

First Sunday in Advent

December 1 , 2024



Lisle

Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
920 15th Street
Perry, Iowa

PRELUDE

Introduction

Introduction

Joy and Celebration

by Rev. Sarah A. Speed

You are a blessing.
If you hear nothing else,
If the wind howls,
If your brain runs amok,
If rebuttals and denials line up like little toy soldiers
Then hear *this*—
You are a blessing.

I knew it from the first moment I met you
And learned there are 7 billion of us on this planet
I knew it in my bones,
The way my feet know the way home.
You are a blessing.

For our creating God
Breathed life into your being.
And there is simply no way that,
Along with that life,
Some of God's goodness
Didn't slip right in.

So tell the rebuttals to rest.
Tell the toy soldiers to find another hill,
Because this one is reserved for joy and celebration.
You are a blessing.
Breathe it in.

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle and Advent Hymn

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us begin with the good news! Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God. Let us begin with music and singing! Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.

Yes, let us begin with hope. Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.

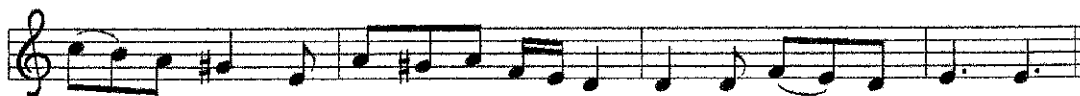
Advent Hymn:ELW#240

vs. 1

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

May hope flow forth from here.

Amen!

Confession and Forgiveness

In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel tells Mary two things: that she is highly favored, and that she is going to have a child.

Mary's response to this news is simple. With awestruck authenticity, she asks, "How can this be?"

Every time we approach the prayer of confession, I ask myself this same awestruck question, "How can this be?" How can God's mercy know no end? How can God be so gracious with someone as fickle as me?

Regardless of the week we have had, this good news never changes. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in the prayer of confession, and may God's mercy leave you awestruck.

Let us pray:

Affirming God,

Your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good." You spoke affirmations through the prophets. You spoke blessings over Mary. You spoke belonging through Christ.

At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray,

Amen.

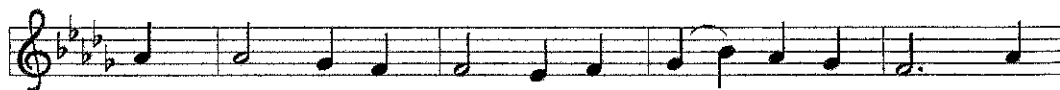
Family of faith, I don't know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are. I don't know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God. I don't know the last time you trusted those words and believed that you are a blessing. However, in case it has been a while, hear these words from Isaiah:

God says, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine."

We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.

When Peace, like a River
It Is Well with My Soul



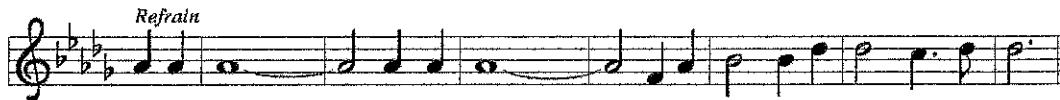
1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives—oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888

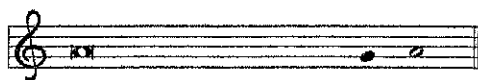
Music: VILLE DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

Greeting

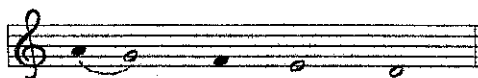
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

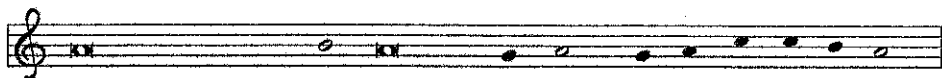
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



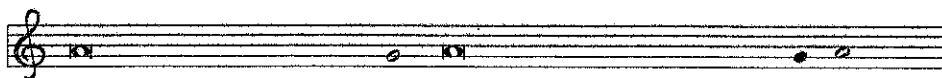
Lord, have mer - cy.



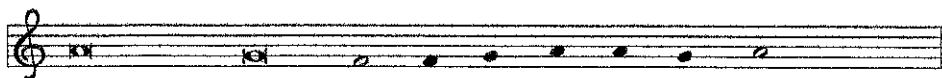
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



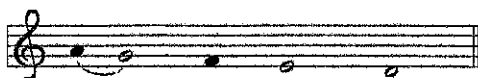
Lord, have mer - cy.



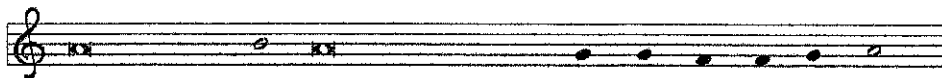
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



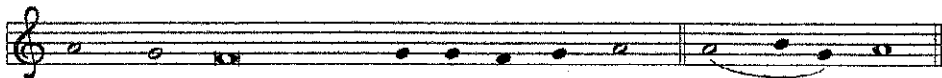
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,




let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.


Hymn of Praise

Assisting minister

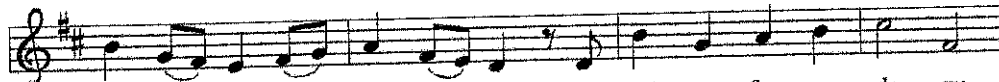


Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.


All



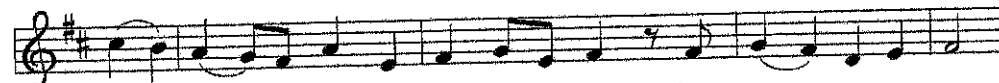
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.




Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,




you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Prayer of the Day

Affirming God, **how often do you speak to us, and how often do we miss it? How often do you whisper blessings over us that we refuse to hear? Open our hearts. Create space in us to not only hear these words, but to believe the good news tucked between them. We are hungry for your wisdom, so speak to us now. With hope and curiosity, we listen. With hope and curiosity, we dare to begin again. Amen.**

The First Reading is from Chapter 43 of Isaiah

But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name; you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you,

I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you; ⁶ I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth— ⁷ everyone who is called by
my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made." The
word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 40:1-5

I waited patiently for the Lord;

he inclined to me and heard my cry.

2 He drew me up from the desolate pit,

out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock,

making my steps secure.

3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.

**4 Happy are those who make the Lord their trust,
who do not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after false gods.**

5 You have multiplied, O Lord my God,
your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with you. Were I to proclaim and tell of them,
they would be more than can be counted.

The Second Reading is from the first chapter of Ephesians

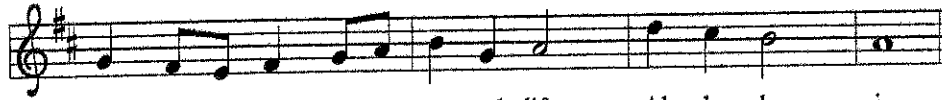
³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us.

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."^{[29} But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He 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 ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"^{[35} The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^{l 1} will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon

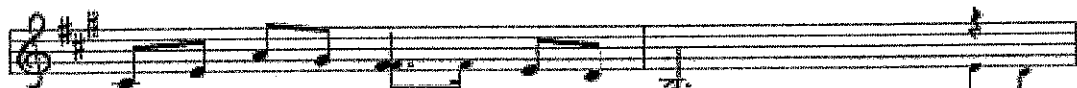
HYMN

You Are Mine

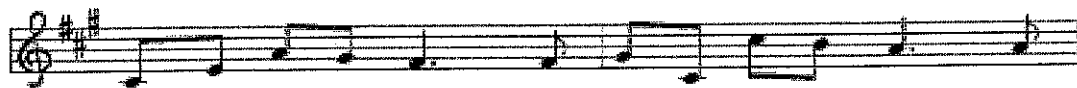
ELW#581



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



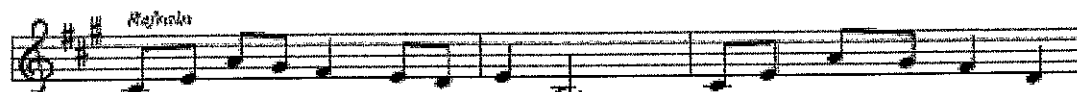
I will lift you from all your fear. (2) In the
I am eyes for all who long to see.
heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
all will know my name. *To refrain*
up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me. I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine."

To stanza 3 and 4

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a blessing God who calls us Beloved. We believe that this blessing showed up in the life of Mary, and was also bestowed upon the hemorrhaging woman, the poor in spirit, the children, the crowds, the Jews, the Gentiles, the faithful and the doubting.

So in faith, we trust that God's blessing, like ripples on the water, forever reaches toward us. And with wild hope, we believe that because of this blessing, we are covered in love. We are more than enough! Thanks be to God. Amen.

Prayers of the People

God of blessings, once again we find ourselves standing at the beginning of the month, at the beginning of the Advent season, at the beginning of this new day, bringing our hearts to you. Meet us here, gracious God. Hear our prayers and offer your words of blessing.

A brief silence.

Thank you, generous God, for the people who, like the angel Gabriel, help us see you in our midst. Thank you for faith mentors, for friends that greet us with hugs and smiles at church, for the saints who have gone before us, for Sunday school teachers, and youth leaders. Thank you for these saints and the ways they always point us toward you. Pour out your blessings on them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Similarly, we give you thanks for the people who, like Mary, have shown us what it looks like to trust our beloved-ness. Thank you for the folks in our lives who have acted with fierce bravery, trusting their call and your words of blessing. Their faith and conviction inspires our own. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Though we count this day as a new beginning, the words and messages of the past still cling to us. Blessing God, we lift up those of us who have ever been told that we are unworthy or not enough by this demanding society. We pray for those who have ever been discouraged from chasing a dream or been made to feel small. We pray for those of us who know insecurity and dance with self-doubt. We pray for all who hear your words of blessing and want to respond, "How can this be?" Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let this day be a new beginning, Creator God. Erase our memories of self-doubt. Erase the "How can this be?" questions from our minds. Erase our insecurities and fears, and in their place, fill our hearts with trust. Fill our spirits with conviction. Fill our minds with knowledge that, like Mary, we are made in your image; that, like Mary, we are good. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of blessings, on this new day, we pray: speak your words of blessing once again. Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation of your blessings and for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

With hope in our hearts, **we pray.**

With hope in our hearts, **we gather.**

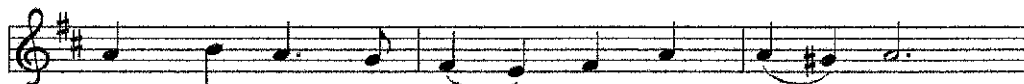
With hope in our hearts, **we begin again.**

Meet us here, Blessing God, as we lift to you the songs of thankfulness and praise. May our songs come from hearts that overflow with the awareness of all that you have given us. May our songs join with those who surround your throne, singing their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



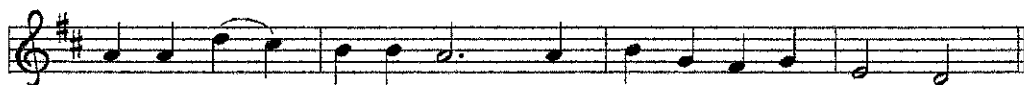
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Give us peace, Grant us peace, Grant us peace.

Words of Institution

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

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.

Invitation to the Table

Come to the table and catch a glimpse of what is now, the love of God given for you and the blessings of God pours down from above.

Communion Song



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, grant us peace.

Communion Blessing

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

Prayer after Communion

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation, for the cup of blessing. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for blessing us with mercy and grace, and for sending us into the world. Amen.

Blessing

As you leave this place, may you have the courage to hold onto hope, and the compassion to do the good that is yours to do, and the confidence to trust that God sees you as a blessing. In the name of Christ, our new beginning. **Amen.**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

DISMISS IN PEACE

Go in peace. You are a blessing.

Worship Leaders for December

December 8 - Huntingtons

December 15 - Nelsons

Fellowship for December

December 8 - Claire, Liz and Bev

December 15 - Golays

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The Locks on the exterior doors have been changed. There is a keypad on the south door leading into the kitchen. If you would like to have access to the code talk with any council member, Pastor Kim or Theresa

Please purchase a gift card in any amount to put toward a Christmas donation to those needing a little lift through the season. It can be a Visa card or Amazon or grocery. Whatever is easiest for you. Please return to the church by December 15. Thank you



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