Saturday, December 18, 2021 and Sunday, December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

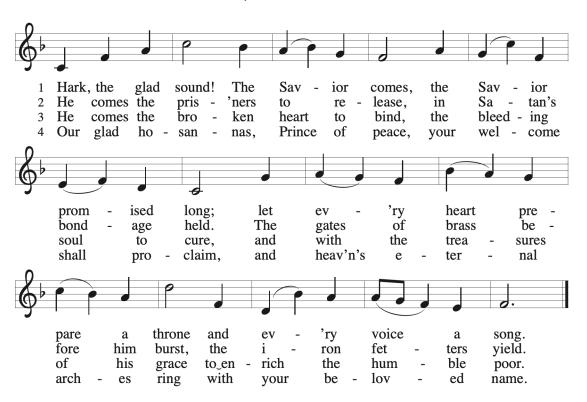
Apostolic Greeting

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

A: And also with you.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 239: "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

Hark, the Glad Sound!



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. A: Lord, have mercy.

A: Lord, have mercy.

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

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. A: Lord, have mercy.

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

let us pray to the Lord. A: Lord, have mercy.

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

Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

²But 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.
³Therefore 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.
⁴And 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;
^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

⁸When 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), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Gospel Acclamation:

P: Alleluia.

A: Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.

P: Alleluia.

P: The Gospel according to Luke.

A: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW 244: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Prayers of Intercession

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

P: 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.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: 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 (*especially*). Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

A: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

A: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

Announcements

Offertory Prayer

P: Savior of the nations, come.

A: Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you. A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts. A: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. A: It is right to give our thanks and

praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

(ELW 413, Verse 2)

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, which wert and art, and evermore shalt be.

Thanksgiving at the Table

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **A: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

A: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

A: 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 Communion

P: Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

Communion Distribution

Communion Songs

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" (ELW 282) sung by the congregation

"Once in Royal David's City" (ELW 269) as interpreted by Dan Gresh

Prayer After Communion

P: We thank you, God our host,

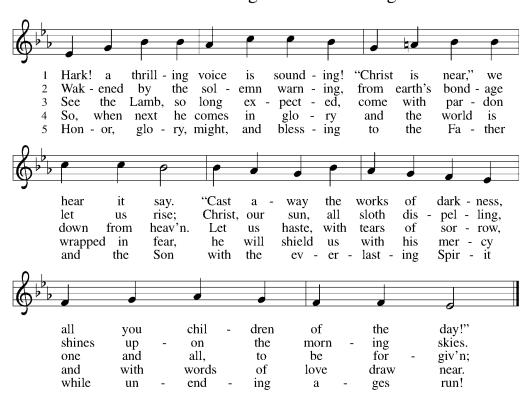
A: for inviting us here to taste the future when you will feed all the hungry at your table. Keep this hope alive in us and in our communities, so that we might bring hope to a suffering world, in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

P: May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, \pm Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.

Sending Song: ELW 246: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"



Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878 Music: MERTON , William H. Monk, 1823–1889

Sending

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.