gospel, however, we see a promise kept. The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will conceive and bear a Son. This pledge to Mary is part of the ongoing fulfillment of God’s promises. When we see this promise kept in the coming of Jesus, we have the assurance that we can always trust God that He acts according to His Word. Our heavenly Father never breaks His promises!

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

Pastor King

Sharing of the Peace

356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

LSB 356



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



With wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
All gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
“To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.
In Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
“My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
“Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy.” Glo - ri - a!

Public domain

Opening Sentences *Psalm 89:1*

Pastor King

P I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;
C with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness,
to all generations.

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C the light no darkness can overcome.

P Let Your light scatter the darkness
C and illumine Your Church.

(Light Advent Wreath during hymn)

Reproducible Congregational Page

We Light the Advent Candle

Lisa M. Clark

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
Swedish, 17th cent.



1 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And wait for Christ to
2 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And thank the Lord for
3 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And sing with cheer - ful
4 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And share the won - drous



come. With hope, we trust the pro - mise That
rest. With peace, we know our Je - sus Has
heart. With joy, we spread the mes - sage That
Word. With love, we tell of Je - sus Till



He will bring us home. Our hope is in our
come to be our guest. This peace be - yond all
God would us im - part. Our joy is nev - er
all a - round have heard. God's love is for all



Sav - ior Who wins for us God's fav - or.
know - ing With - in our hearts is glow - ing.
end - ing; The Son to us is send - ing.
na - tions Through - out His whole cre - a - tion.

Refrain



We wait with grow - ing light Till



God makes all things right!

Text: Copyright © 2013 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: Public domain

[Permission is granted to reproduce this page for use December 3, 2017–February 11, 2018. The above copyright notice must appear on each reproduction.]

Invocation

Pastor King

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 89:5

- P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people, let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

- C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

- P** "Let the heavens praise Your wonders, O Lord, Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!"

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.

WORD

Salutation

Pastor King

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.

O Lord, You fulfilled Your promise to Mary that she would conceive in her womb and bear the Son of the Most High,

- C** **grant that we would hold fast to all Your promises in certain confidence of Your faithfulness;**

- P** through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** Amen.

King

God's Covenant with David

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Romans 16:25–27

Pastor

King

Doxology

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse **Congregation speak**

Matt. 1:23a

Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26–38

Pastor King

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

Birth of Jesus Foretold

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.

Children's Sermon

Pastor Perez

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest all things
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from Sa - tan's
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 might - i - ly; To us the path of knowl - edge show,
 Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst give the Law
 tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y pow'r to save,
 heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that leads on high,



Un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 And close the path to mis - er - y. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!
 Em - man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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

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

Public domain

Sermon

Pastor Perez

Apostles' Creed

Pastor King

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.**

Prayer of the Church

Pastor King

P Let us come before our Lord in prayer, asking Him to hear our prayer and grant us love.

Lord of love, during this season of Advent, prepare our hearts that we would be made ready to receive Your Son as He comes in His incarnation and birth. Make us ever ready for His final coming on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer and grant us love.**

P Lord of love, You have called Your Church to bear witness to Christ's redeeming work. Grant that we boldly proclaim the Good News of the One who brings joy to the world through His life, death, and resurrection, that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer and grant us love.**

P Lord of love, You have instructed us to pray for workers in your harvest field. Raise up faithful and loving teachers of Your Word so that Christ may be proclaimed near and far. Make us Your instruments to encourage and equip individuals for work in Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer and grant us love.**

P Lord of love, we ask that You stretch forth Your almighty arm to protect the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces of our land. Support them, granting them courage and loyalty. Strengthen them to serve with integrity and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer and grant us love.**

P Lord of love, You are the creator and sustainer of all things. According to Your will, grant healing to those who suffer in body and mind. Look with favor upon Your servants, especially those on our prayer list and those we lift up in our hearts . . .], and if it is Your will, restore them to health, or give them grace to accept tribulation, knowing that Your grace is sufficient for them. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer and grant us love.

P Lord of love, thank You for calling us to be Your people through Holy Baptism. Give comfort and peace to those who mourn, especially the families of Edna, Reba, and MinnieLee,... giving them the sure confidence that through our Baptisms, that we and all have died in the faith will be resurrected and reunited on the last day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer and grant us love.

P Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy and Your promise to hear us for the sake of the One in whose name we come, Your Son, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

Offering

Stand

349 Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349 st. 1

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.

Public domain

Lord's Prayer

Pastor King

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom 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.

Collect

Pastor King

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart, from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Benediction

Psalm 89:1; Numbers 6:24–26

P I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;
C with my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

P 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.

C Amen.

Announcements

Pastor King

370 What Child Is This

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Public domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Part 1. Copyright © 2017 Concordia Publishing House.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.