



SOTC Worship  
December 18, 2022  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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GATHERING

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL

ELW 250

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*After Pastor Aleese calls the congregation to confession, the congregation prays together:*

Let us pray:

**God of today and tomorrow, when Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's house where Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her. How often do we have that same opportunity? How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off? How often do we choose to shower critique or judgment instead of blessings and joy? Gracious God, forgive us our wrongs. Lead us toward you, and toward one another, that we might see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ,

God delights in you, and God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth and says,

"Come home. There is room for you here!"

In God's gracious embrace, *you* are blessed.

In that moment, *you* are forgiven.

In that moment, *you* are seen, healed, and welcomed home.

So rest in this good news: in the name of Jesus Christ +, you are saved by grace.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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.**

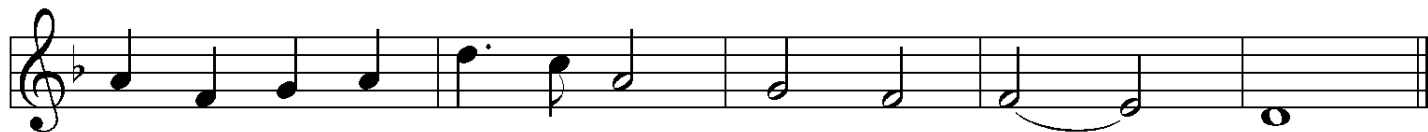
KYRIE



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray -

**Eternal God, we wait with hope for the coming of your Son into our hearts and into our world. Prepare our hearts for the brightness of your glory and for the fullness of your truth, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

————— **WORD** —————

CHILDREN'S SERMON AND ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

*In preparation to receive God's Word, we light the Christ candle and pray for God's Word to be illuminated in our midst. Take a moment for silent reflection.*

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.

## PSALM: PSALM 113

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

**Praise, O servants of the LORD;  
praise the name of the LORD.**

<sup>2</sup>Blessed be the name of the LORD  
**from this time on and forevermore.**

<sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its setting  
**the name of the LORD is to be praised.**

<sup>4</sup>The LORD is high above all nations,  
**and his glory above the heavens.**

<sup>5</sup>Who is like the LORD our God,  
who is seated on high,

<sup>6</sup>who looks far down  
on the heavens and the earth?

<sup>7</sup>**He raises the poor from the dust,  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,  
<sup>8</sup>to make them sit with princes,  
with the princes of his people.**

<sup>9</sup>He gives the barren woman a home,  
making her the joyous mother of children.  
**Praise the LORD!**

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-55

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

**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."

<sup>56</sup>And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

<sup>57</sup>Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you O Christ**

SERMON

HYMN

UNEXPECTED AND MYSTERIOUS

ELW 258

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always!  
**And also with you!**

*Congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with others. Pull out your cell phones and send a text and/or a picture to someone, sharing the peace of Christ with them as well!*

————— MEAL —————

OFFERING

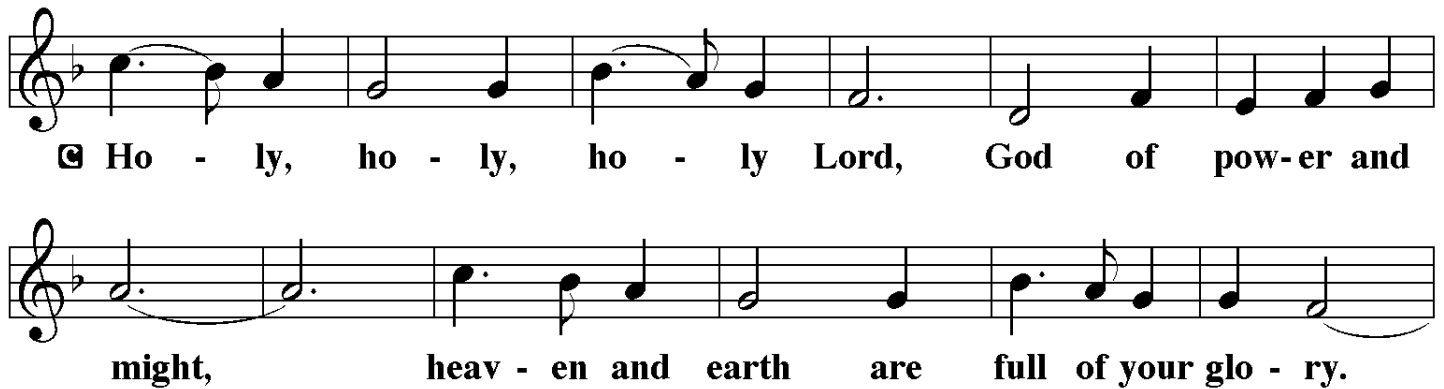
OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



**Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and**  
**might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.**

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

#### EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit... To you, almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

#### COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Together we receive God's gift of love given to us in the sacrament of communion. All are welcome at the table, where Christ is our host.*

*Following the directions of the ushers, the congregation will be invited forward in groups. Each group will stand before the altar to receive the bread and wine/juice. After receiving both bread and wine, remain with your group until Pastor Aleese offers a short blessing, dismissing each group to return to their seats. Those not desiring to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.*

LAMB OF GOD

**♩** 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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

————— SENDING —————

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

ALL EARTH IS HOPEFUL

ELW 266  
(vs. 1,2,4)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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Prayers written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. Adapted Rev. A. Kenitzer.