

# *Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham*

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**December 18, 2022 – The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**10:30 AM - Communion Service/ WOV Setting 5 - Bread of Life**

You can find the live stream can at the following locations:

[www.facebook.com/durhamlutheran](https://www.facebook.com/durhamlutheran)  
[www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran](https://www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran)

## **Introduction to Worship**

*Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.*

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome**

## **Confession and Forgiveness (Stand if you are able)**

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**C: Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God of new beginnings,

**C: we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your**

**creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

P: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on ✠ Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Opening Hymn – “The King Shall Come” ..... ELW 260**

**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.

**C: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray. . . Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

(Please be Seated)

**First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16**

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!*

L: The First Reading is from the seventh chapter of Isaiah

<sup>10</sup>The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

## Lighting the Fourth Candle of the Advent Wreath

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" .....ELW # 257 vs. 4

*Place figures in Manger*

### Blessing Prayer

Chase: Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we wait and dream for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" .....ELW # 257 vs. 8

*Lighting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Candle*

### Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

*Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

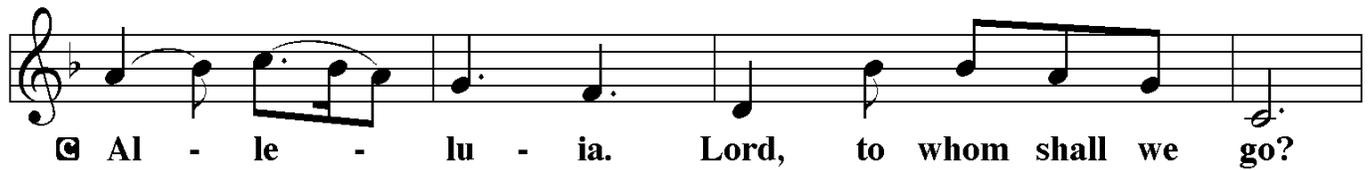
L: The Second Reading is from the first chapter of Romans.

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: The Word of the Lord

**C: THANKS BE TO GOD**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Please stand)..... WOV pg. 31**



**The Holy Gospel - Matthew 1:18-25**

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the first chapter:

**C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

P: <sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

(Be seated after the gospel)

**Children's Message**

**Sermon**

## The Nicene Creed

**C:** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers and Intercessions:

P: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

P: God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery (especially). God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

### Sharing of the Peace

### Offering

**Offertory Choir Anthem – “Is There Room at the Manger for Me?” - Mary Kay Beall**

**Presentation of the Gifts ..... WOV pg. 34**



Offertory: "Let the Vineyards" ..... WOV pg. 35



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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**Offertory Prayer**

P: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**The Great Thanksgiving** ..... **WOV pg. 36**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: AND ALSO WITH YOU**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: WE LIFT THEM TO THE LORD.**

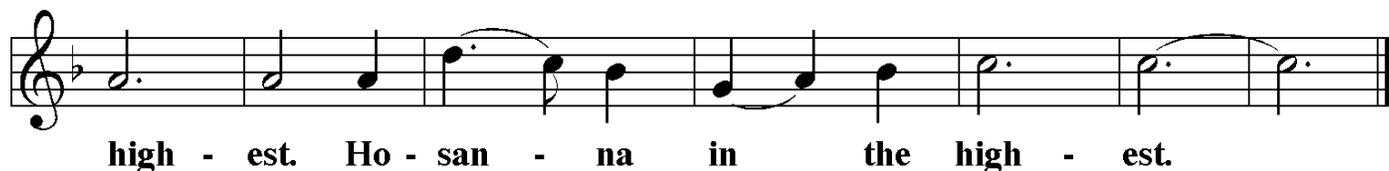
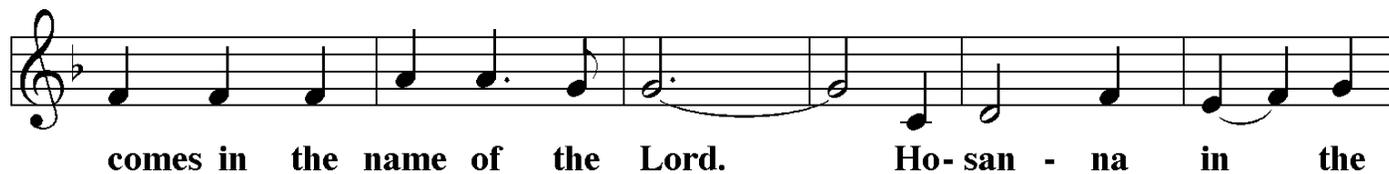
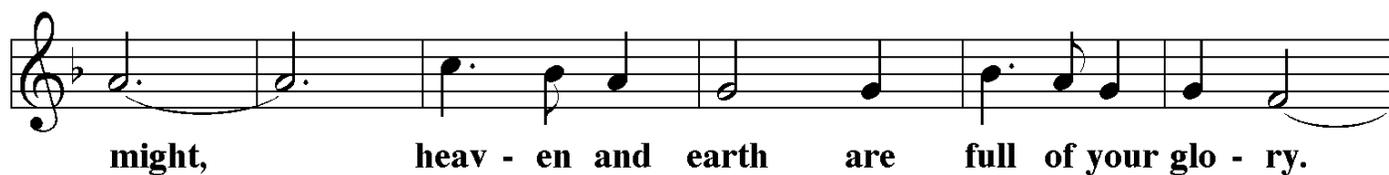
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE OUR THANKS AND PRAISE.**

### Preface

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. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord"** ..... **WOV pg. 36**



**Eucharistic Prayer (said by Pastor)**

**The Lord's Prayer**

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

**C: 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: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

**"Lamb of God" ..... WOV pg. 39**



**☩ 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.**

**Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow ushers)**

**Hymn during Distribution- "What Child is This?" ..... ELW 260**

**Communion Table Blessing (said by Pastor after all have communed)**

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Prayer after Communion (said by Pastor)**

P: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Announcements** ..... (congregation please be seated)

**Blessing**

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

**Sending Song: "Joy to the World" .....ELW 267**

**Dismissal:**

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Postlude**

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**Helping in Worship**

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Organist/Choir Director	Carolyn Williams
Acolyte	Samantha Mueller
Altar	Linda Sauter & Mark Harwick
Lector	Bonnie Pyne dePortillo
Greeters	Aquino family
Communion Usher	Ben Naska
Council Counting Team	Cathy Mueller & Kathy Hlavaty
Administration & Technology	Ken Anderson
Custodian	Dianna Streletz



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THIS WEEK ACTIVITIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
<b>Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT</b>
Sunday, December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Following worship	Christmas Caroling to Shut-ins
Sunday, December 18 <sup>th</sup>	4:00 PM	Blue Christmas Service @ St. Peter's, Riegelsville
<b>SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD / CHRISTMAS EVE</b>

**NOTE: There will be no Wednesday Bible study this week or next week.**  
**Bible study will resume on January 4.2023**

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD / CHRISTMAS DAY - Service of Lessons and Carols</b>
<b>SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>THE NAME OF JESUS - Service of Lessons and Carols</b>

***OFFICE CLOSED THE WEEK BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS.***

### BAPTISMS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARY

	<b>BIRTHDAYS</b>		<b>ANNIVERSARIES</b>		<b>BAPTISMS</b>
19	Bob Starling			18	Ken Anderson
20	Val McGinn	21	Kathy & Joe Hlavaty (48)		
23	Scott Gaun, Clayton Helfrich	26	Cheryl & Wayne Mesko (46)	23	Coraline Trauger



DECEMBER "OUTREACH OFFERINGS" are designated for the Upper Bucks Code Blue Shelter. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex for Food Basket donations. You can either buy the supplies for the basket or Helen Dungan can shop for you.



### Reverse Calendar Challenge!

Its not too late to join our Reverse Advent Calendar challenge. (Instead of taking something OUT of the calendar each day, we're putting a nonperishable food item IN a box each day!)

The challenge ends on January 8 when we find out which church in the PALM Ministry Group has collected the most. The winning church will enjoy a free dinner cooked and served by the other churches in the group.

### Please lift up in prayer the following ...



**For Healing of those in our Congregation:** Michael Altemus; Joanne & David Antoni; Frank Erceg; Virginia Hager; Betty and George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Barbara Naska; Donnie Pyne; Linda Sauter; and Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

**For Healing of Friends and Family:** Wanda Altemose; Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Michael Barats; Anthony Beck; Jason Bigley; Kelly Bordelon; Emma Brown; Ollie Butler; Deb Carmichael; Stephanie Courtney; Miriam Deal; Rev. Dennis Durasoff; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Chris Fear; Fred Foerster; Gerry Foran; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Penni Griffith; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Lauren Keebler; Martine King; Jane Litzenberger; Chelsea Marley; Lenny Marin; Jim McAnally; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Debra Patten; Lisa Pezzino; Jennifer Phelps; Dr. Larry Rakowski; Tom Ross; Connie Rugen; Linda Sauter; Lani Schlegel; Debbie Schultz; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Shawn Stadt; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Saxton Vargo; Nancy Vetter; Linda Wilson, and Henry Wong.

**For those who are Homebound:** Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Phyllis Lanshe; Jayne Miller; Silas Rodenbach; and Hal Taylor.

**For the grieving:** Mary Ellen Jonczyk; Lisa Pezzino; Jeffrey Tapler; Donald Seipt