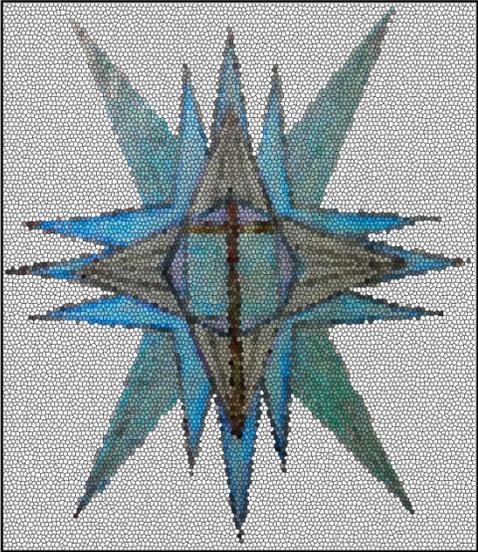


Advent 4 December 20, 2020  
*The 115<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the faith community of Eden Evangelical Lutheran Church*



Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build  
me a house to live in?  
2 Samuel 7:5

Darker nights unfold  
and with the fading of the light  
the sun weakens

held by this frozen earth  
wrapped in winters frost  
the mystery of the ancient hope is  
alight once more

for from the stump of Jesse  
the dry old tree of David's line  
comes a new branch

**ADVENT GATHERING: THE MYSTERY BEGINS**

**Announcements**

*As you prepare for worship, even gathered in virtual community and connected by God's beautiful and unfathomable design, you are invited to light a candle and center yourself to hear the Sacramental Word of God breaking into creation and you.*

The mystery begins

Where the winter finds its feet  
the rush of frost and chill  
competes with the old hope of incarnation

a new shoot  
cracking through the season  
with a promise yet unfulfilled

this is the hoping  
the waiting  
the advent

Let us gather round the words  
the prophets spoke long ago  
and believe:

Emmanuel is on the way<sup>i</sup>

***Advent Wreath is Lit***

**Song 245** Creator of the Stars of Night (*progressively through the season*)  
**Greeting**

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.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

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**

#### **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.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the 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." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>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 and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever 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?" <sup>8</sup>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 to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>And 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, <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (*Lk. 1:52*)

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will | call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me  
and holy | is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on | those who fear you,  
from generation to | generation. R**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength | with your arm  
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty | from their thrones  
and lifting | up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry | with good things  
and sent the rich | away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,  
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made | to our forbears,  
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. R

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

*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.*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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.

<sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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.  
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Sermon

## Song

### Creed for Advent

We believe in one God, who is Creator,  
maker of all we see and all we don't see.  
Who is Ruler of the universe: Source of all creation!

We believe in one God, who is Jesus Christ,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God and true human.  
He is one with the Creator;  
the Word made flesh, our Messiah: Savior of all creation!

We believe in one God, who is Holy Spirit,  
Breath of God moving among us;  
Who is one with the Creator; one with the Christ;  
our Comforter and our Guide: Mentor of all creation!<sup>ii</sup>

### Prayers of Intercession

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, let us pray  
that God come quickly to this weary world,  
responding to each petition with the words,  
"**Come and save us soon.**" *A brief silence.*

O God, Emmanuel, we pray: be with us. Bless  
our national church and our own congregation.  
Bless also our neighbors of other  
denominations and faiths, that strengthened by  
your presence we may support one another in  
love and together serve those in need.

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, the Wisdom of the world, as tomorrow  
the earth's north tilts back toward the sun,  
preserve vegetation and wild animals during  
winter. Form us into a people who honor your  
creation. Make of our decorated Christmas trees  
signs of our thankfulness for the earth.

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, King of nations, bring peace and justice to the countries of the world. Lead the nations of the Middle East toward peace with one another and justice for the Palestinians. Guide our elected leaders toward honest and compassionate policies that serve all the people. Preserve our nation from discord and violence.

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Key of David, look with mercy on all who are locked into despair, who fear the darkness, who live brokenhearted. Open windows to those who are isolated. Abide with all who are incarcerated. Give shelter to the homeless and the refugees.

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Root of Jesse, nurture our community. Connect us with one another across all barriers, and bring an end to historic prejudices. Bless the work of food pantries and relief agencies, and inspire our holidays with your spirit of benevolence.

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Ruler of might, send your healing power to all in bodily need. Curb the coronavirus, and strengthen medical workers. For those with

### THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

#### **Peace (In ASL)**

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

#### **Offering**

**Advent Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Word**  
Holy God,

COVID-19 we pray: . . . Guide all world health organizations and governmental officials in the distribution of the vaccines, and calm the fears of those who are reluctant to receive the vaccine. Bring pregnant women to successful births. We pray especially for . . . .

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, our Savior, dwell within us; make us your home, and receive the prayers of our hearts.

*A longer time of silence.*

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

O God, Dayspring everlasting, we remember all who have died and now live in your light, especially Katharina von Bora Luther and those we name here before you: . . . Gather us to yourself, when we join with all the faithful of every time and land to sing Mary's hymn of praise.

Hear our prayer, O God:  
**Come and save us soon.**

We cannot thank you enough, O Emmanuel, for your ongoing presence among us. Remain with us, and receive our prayers, for the sake of the Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.** <sup>iii</sup>

the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope as we wait,  
we praise you for joining us to your people of old.  
We bless you for your prophets who call us to righteousness  
and promise a new earth with peace for all.  
For the Word of your covenant, we thank you, O God. **We thank you, O God.**

We praise you for the coming of Jesus our Lord,  
who lifts up the lowly, heals the suffering world,  
and proclaims your way of mercy and truth.  
For your Word who is Christ, we magnify you, O God. **We magnify you, O God.**

Send your Spirit on all who receive your Word.  
Nurture our faith with your grace,  
accompany us with your might,  
and empower our zeal for your justice and joy.  
For your Word through the church, we praise you, O God. **We praise you, O God.**

All praise to you, holy God,  
today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen. **Amen.**<sup>iii</sup>

### **Lord's Prayer**

Although we struggle to resist division between self and God, self and other, in this moment we are perfectly united, praying as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

### **SENDING**

**Blessing** *(based on Mark 13:24-37)*

And now go out into the world in peace.  
Beware, keep alert, for we do not know the hour

when we will see the Son of Humanity coming in clouds  
with great power and glory.  
Be faithful in service and persistent in prayer;  
be Advent people,  
loving and serving the Lord. **Amen.**<sup>iv</sup>

## Song

### Dismissal

Blessed are you, O God. You have done great things for us, and we rejoice in you! Send us with the good news of your love to all who are sad or lonely.  
**Amen. Go in peace. Remember the poor. Thanks be to God.**

**Please remember the following people in your prayers:** Alek, Lori, Jonnie, Chandler, Larry, Keith, Paxton, Bruce, Mary, Cathy, Marlene, Larry, Jim, Billie, Tara, Jeff, Mary, Dave, Jim & Tina, Craig, Stacy, Ray, Pat, Doris, Richard, Mike, Mark, Anne, Gloria, Christina and all who are in our prayers today.

***Nursing Home:*** Ruth Elavsky, Pat Seglund, Don Johnson, Jim LeVeque, Babe Strand and Jean Moore  
***Assisted Living:*** Norma Secreast, and Donna McNally

***In Service:*** Airman Craig Oas, Ryan Graves, Zac Culter, Mike Knickerbocker, Sean Sutherland, Peter Peterson, Brad Salmi, Mathew Moilanen and our veterans who have returned to their communities

***General:*** All who deal with COVID-19 here in our neighborhoods and beyond.

### EVENTS OF THE WEEK

**Wednesday – December 23 – Wednesday On-line Bible Study – 5:30pm**

**Thursday – December 24 – Synod-wide Christmas Eve Service –**

You are invited to worship the Christ of Christmas from home this year. WLUC TV and the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have partnered together to offer you Bible scripture readings and reflections, carol singing and prayers to celebrate the coming of Jesus to our dark and weary world.

The Christmas worship service will be broadcast on Christmas Eve WLUC TV from 4-5 pm ET and on FOX-UP from 7-8 pm ET and also on Christmas Day WLUC from 12-1 pm ET and FOX-UP from 9-10 am ET. The service will also be available on the WLUC website [www.uppermichigansource.com](http://www.uppermichigansource.com) and at [www.nglsynod.org](http://www.nglsynod.org) through New Year's Day.

We hope you can join us!

The service will be loaded up to our new synod [YouTube channel](#).

**There will also be a Christmas Eve Bonfire Service with Communion at Eden – 7:00pm**

## Sunday – December 27 – On-Line Worship Service – 10:30am

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- i Roddy Hamilton, **Listening to the Stones**. <http://newkilpatrickblog.typepad.com/nk-blogging/mucky-paws/> Used by permission.
  - ii Copyright Lisa Frenz. All Rights Reserved. Used with permission.
  - iii ELCA Service of the Word: Supplemental Materials for Thanksgiving
  - iv Ruth Patterson, [Ministry Matters](#) website