



ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 20, 2020

Pastor Mike Pretzer

St. John's Lutheran Church in Richardton

President: Greg Johnson 974-3497

Treasurer: Carmen Bohn 974-3925

Organist: Sandy Weisenberger

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Introduction

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

The Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

pg.94

Gathering Hymn

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

#490

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

We Pray: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle- “Light the Advent Candle”

Verse 1: Light the Advent candle one.

Now the waiting has begun;
We have started on our way,
Time to think of Christmas Day.

Refrain: Candle, candle, burning bright,
Shining in the cold winter night;
Candle, candle, burning bright,
Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

Verse 2: Light the Advent candle two,
Think of humble shepherds, who
Filled with wonder at the sight
Of the child on Christmas night. **(refrain)**

Verse 3: Light the Advent candle three,
Think of heav’nly harmony,
Angels singing “Peace on earth”
At the blessed Savior’s birth. **(refrain)**

Verse 4: Light the Advent candle, four,
Think of joy forever more,
Christ child in a stable born,
Gift of love that Christmas morn. **(refrain)**

The Word

First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David’s house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God’s anointed.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a

house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.”³Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made to our forbears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand to welcome the Gospel

L: The Holy Gospel according to Luke

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel

Luke1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored

one! The Lord is with you.”²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.³⁰ The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David.³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”³⁵ The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.”³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“Love Has Come”

#292

Apostles Creed *Front of hymnal cover

L: the peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth

And let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth

The peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father

neighbors all are we.

Let me walk with my neighbor
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment
And live each moment
With peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth,
And let it begin with me.

“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

#752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

Prayers of the People

L: Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.

C: Hear our prayer.

“Lord Listen to Your Children Praying”

The Lords Prayer

Benediction

“Amen, Amen, A-men”

Sending Hymn

“What Child is This”

#296

Dismissal

L: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Prayer Concerns at St. John's Lutheran Church

FOR HEALING, STRENGTH & GOOD HEALTH:

Harrison Job Magstadt & his parents Haley & Nathan Magstadt

Kristin Johnson

James Hauter (Lynn Johnson's Father)

Wellde Heinle- Recurrence of cancer

Arlyne Magstad

Shirley Kitzan

Dee Homelvig -Chemotherapy

Emmalou Lavine (Armin's Sister)

Holly (Cancer)

Pam (Cancer)

Family of Gaité Gebhardt

Steve and Kayla Olson and unborn son Luke

Marie (Lorraine's Sister- Cancer)

Ruby Perhus

Jacque Kitzan

Lori, Nolan & Karady Anderson

Announcements

Nights of Light - Fridays through Christmas

Zion Lutheran Church in Minot invites you to participate in the Nights of Light each Friday night at 7pm through Christmas Day. Turn on your porch light, create a simple luminary for your front step, or place a candle in a window at home and offer ten minutes of silent prayer. We lift prayers for the world, the church, medical providers, educational staff, funeral homes, assisted care centers, emergency responders, families and individuals burying loved ones, and for leaders making difficult choices.

Christmas Eve Services

Both St. John in Richardton and Peace Lutheran in Dickinson are having their usual Candlelight Christmas Eve Services on Thursday December 24th. St. John's service begins at 4:00 pm. Peace Lutheran's service begins at 6:00 pm. At both services we will spread out and wear masks. We want to worship together as safely as possible.

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