

**Redeemer Lutheran Church
San Antonio, Texas**

**December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday In Advent
Divine Service Setting 4: Pgs. 203-212**

NOTES: Offerings will not be collected by passing plates. Please place your attendance cards and offering in the plates located by the narthex.

We offer large print copies of the liturgy, and for Holy Communion we offer gluten free wafers and non-alcoholic white grape juice.

Masks are not required, but you can wear one at your own discretion. There is no specified seating for bible class or worship.

Prelude

Confession and Absolution: Pg. 203

Entrance Hymn:

“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come” – LSB # 350

Kyrie: Pg. 204

The First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹ After the king was settled in his palace and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.” ³Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the LORD is with you.” ⁴But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD says: Are you the one to

build me a house to dwell in? ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”” ⁸ “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. ““The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you:

¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’”

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ,

in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith — ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse: Pg. 205

The Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-45

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

Congregation: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.” ²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” ³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow

you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷ For no word from God will ever fail.” ³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her. ³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed: Pg. 206

Message Hymn:

“Magnificat” – LSB # 248

The Message:

Prayer of the Church: Pg. 207

(**Pastor:** Lord, in your mercy,)

(**Congregation:** Hear our prayer.)

Confession and Absolution is a return to our Baptisms. In Confession, we take all our sins and throw them back into the baptismal font, burying them with Christ, washing them away in his blood. Then in Absolution, the forgiveness of Baptism is brought to us again, so that we may live new, resurrected lives today (**Romans 6:4**).

Confession and Absolution in our services reflect the experience of Isaiah in a vision (**Isaiah 6:1–8**). He was in God’s presence in the Temple. He was terrified to be there because he knew he was a sinner (Confession). An angel touched his lips with a coal and told him he was forgiven – purified (Absolution). Only then was he able to serve the Lord in gladness (“Here I am. Send me.”).

Service of the Sacrament: Pg. 208

Pre-Communion Hymn:

“Arise, O Christian People” – LSB # 354

Holy Communion:

Please come up single file, socially distanced, in the center aisle. Pastor will distribute both the bread and wine, prompting you for each element. We have gluten-free wafers available, and we have non-alcoholic white grape juice in the center of the tray. After you are dismissed, please return down the side aisle(s).

The Benediction:

Closing Hymn:

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” – LSB # 359

Announcements:

Postlude

Please take the bulletin home or discard in the trash before you leave.