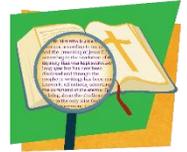


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The Rev. Thomas R. Marcis Jr. – Senior Pastor
Ben Ramthun – Vicar
Kristin Nistler – Director of Family Ministry

Liturgy: Vicar Ramthun
Sermon: Pastor Marcis
Organist: Evelyn Orth

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

The Mystery of the Word Made Flesh
December 20, 2020



AS WE GATHER

God told King David by the prophet Nathan that He would build him a house. The mystery, however, was that He didn't mean a structure of wood and stone but an inheritance and a kingdom—the house and lineage of David. The mystery of salvation is made known only and alone through “the prophetic writings” and living Word of God in the Holy Scriptures. As we prepare to celebrate the greatest mystery of the Word made flesh, the incarnation and birth of the Son of God, Jesus, the Savior of the world, the best mystery is that God through the very telling of this story in our ears gives, works, and builds the gift of faith in the heart so that we believe it. We believe that Jesus was born for us, for me. He came down from heaven to be the only acceptable sacrifice for my sin, to redeem me, and give me eternal life through the forgiveness of my sins. O come, Emmanuel, God with us. O come, let us adore Him.

BELLS OF ZION

“Carol Of The Bells”

✂ PREPARATION ✂

INVOCATION

Vicar: In the name of the Father and of the ✂ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND DECLARATION OF GRACE

Vicar: That our eyes and our ears may be open to receive the mystery of God's love, let us first empty ourselves of everything that has closed our hearts to God, confessing our sin and need of forgiveness and life.

People: **At the Lord's own invitation and command, I confess all my sins to God, the very thoughts, words, and deeds with which I have offended Him and hurt my neighbor. I come now in the sincere hope and faith of the forgiveness of God made known to the whole world in the mystery of His Son, Jesus Christ, who has sacrificed His own flesh and blood for me. Remove my sin and guilt for His sake, and restore a right spirit within me. Amen.**

Vicar: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Vicar: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: **the light no darkness can overcome.**

Vicar: Let Your light scatter the darkness

People: **and illumine Your Church.**

✘ WORD ✘

BELLS OF ZION

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

INTROIT

Psalm 19:1, 4c, 5–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a, b

Vicar: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
People: let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.
Vicar: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
People: In them he has set a tent for the sun,
Vicar: which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
People: and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
Vicar: Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,
People: and there is nothing hidden from its heat.
Vicar: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
People: and to the Holy Spirit;
Vicar: as it was in the beginning,
People: is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Vicar: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness;
People: let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit.

KYRIE

Vicar: In peace let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Vicar: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Vicar: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Vicar: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.
Vicar: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Vicar: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

SMALL GROUP CHOIR

“Tidings Of Comfort And Joy”
“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Vicar: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

SAXAPHONE SOLO

“What Child is This”
Isaac Anderson

OLD TESTAMENT READING

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

(The Lord’s covenant with David)

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.” But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I 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 for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now, 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, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And 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. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from 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. . . .And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PIANO SOLO

"Christmas Angels"
Katelynn Albers

GRADUAL

Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

Vicar: Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

People: Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

Vicar: Behold, your king is coming to you;

People: righteous and having salvation.

Vicar: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

People: From the house of the Lord we bless you.

EPISTLE

Romans 16:25–27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Vicar: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BELLS OF ZION

"Rejoice, World"

VERSE

Matthew 1:23a

People: Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.

Vicar: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:26–38

(The birth of Jesus foretold)

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old

age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Vicar: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *LSB* 380

**1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

**ref Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”**

**2 Christ, by highest heav’n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel!**

**3 Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.**

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SERMON

BELL DUET

“What Child is This”
Jacob Nistler and Donna Davidson

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Vicar: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

LSB 55 vs 1 & 3

BELL DUET

“O Come All Ye Faithful”
Lynette Schumaker and Melody Hintz-Rau

LORD’S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

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

Vicar: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

HYMN

“Joy to the World” *LSB 387*

- 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n and nature sing,
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love. Text: Public domain