

4th Sunday of Advent – ELW 8

December 21, 2025 – 8:15 & 10:45 am

Accompanist

Dave Vagts

Liturgist

8:15 - Lois Kern/10:45 -

ELW = the red hymn book underneath your seat. Hymns are located in the back of the book.

† indicates stand as able

Gathering

Prelude: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Bell Choir

Welcome

† Confession and Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

God who was and is and is to come,

Despite our best intentions, even our deepest desires, we find ourselves time and again turning away from you to follow after other gods—possessions, people, comforts—in an effort to fill the hole that only you can. In so doing we have harmed ourselves, others, and your holy creation by what we have said and done, and by the things we have neglected to do. Open our eyes to see that you alone are the source of our wholeness. Forgive us our wrongs and inspire us to the work of making them right, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ.

Beloved of God, like the prodigal son, you are always received home with great joy. Your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. Go forth in newness of life. **Amen.**

† *Lighting the Advent Wreath*

John wrote of the Word made flesh.

**Jesus, you are that Word, who lived among us as a human being.
We light the first candle in expectation of your Coming.**

We light the second candle in hope of new life in you.

We light the third candle in anticipation of your fulfillment of
God's word.

**We light the fourth candle in wonder at your choice to become one
of us.**

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW 247

Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Come now, O God of love, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile your people.

Come now and set us free, O God, our Savior.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

Come, Hope of unity, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.

† *Gathering Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ELW 283

O come, all ye faithful,

joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

come and behold him,

born the king of angels:

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord!

The highest, most holy,
light of light eternal,
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father
now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Liturgy of the Word

† 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

ELW p. 184

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry

and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and
family; for life and for love, for our work and our play,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and
the Word;

that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way,

Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

† Prayer of the Day

God of light and life,

You sent us your Word so that we might know you fully and
see your glory, full of grace and truth. Hold us close as we join
all of creation in singing a new song to you, for you continue
to do marvelous things. **Amen.**

Choir Anthem: Night of the Father's Love

Adult Choir

Reading: Psalm 130: 5-8

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; | my soul waits;
in your word | is my hope.

⁶My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for
the morning,

more than those who keep watch | for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast

love;

with the LORD there is plen- | teous redemption.

⁸For the LORD shall | redeem Israel
from | all their sins.

† *Gospel Acclamation*

ELW p. 188



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

† *GOSPEL: John 1: 1-18*

The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st chapter.

Glory, to you, O Lord.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the

light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Kelly Ahrens

Sermon

Pastor Beth Wartick

Hymn of the Day: Of the Father's Love Begotten

ELW 295

Of the Father's love begotten
ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed,
when the virgin, full of grace,

by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers in old time
chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected;
let creation praise its Lord
evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heav'n adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
ev'ry voice in concert ring
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory, and dominion,
and eternal victory
evermore and evermore! Amen.

† Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to
the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 Intercession

Trusting in the promise of Jesus' advent among us, we pray for
the church, the world, and all those in need.

Loving God, you have given us the immeasurable gift of the Word
made flesh. May his light abide within us as we strain with
anticipation toward the fulfillment of your promise in this holy
season. God who was, and is, and is to come, **we lift our prayers
to you.**

Through the Word all things were created—land and sea, sun
and moon, plant and animal, and humans among them. Keep us
ever mindful of our dependence upon the natural world, that we
might treat it as your dear creation. God who was, and is, and is
to come, **we lift our prayers to you.**

It can be difficult, Lord, to pause from all our preparations and
rest in your presence. Renew our spirits and prepare our hearts
to receive the gift of your son. God who was, and is, and is to

come, **we lift our prayers to you.**

The darkness has not overcome your light, O Lord. Shine into the lives of those who struggle to see it, clouded by worries, challenges, or crises. Send healing and wholeness to all who suffer (especially...) God who was, and is, and is to come, **we lift our prayers to you.**

With John and all who proclaimed your promised Messiah, we join the chorus of praise. Tune our voices to glorify you always with the choir immortal. God who was, and is, and is to come, **we lift our prayers to you.**

Steadfast and loving God, gather these prayers we have offered, both aloud and silent, into your loving arms, for we know that you are faithful and will never abandon us. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

† Peace

Liturgy of the Meal

***Offering:** RLC Ministry relies on your generosity. You can make a gift in support of our ministry by placing it in the offering plates as they are passed, or by scanning the QR to give securely online. Thanks!*



Offering Song

Drive Out the Darkness

Offering Prayer

You create us new each day, God. You redeem us. You sustain us. Because of you, we come to worship ready to offer so much—our time, our energy, our ideas, our inspirations, and our resources. Bless all these as we strive to use them well, following your example of giving, embodied. In Jesus' name. **Amen.**

† Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.

† Thanksgiving at the Table

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn:

† Holy Holy Holy

ELW p.190

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

† Eucharistic Prayer

† Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,

Padrenuestro

***Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu nombre.
Venga tu reino.
Hágase tu voluntad
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas
como también nosotros
perdonamos a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es
el poder y tuya es la gloria,***

now and forever. Amen.

ahora y siempre. Amén.

Communion

If you are communing at home, receive the bread with the words “The Body of Christ given for you,” and the cup with “The blood of Christ shed for you.”

Lamb of God

ELW p. 191

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Communion Hymn: He Came Down

ELW 253

He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.

He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.

Sending

Announcements

† Blessing

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

† Sending Song: Savior of the Nations, Come **ELW 263, v. 1-5**

Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth; God has chosen such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

Wondrous birth—oh, wondrous child—from his throne, a virgin mild!
Very God, and Mary's son, eager now his race to run!

From God's heart the Savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command, back to reign at God's right hand.

Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.

† Dismissal

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2007 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #29193. CCLI License #2549594 One License with Podcasting #A-714837 Christian Copyright Solutions #12903

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.