

*Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen
to the stirring, faint within:
seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.*

*Heavy clouds that block the moonlight
now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness
shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor, gleams
within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness;
hearts grow warm to welcome him.*

*Christ, eternal Sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance
hours of yearning, hurt and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger,
in the outcast, hid from view;
Child who comes to grace the manger,
teach our hearts to welcome you.*

*The Holy Spirit
gathers us in unity on the
first day of the week.*

*God speaks to us in
scripture reading,
preaching, and song.*



HOLY COMMUNION

*Advent 4
Word Made Flesh*

Sunday, December 19, 2021
8:30 a.m. Eucharist

Exploring the promise of God for all

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”

arr. Johannes Brahms

(Please stand at the sound of the bell)

OPENING SENTENCES

P Now the heavens whisper, the veil grows dim.

AD **Hearts grow soft to welcome him.**

P Earth wakens from slumber, listening to the stirring within.

AD **Hearts grow warm to welcome him.**

P Deeply planted seed of promise springs forth from Jesse’s stem.

AD **Teach our hearts to welcome him.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

AD **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, you know the many signs and wonders you use to communicate your love to us. You want us to know about your unfailing commitment to bring us back to life. As we gather under this wreath remind us that as the light grows so does your love grown in our midst. We pray this in Jesus’ name and in all the holy names of God,

AD **Amen.**

(Please be seated)

WORD

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

Today’s narrative reading is from the book of Micah:

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;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

Word of God. Word of life.

AD **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand)

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-55

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

AD **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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

AD **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

MUSICAL RESPONSE

"People, Look East"

French Carol, arr. Nancy Grundahl

(Please stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

- A** As we wait and watch, let us pray for the church, the world, and all God's creation.

(We offer our prayers using a sung response)

Each petition concludes:

To you all hearts are o - pen, to
you all de - sires known. To you there are no
se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you.

- P** Into your hands gracious God we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your promise to hear our prayers.

A Amen.

MEAL

PEACE

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you all.

A And also with you.

(Please remain standing)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.

A And also with you.

- P** Lift up your hearts.

A We lift them to the Lord.

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

A It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*God feeds us with the
presence of Jesus Christ.*



- P** Faithful and hidden Lord, when your people were in exile. . .
. . . Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever,
A Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

"Lost in the Night"

Finnish Folk Melody

(Please stand)

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** Let us pray.
Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
A Amen.

SENDING

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 Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
A Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Hymn 244
Stanzas 1 and 4

DISMISSAL

- A** Go in peace, serve the Lord.
A Thanks be to God.

Christmas Worship at Central Lutheran Church

Christmas Eve, December 24:

3:00 p.m. Twilight Service of
Holy Communion with vocal
quartet, violin, harp and organ

10:30 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist
with choir, handbells, string
quartet, harp and organ

Christmas Day, December 25:

10:00 a.m. Christmas day Eucharist
(Please note: no 5:00 p.m. Saturday
evening worship)

First Sunday after Christmas, December 26

10:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship
(note: one service only)

Epiphany Weekend, January 1 and 2

5:00 p.m. Saturday night worship,
sharing our hopes for the new
year

10:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship
(note: one service only)

POSTLUDE

Fugue on "The Angel Gabriel"

Mark Sedio

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Melissa Pohlman *presiding*
Pastor Peter Nycklemoe *preaching*
Zee Gregerson *assisting minister*
Sara Gunsch *reading*

Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio *organist*
Froya Olson *soloist*
Bobbie Spradley *healing prayers*
Pastor Stephanie Friesen *hospitality*

Mark Kieffer *sound operator*
Richard Stegall, Diane Olson,
Bill Masche *sacristans*
usher ministry team

This service is being streamed live on the internet at www.centralmpls.org.

Chancel flowers this weekend are given by Miriam Haines and family in loving memory of Don Haines. If you wish to donate flowers, contact Judy Korogi at 612-788-1288.

The hymn text on the cover serves as our theme this Advent season.

The hymn is included in the new ELCA worship resource,

All Creation Sings.

The author is Mary Louise Bringle.

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MINNEAPOLIS

Exploring the promise of God for all
333 South 12th St, Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-870-4416 | centralmpls.org