

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 19, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska, 402-662-3125
Jonathan Jensen, Transitional Minister, 402-768-3665

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Luke 1:46b-55)

P: And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

C: for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

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

**C: for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.**

P: His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

**C: He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

P: He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

**C: he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.**

P: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to
our ancestors,

C: to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING LITANY

P: "And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has
looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me
blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name'" *(Luke 1:46-49).*

Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the
Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history
with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought
down and the lowly lifted up.

**C: Today we give thanks for the Marys among us, who step out of the roles society has planned;
unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith,
and beckoning us to do the same.**

P: On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of
the Way.

The candle is lit during singing of the Advent Hymn

ADVENT HYMN: "We Light the Advent Candles"

**1. We light the Advent candles against the winter night, to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the
world's True Light, to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light.**

**5. Four candles burning brightly announce that Christ has come. Prepare, my heart, believe it,
and give the Christ child room. Prepare, my heart, believe it, and give the Christ child room.**

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In this season of light, let us go before God and confess how our words and actions contribute to the darkness instead of adding to the light. *[Silence for reflection]* God of Love and Light,

C: We confess that we are not always the light-bearers you desire us to be. We shine a spotlight on the transgressions of others while trying to keep our own sins hidden in the dark. We burn bridges by being impatient, opinionated and judgmental. We inflame others by lashing out in anger. We go through our days enveloped in the gloom of fear and doubt. We let our witness become a smoldering ember until it dies out completely.

Forgive us Jesus, the Everlasting Light. Come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel. Teach us to walk as children of light, surrounded by your love, forgiveness and healing. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

P: God is light, and in God there is no darkness as all. If we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin. 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 Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

All: 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. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON – 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.

THE SECOND LESSON – 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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (*Noisy offering is taken at this time.*)
(*Children are excused to go downstairs for Sunday School.*)

THE HOLY 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." [

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

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

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

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

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

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: "What Child Is This" LBW 40

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray,

C: God of Light, our world is a very dark place. Therefore, we offer the gifts our ourselves, our time and our resources, trusting you will use them to set the world aglow with your loving presence. May our offerings continue to shine brightly before others so they may see our good works and give glory to you. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

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 PEOPLE

P: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

THE 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 him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary...

All: (spoken) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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. 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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION HYMNS: **LBW 34, LBW 41, LBW 50**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING:

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

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

All: 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.

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: **"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"** **LBW 25**

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here! If you are a visitor, please sign the guest book and feel welcome to come again. You are invited to come downstairs for refreshments and fellowship following worship.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Ray Boevink, Dustin Fritch, Sara Miley, Melvin Dorf, Robert Jurgens, Dora Schoen and our shut-ins.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Ashley Peterson (Dec. 20), Tyler Harms, Kyle Knoche (Dec. 21), Ross Kaufman (Dec. 22), Jaxon Hill (Dec. 23).

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Jesse & Amanda Farmer (12-19-15).

BELOVED/SUNDAY SCHOOL will have a dress rehearsal of the Christmas Program this morning immediately after worship until 11:30 a.m.

SUNMART RECEIPTS: Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts! SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called "Support Our Schools and Churches." All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (or give to a council person). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached our goal of \$150,000 two times so far and are starting over again with a balance of about \$95,000.00. You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don't want and give them out – first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE: You can find our church website at www.filleylutheranchurch.com or by scanning this QR code:



BULLETIN ITEMS are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call or text Britan Meints at (308)-730-0599 or email her at britanrace@gmail.com

BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND on our website, filleylutheranchurch.com. Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Britan at britanrace@gmail.com with your email address.

COMING UP:

Every Wednesday – BeLoved/Confirmation, 4:00-5:30 p.m. (no classes on, Dec. 22, Dec. 29)
Friday, Dec 24-6:00 pm Christmas Eve Children's Program and Candlelight service.

WORSHIP HELPERS

Transitional Minister – Pastor Jonathan Jensen, 402-768-3665

Council – Dave Norton-President (402-520-3555), Virgil Jobman-Vice President (402-310-6339), Carol Frerichs-Secretary (402-223-7919), Brenda Hippen-Treasurer (402-688-4466), Linda Searcey-at large (402-223-8237).

Reader: Susan Frerichs

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video: Brad Frerichs

Accompanist: Sarah Harder; Next Week: Sarah Harder

Fellowship: Delores Huls; Sandy Flesner