

**Zion Lutheran Church  
Glen Rock, PA  
Fourth Sunday of Advent  
LBW Setting One  
Sunday, December 19, 2021**

\*We stand as we are able.

**Introduction to the day**

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE**

\***LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:**

**"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel" (LBW 34, verse 4)**

\***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (LBW p. 56)**

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  $\text{†}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

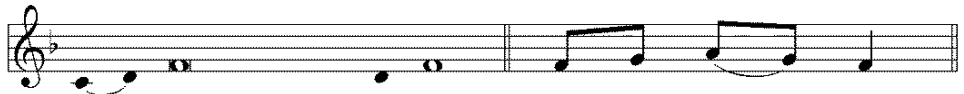
**\*ENTRANCE HYMN: “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” LBW 31 vs. 1, 3**

**\*APOSTOLIC GREETING (LBW p. 57)**


The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE (LBW p. 57)**



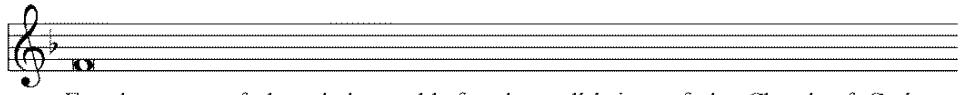
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



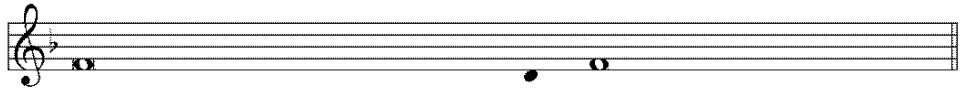
**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.




**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



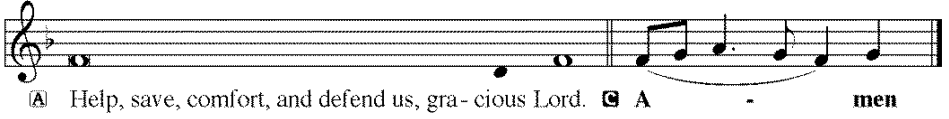
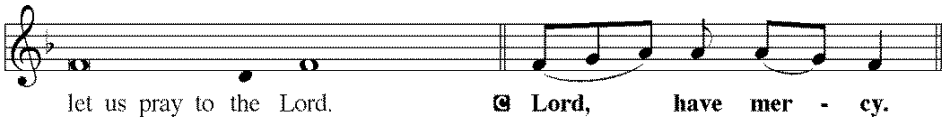
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



**\*HYMN OF PRAISE: “People Look East” (WOV 626, verse 4)**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW p. 62)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen**

**FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a**

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55** (This is not a responsive reading.)

<sup>46b</sup>“My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,

and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

**SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10**

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’

(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup>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), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes

the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God’s will that we have

been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (LBW p. 62)**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

<sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[ <sup>46</sup>And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

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and lifted up the lowly;

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and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME AND SERMON (LBW p. 83)**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: "The King Shall Come"**

**LBW 33 vs. 1, 2**

**\*APOSTLES CREED (LBW p. 64)**

With the whole church, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

**\*THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (LBW p. 65)**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

**\*PEACE (LBW p. 66)**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Staying in your pew, please exchange the peace with those around you as appropriate. Wave to folks in other pews.*

**\*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE: (LBW p. 75)**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER (LBW p. 67)**

Let us pray.

Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

**\*DIALOGUE (LBW p. 68)**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

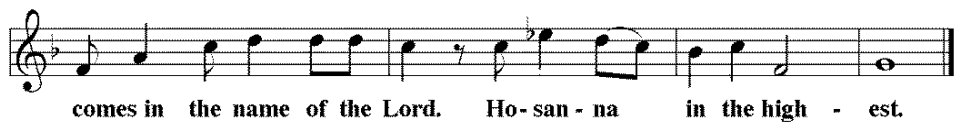
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**\*PREFACE (LBW p. 68)**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





**\*THANKSGIVING (LBW p. 69)**

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish,  
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you  
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

**\*LORD'S PRAYER (LBW p. 71)**

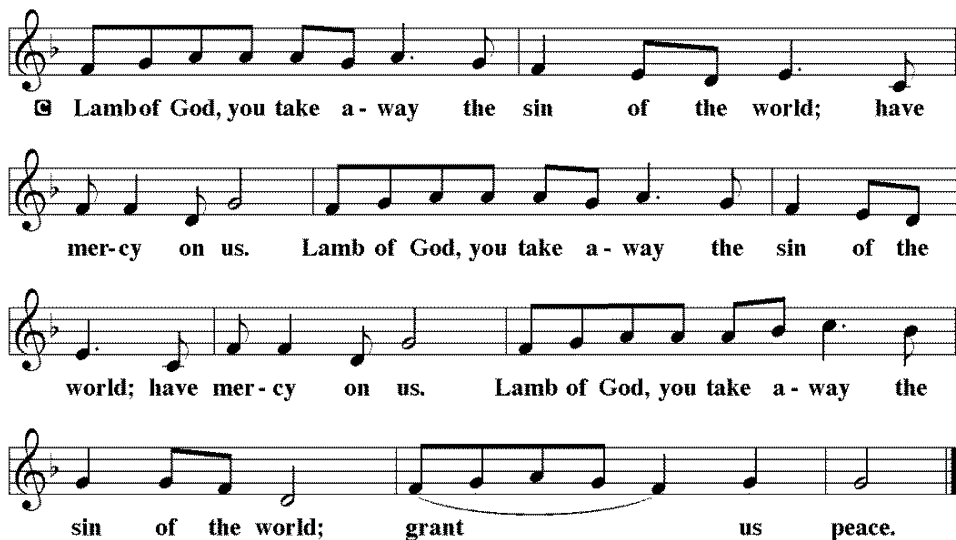
Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**\*COMMUNION HYMN (LBW p. 72)**



**☩** Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

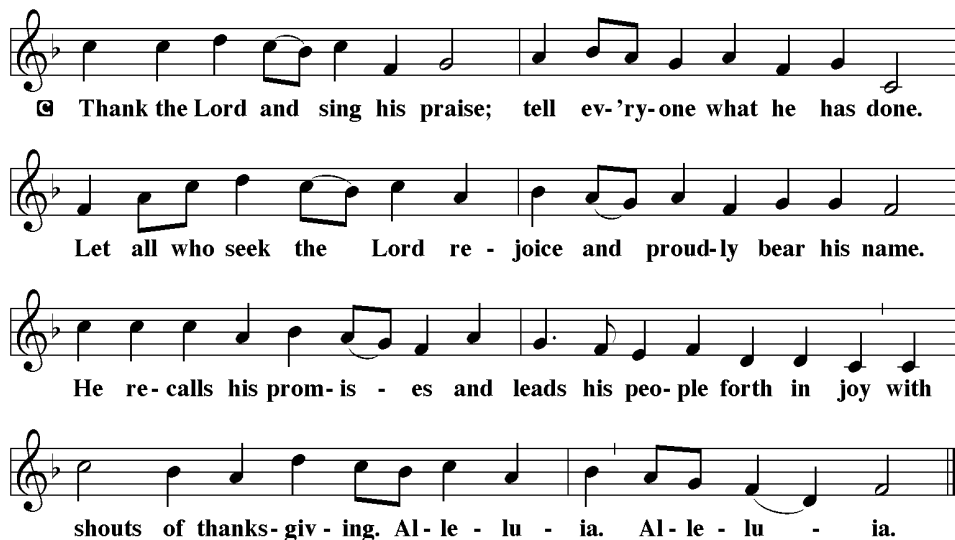
**COMMUNION (LBW p. 72)**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

**\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING AND CANTICLE (LBW p. 72)**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**



**☩** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear his name.  
He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy with  
shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (LBW p.74)**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

### **\*BLESSING (LBW p. 74)**

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.

**Amen**

### **\*SENDING HYMN: “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”      LBW 23 vs. 1, 2**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **\*DISMISSAL (LBW p. 74)**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Today’s communion elements are sponsored by Michael Warns & Rick Freda.

Today’s altar flower arrangement is presented in celebration of the life of gratitude and kindness of Helen E. Myers, by Rebecca Myers.

## **SCRIPTURE TEXT FOR SUNDAY 12/26/21**

Lessons and Carols Sunday

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Kelly Allen, Kristi McCullough King, Warren Laughman, Randy McCullough,  
Don Miller, Brian Phelps, Gloria & Jim Ream, Diane Smith,  
LeMos & Susette Stallard, Karl & Annette Steger

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Services are videotaped and streamed live each week.** It is possible during recording that people attending the service will be filmed. If you have any concern about being filmed, please contact the office at 717-235-3276.

**At the regular meeting of the Council on Monday, 12/6, the Council, recognizing a spike in Covid cases in York County, voted to suspend social time until after the holiday season, and strongly recommends wearing masks the whole time you are in the church building.**

**The family of Rose (Chandler) Bell invites you to send Christmas greetings to Rose this holiday season.** Cards and letters can be sent to: RoseJean Bell #117, Fox Subacute, 120 S. Filbert St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

**CHRISTMAS... a time for giving and sharing! The Christian Education Committee will be collecting Gifts of Warmth** once again this year (hats, scarves, mittens, etc.) to adorn our Christmas Tree which has been relocated to the rear of the sanctuary. The tree will be set up December 5 through January 2, 2022. Although all donations for children, teens, women, and men are greatly appreciated, there is a great need for hats, scarves, gloves and socks for men, particularly large sizes. All donations will be delivered to the Salvation Army in York at the end of the collection period. **As we prepare for the birth of our Savior, let us remember the true spirit of the season and share God's bountiful blessings.** We understand that these are difficult times and that donations may not be as fruitful this year. In speaking with a representative of the Salvation Army, they were thrilled to learn that we will be continuing this tradition and remember Zion with grateful hearts. Questions may be directed to any member of the Committee: Lois Goodling, Jeff Hoffman, Pam Hoffman, Bill Ream, Gloria Ream, Jim Ream, Pam Spangler, Bev Reindollar, Chair, Evelyn Roser.

**Christmas Eve Service will begin at 7pm at Zion on Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.** There will be no Carolers' Concert at Zion on Christmas Eve.

**Upcoming Lectors:**

Dec. 19 – Sandy Fair

Dec. 24 – George Brown

**Council Offering Duty:**

December – Rick Freda and Susie Hengst

**Altar Care:**

December – Diane Bortner and Donna Price

**If you desire pastoral care or conversation, please contact Pastor Katie Brantner at 717-420-0779.**

**COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Donna Price, Joy Keller-Brown, Tom Bailey, Susan Hengst, George Brown, Carrie Miller, Edgar Davis and Gevene Harden, Rick Freda