

Big Grove Crow River Grace Parish

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December 19, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome in Jesus' name.

We extend a special welcome to guests and visitors.



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WELCOME TO WORSHIP

December 19, 2021

Forth Sunday of Advent

Prelude/Procession/Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting

*Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(Silence for Private Confession)

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

*Hymn: "Hark! The Glad Sound!"

ELW #239

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
and ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,

and with the treasures of his grace
to enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

"Hark, the Glad Sound!" Music by: Thomas Haweis
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***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.

***The Prayer of the Day:**

P: 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.**

Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

ELW #279

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth!

3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts

the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
but, in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.
4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
oh, come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Music by: Lewis H. Redner
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Scripture Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

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. 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; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading:

Luke 1:46b-55

And 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."

L: Word of God, Word of Life **C: Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading:**Hebrews 10:5-10**

Consequently, 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

***Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" Setting 4, page 151

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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Holy Gospel:*Luke 1:39-55**

P: The Holy Gospel according to the 1st Chapter of Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn: “Once in Royal David’s City”

ELW #269

1 Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God’s right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

***Apostle's 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 the People**

PRAYER LIST:

PLEASE HOLD IN YOUR PRAYERS: **Richard Kirckof, Richard Hanson, Gail Otteson, Marilyn Gerhardson, Eugene Jensen, Vicky Otteson, Rudean Keith, Sig Lundgren, DeWayne Lien, Janet Raveling, Calmon Peterson** (Karla Anderson's brother), and all those we name in our hearts, having the confidence that through the power of the Holy Spirit, God knows our needs.

***Peace:**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C:** **And also with you.**

Offering (children may bring offerings forward)

Offertory Hymn: "We Are an Offering" ELW #692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering, we are an offering.

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Offertory Prayer:

C: God of our waiting and watching, **we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.**

***The Lord's Prayer:**

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.

***Benediction:**

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 Jesus Christ for whom we wait. Amen.

***Hymn: "All Earth is Hopeful"**

ELW #266

1 All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:
This, the labor of people who struggle to see
How God's truth and justice set everybody free.

2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
She conceived him, "God with us", our bother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

3 Mountain, hill and valley will have to be prepared;
New highways opened, new protocols declared.
Almost here! God is nearing in beauty and grace!
All clear every gateway, in haste, come out in haste!

4 We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in
our world; He is present, in neighbors we see
Our Jesus is with us and ever sets us free.

"All Earth is Hopeful" Music by: Alberto Taule Text: English © 1995, Augsburg Fortress
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***Dismissal:**

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.