

*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.*

*Mary Louise Bringle*

# HOLY COMMUNION

Advent 4  
Word Made Flesh

Sunday, December 19, 2021  
10:30 a.m. Eucharist



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

*Max Reger (1873-1914), a German Romantic composer, wrote this piece based on the text "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest!" Reger's music includes seamless transitions from soft to loud, and everywhere in between. While smooth dynamic changes are difficult on some organs, Reger's instruments were built to facilitate this. The work has two distinct sections: the first with soft, ethereal colors; the second with a sturdier style. It culminates with declamatory chords that suggest "hosannah!"*

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*Exploring the promise of God for all*

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## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

"Benedictus" Op. 59, No. 9

Max Reger

*(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 awakens 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

### CHILDREN'S TIME

### HYMN

"Unexpected and Mysterious"

Hymn 258

Stanza 1 and 2 – choir; 3 - all

**FIRST READING**

<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>5</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.



Word of God. Word of life.

**AI** Thanks be to God.

*(Please stand)*

**ALLELUIA VERSE**

*All sing:*



**Choir** The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

*(All repeat "Alleluia")*

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 1:39-55

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

**AI** 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON**

*(Please stand)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Hymn 265*

"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" Stanzas 1 and 2 – all; 3 – choir; 4 – all

**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:*

The musical notation consists of three staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for "To you all hearts are o - pen, to". The second staff continues with "you all de - sires known. To you there are no". The third staff concludes with "se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you." and includes a triplet of eighth notes and a "Last time" instruction.

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

**All** Amen.

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



## 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.
- 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

*(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

*God blesses us  
and sends us in mission to  
the world.*

*Paul Manz (1919-2009) was an American composer widely known for his hymn improvisations and compositions for organ and choir. In addition to serving as Cantor at Mount Olive in Minneapolis and at St. Luke's in Chicago, he taught at Concordia University (St. Paul) and the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. This motet is his most famous choral composition. In 1953 Paul's spouse, Ruth, adapted the text from the Book of Revelation when their three-year old son, John (former pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul) was critically ill.*

## 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.

**AD** Amen.

## CHORAL BENEDICTION

*"E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"*

Paul O. Manz

*Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,  
who loved us all and shed his blood that we might be saved.  
Sing "holy, holy" to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God,  
who was and is and is to come; Sing "holy, holy, Lord!"  
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,  
rejoice on earth, ye saints below,  
for Christ is coming, is coming soon.  
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;  
they need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their all!*

## DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace, serve the Lord.

**AD** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

Fugue on "The Angel Gabriel"

Mark Sedio

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## SERVING TODAY

Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>presiding</i>
Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>preaching</i>
Zee Gregerson	<i>assisting minister</i>
Lois Wolff	<i>reading</i>
Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio	<i>organist</i>
Central Choir	<i>ensemble</i>
Jerry Olerud, Marie Wiegert	<i>healing prayers</i>
Pastor Stephanie Friesen	<i>hospitality</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>sound operator</i>
Richard Stegall, Diane Olson,	
Bill Masche	<i>sacristans</i>
	<i>usher ministry team</i>

*This service is being streamed live on the internet at [www.centralmpls.org](http://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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## 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*)



Central Lutheran  
MINNEAPOLIS

Exploring the promise of God for all  
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