

**Fourth Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion ELW Setting Three
Cross of Hope Lutheran Church
December 24, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.**

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Swan Lake, Winter

Cheri Sorensen, Rick Alpers, Kate Ropp

The assembly stands in body or spirit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Everlasting God,
you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.
We choose comfort over courage.
We are careless with creation's bounty.
Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:

God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.

In the tender compassion of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Signs and Wonders

ELW 672

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Pastor: 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

In peace...

ELW p.138

ADVENT WREATH VERSE

Come, Thou-Long Expected Jesus

ELW 254, vs 1

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Use this blessing when lighting all four candles.

L: Praise to you, O God, who lives with us,
sharing our flesh and bones.

As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed,
so we dream and wait for you.

A: We light a candle in the darkness, O Lord, but our hearts long for You.

L: Bless us and let your face shine upon us,
more radiant than these candles,
and more dear than all else we seek.

Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good,
and banish all our fears.

We pray in the name of Emmanuel,
your promised child and our Savior.

Amen.

Come, Thou-Long Expected Jesus

ELW 254, vs 2

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us 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.**

WORD

READING **2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16,**

MUSICAL REFLECTION *Ave Maria*

Choreographers and dancers: Keri Sutter and Star Cooley
Singer: Keri Sutter, Composer: Daniel Pinkham

READING **Romans 16:25-27**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia* *ELW p.142*

GOSPEL **Luke 1:26-38**

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON Longing for the Light: Hoping Pr. Russ Sorensen

HYMN OF THE DAY *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* *ELW 265*

APOSTLES' 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 INTERCESSION (*Merciful God ... **receive our prayer.**)*

PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always.
 And also with you.

MINISTRY MOMENT

MEAL

OFFERING

Breath of Heaven
Choreographer and dancer: Keri Sutter

OFFERING RESPONSE *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*

ELW 184

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Assisting: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SANCTUS

Holy...

ELW p. 144

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Lamb of God
Angels, from the Realms of Glory
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ELW 146

ELW 275

ELW 276

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assisting: Let us pray... Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayer for Peace...O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great Love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows and give peace to your church, Peace among nations ... Peace in our homes, and Peace in our hearts, through your son Jesus, Christ our Lord.
Amen. *ELW p 76*

SENDING HYMN

Joy to the World

ELW 267

DISMISSAL

Assisting: Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister
Assisting Minister
Lector
Communion server
Director of Music Ministry
Accompanist

Pr. Russ Sorensen
Rhonda Warner
Mary Hughes
Sherrie Simek
Thomas Ropp
Amy Ellis