

## *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**December 19, 2021**

9:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary



**In response to rising case numbers and in an effort to continue being able to worship in person, we strongly request that everyone mask when inside the building regardless of vaccination status.**

### **Announcements**

#### **Prelude**

#### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

**☞** Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **☞ Amen.**

**☞** Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**☞** God for whom we wait,

**☞ in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace Amen.**

**☞** God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **☞ Amen.**

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** *Let us pray ...* 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.

## \*LIGHTING ADVENT CANDLES

### ADVENT LIGHTING HYMN *O Come O Come Emanuel* (vs 4)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

### **First Reading: 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 80:1-7 (To be read responsively.)**

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**<sup>2</sup>In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**<sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**<sup>6</sup>You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

### **Second Reading: 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:** Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**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. <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."

☐ The Gospel of the Lord. ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**PAGEANT**

*Youth*

**YOUTH BELL CHOIR**

*Away in A Manger*

*Youth*

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

*Youth*

**\*CREED**

☐ Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

☑ **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**

## **\*Prayers of the Church**

- 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. **C** **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. **C** **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. **C** **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. Hear us, O God. **C** **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. **C** **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. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God. **C** **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. **C** **Amen.**

## **\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- P** The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts. **C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**
- P** 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.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

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.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**☩ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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. **☩ Come, Lord Jesus.**

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. **☩ Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**ℙ** 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**

**ℙ** Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
 the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
 and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## Post Communion Prayer

**P** Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **C Amen.**

## Blessing

**P** The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**C Amen.**

*Everyone Is Invited To Sing The Sending Hymn While Remaining Masked*



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”  
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876  
Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900

**Dismissal**

**☐** Go in peace. Christ is near. **☑** Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

Reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* copyright © 2006  
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #SB105031

**Please be advised that worship services are recorded and/or  
live-streamed on social media.**

**Today's Altar Flowers** are placed to the Glory of God and in memory of Dean Hinish  
and Stephen Hinish from the Mary Lou Hinish Family.



## Serving God and Us

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Pianist/Organist – Dr. Adam Smith/Mary Nelson

Our Administrative Assistant – Lori Tremmel

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Bell Choir – Lily and Lucy Lightner, Jay Hoenstine, Gavin Kuster, Gabrielle Decker, Calleigh Wright, Benjamin Decker, Camden Kuster, Norah Kuster

Our Lector (10:30 a.m.) – Youth

Our Acolyte (10:30 a.m.) – Norah Kuster

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

**Fourth Quarter Ventures in Faith to “*United Lutheran Seminary*”**

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Shirley Acker, Carl & Dawn Alexy, John Aljets, Vivian Beach, Verna Blough, Fred Brandenburg, Clyde Claycomb, Betty Helsel, Jere Hess, Audrey Hite, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Janet Kreider, Joan Partner, Ginny Sell, Dan Sinal, Don Smith, Bill Stahl, Joy Williams.

**Prayer Concerns:** Amy & Family, Pastor Denise Arpino, Diane Baer, Cindy Barnes, Randy Barrett, Diane Cappel, Greg Comer, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Shelby Gerrity, George Gilbert Sr., Dan Hershberger, Joe Hinton, Shearl Hite, Barrett Hoover, Marilyn Horton, Darren Kreutzer, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Nathan, Aunt Mica, Murtle Miller, Deb Peters, Dan Ross, Dorothy Ross, Paul Ruth, Barbara Smith, Don Smith, Luther Steele, Dawn Theofield, Cindy Thomas, Norm Tremmel, Carol Weyandt, Jean White, Pete Williams, Jim & Ginny Zeek, Jody Zelanko, and for our **Missionaries: Rev. Lesley Hand, On Eagle’s Wings, Elizabeth Hendrickson.**

**Our college students:** Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jacob Orczeck.

**Those Serving in the Army Overseas:** Nathan Smith (Germany)

## **Office Hours This Week:**

Pastor Traci – Wednesday 1-4 p.m.

Office Hours – Mon.-Fri. - 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Lori)

## **This Week Events**

Today – Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship in Sanctuary with Children's Program 10:30 a.m.

Picture taking in Fellowship Hall for Pictorial Directory,  
following worship

Monday - Employee Meeting, Christian Ed. Office 10:00 a.m.

January Messenger Deadline for articles

Boy Scouts 6:30 p.m. FH

Wednesday Yoga 5:00 p.m. FH

Friday- Office Closed

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 & 9:00 p.m. in Sanctuary

Sunday – Worship on FACEBOOK 9:30 a.m.

**Last day 2021 Donations/Offerings**

## **Worship Schedule for December**

In December we will have ONE Sunday service each week.

**10:30AM Worship in the Sanctuary**—Full Spoken Liturgy of Word & Sacrament  
(Communion)

This will be the recorded and live-streamed service.

**Christmas Eve Services: December 24** will have two traditional Candlelight  
Communion Services at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

**Sunday, December 26** will be a **recorded service** of Lessons & Carols and will be  
available on Facebook at 9:30 a.m. and after.

## **Readings for the Week:**

**Monday** Psalm 113; Genesis 25:19-28; Colossians 1:15-20. **Tuesday** Genesis 30:1-24; Romans 8:18-30. **Wednesday** Luke 1:46b-55; Micah 4:1-5; Ephesians 2:11-22. **Thursday** Micah 4:6-8; 2 Peter 1:16-21. **Friday (Nativity of Our Lord)** Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20). **Saturday (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas)** Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52.



## Mitten Tree

Please bring elementary school – age children’s mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, earmuffs or socks to be hung on the “*Mitten Tree*” from now until **TODAY, December 19<sup>th</sup>**.

These will be distributed by the school nurse at the Spring Cove Elementary Schools for children needing these items. Donations of money can be given by marking a pew envelope “*Mitten Tree*”, and the money will be used to purchase needed items.

*Let’s help children have a warmer winter!*



**New Photo Directory:** Carlos Lamborn will be taking pictures for the new photo directory after the 10:30 a.m. service **TODAY**.

There will be no charge for the pictures and if you would like a copy of the picture so you can have it reproduced just ask Carlos or Mike.

**Name Tags:** In the Narthex are name tags that the Evangelism Committee would like for us to use so we can get to know one another again since the Pandemic. Please return them at the end of the service.

## Martinsburg Food Pantry

As 2021 ends, we, at the Food Pantry, want to thank St. Matthew members who have contributed food, paper items, personal or cleaning supplies or monetary gifts during this year! It's been greatly appreciated in helping to serve those families in need. We ask for your prayers and continued support.

The Food Pantry will be open on Thursdays, January 6 and January 20 from 9:00 to 11:00am. It will open when needed by appointment. Volunteers from St. Matthew will be assisting in the distribution of food. If you can help, please let Elaine Buchart know for either Thursday.

**The January Items most needed are:** Ravioli, Pasta Sides, Pineapple, Jello, and Cleaning Supplies. THANK YOU! *Linda K. Smith*



## Altar Guild Volunteers

Looking for volunteers who would like to serve on Altar Guild. Responsibilities include preparing Communion elements (wafers and wine), taking care of the candles, and preparing the sanctuary for worship.

Preparations for Easter and Christmas require a little more time. Usually Altar Guild members need only serve two months during a calendar year. Please direct any questions and inquiries to Jane Fagans at [jfagans@atlanticbb.net](mailto:jfagans@atlanticbb.net), landline at 793-4401, or text at 327-0786.

*Christ gives us love and support in the fellowship of the church. He gives us the bread of life and the cup of blessing in the Holy Communion. Christ's Spirit fills us with songs of thanksgiving for all that God has done for us.*

*In response to all this and all of God's other mighty acts, we are called to offer ourselves to Christ's service. The basic motivation for service is gratitude.*



## SNOW CAMP 2022

Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>  
Camp Sequanota, Jennerstown, PA



**Snow Camp is for 6<sup>th</sup> – 12 Graders**  
**Games, Crafts, Food, Sledding, Worship, Learning**  
**Accommodations in Sequanota's Winterized Cabins**

Join with youth from around the Allegheny Synod  
As we regroup and rediscover what it means to take part in

## HOLY COMMUNITY

Space is limited! Registration will be open from  
January 15<sup>th</sup> to February 13<sup>th</sup>

Register Online at [www.sequanota.com](http://www.sequanota.com)

See brochure on Narthex bulletin board for more information.