

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

10 AM



SAINT MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annapolis, Maryland

PRELUDE **Bach: Sinfonia from Christmas Oratorio, BWV 248 (arr. Willner)**
Junghoon Park, Piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy and gracious God,

we confess that we have sinned against you. Some of our sin we know – the thoughts and words and deeds of which we are ashamed – but some is known only to you. In the name of Jesus Christ we ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore us, that we may live and serve in peace. Amen.

God's compassion and mercy are beyond measure, As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Sisters and Brothers in name of Christ you are forgiven. Let us receive this gift humbly and joyfully and ever be thankful to God who crowns us with mercy and love. **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

ELW 265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy." Glo - ri - a!
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

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.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.
Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.
Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

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.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH -

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240 vs. 4

4 *Light four candles to watch for Messiah:*

let the light banish darkness.

He is coming, tell the glad tidings.

Let your lights be shining!

FIRST READING

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the 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." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I 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. ⁷Wherever 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?" ⁸Now 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; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹from 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. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to Luke, the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.**

THE HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

He Came Down

ELW 253



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The 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 again 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 THE CHURCH (Congregation Responds ...Your mercy is great.)

SHARING OF THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

We thank you for your generosity and support! We are blessed to return thanks to God through our offerings to support the work of the Church in the world. Ushers will bring the plates to those worshipping in person this day. For those worshipping online you may give electronically or by way of US Mail. Your gifts enable our day to day operational budget, our missions, and the care of those in need.

Please visit www.stmartinsannapolis.org/giving

OFFERTORY ANTHEM **Bach: Sheep May Safely Graze (Arr. Petri)** Junghoon Park, Piano

OFFERTORY RESPONSE **The Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low; praise

8
him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

▪ SERVICE OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST ▪

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

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **We give our thanks and praise.**

Father....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

ELW 190

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION Liszt: In dulci jubilo: Die Hirten an der Krippe
(The Shepherds at the Manger), from The Christmas Tree Suite
Junghoon Park, Piano

About Communion— At the Lord's Table we share in the gift of Jesus' body and blood. Please bring an empty glass from the head of the aisle to receive wine from a pouring cup. Grape juice is available in the pre-filled glasses near the empty ones. If you need a gluten-free option for bread, please indicate that to the person with bread. Peel away communion kits are also available for any who so desire. Blessings will be given to those not yet communing.

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

The First Noel

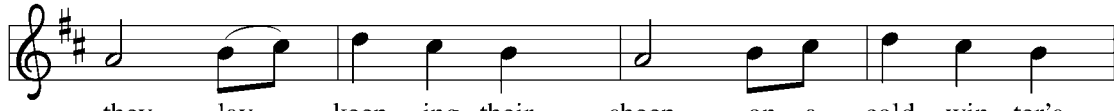
ELW 300



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
2 They look - ed up and saw . . a star shin - ing
3 And by the light of that . . same star three . .
4 This star drew near to the . . north - west, o'er . .
5 Then en - tered in those wise . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
in . . the east . . be - yond . . them far; and to the
wise . . men came . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
Beth - le - hem . . it took . . its rest; and there it
rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
earth it gave . . . great light, and . . so it con -
king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
did both stop . . . and stay right . . o - ver the
there in his . . . pres - ence their . . gold, . . . and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
tin-ued both day and night.
star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
place where Je - sus lay.
myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional
Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Bach: Keyboard Concerto in A, BWV 1055 - I. Allegro
Junghoon Park, Piano

Serving in Worship Today	
Preacher & Celebrant	Pastor Dave Oravec
Director of Music Ministry	Junghoon Park
Altar Set Up	Altar Guild
Media Technician	Sara Wetz
Assisting Minister	Chaplain Paula Thistle
Communion Assistants	Tom and Barb Freeman
Lector	Kim Rosekrans
Ushers	Molly and Sandy Michaelson Larry Day Linda Wetz
Communion Clean Up	Tom and Barb Freeman



Congregational Meeting

Our semi-annual **Congregational Meeting** will take place following the 10 AM service on **Sunday, January 14th**. Among agenda items that we will cover are: budget approval and election of Council members. Please plan to come to this important meeting!



ELCA Good Gifts

Let's buy a farm! In addition to the Holiday Sharing Program, this year we would like to collect contributions for the ELCA Good Gifts Campaign. If we work together, we can help purchase a family farm with chickens and goats, or a community garden and honeybees.

If you would like to contribute, please scan the QR code below then click the "ELCA Goodgifts" icon.



Opportunities This Week

Monday, December 25, 2023—Christmas Day

****Church Office Closed****

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

****Church Office Closed****

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

7:00 am Men's Prayer Breakfast (Double T)

Thursday, December 28, 2023

11:30 am Mid-day Bible Study (Double T)

6:30 pm Good Night with God (Zoom)

Sunday, December 31, 2023

8:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)

10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)



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