

Fourth Sunday in Advent

**“The Gift of Love”**

December 19, 2021

**As We Gather**

Our Lord Jesus is coming, bearing real gifts, profoundly important gifts. He came that first Christmas to win forgiveness and give all the gifts that come with it: hope, peace, joy, love. He is coming again at the end of this world to give the gift of resurrection to eternal life. In the season of Advent, we connect Christ’s first coming with His second coming. We rejoice in all the unconditional gifts He gives.

Today we celebrate the gift of love. The birth of the Savior at Christmas is all about love. The Father sent His Son to be our Savior because of His love for us. The Son went to the cross for us because of His love for us. May the love of God for us be at work in us that that His love shines through us always!

**Welcome**

**“Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love” LSB 900**

1 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Name all other names above,  
Unto which must ev'ry knee  
Bow in deep humility.

2 Jesus! Name decreed of old,  
To the maiden mother told,  
Kneeling in her lowly cell,  
By the angel Gabriel.

3 Jesus! Name of priceless worth  
To the fallen sons of earth  
For the promise that it gave,  
"Jesus shall His people save."

4 Jesus! Name of mercy mild,  
Given to the holy Child  
When the cup of human woe  
First He tasted here below.

5 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n  
Under all the mighty heav'n  
Whereby those to sin enslaved  
Burst their fetters and are saved.

6 Jesus! Name of wondrous love,  
Human name of God above;  
Pleading only this, we flee  
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

**Invocation** *(From Divine Service 2, page 167)*

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

**People:** **Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution**

**Pastor:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us

**People:** **But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *(1 John 1:8-9)*

*Silence for self-examination on our need for the cross of Christ*

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:  
People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: 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. *(John 1:12; Philippians 1:6)*

People: **Amen.**

### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Pastor: Today we light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath. The second candle is the candle of LOVE.

*(The HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE candles are lit.)*

Pastor: **1 John 4:9-10** - <sup>9</sup> *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.* <sup>10</sup> *This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious Father, fill us with your love, the love that moved You to send Your Son as our Savior, and moved Him to give of Himself completely for our salvation. Lead us by Your Holy Spirit, so that Your love shines forth in all that we do. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

### **“How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”**

How deep the Father's love for us	It was my sin that held Him there
How vast beyond all measure	Until it was accomplished
That He should give His only Son	His dying breath has brought me life
To make a wretch His treasure	I know that it is finished
How great the pain of searing loss	I will not boast in anything
The Father turns His face away	No gifts no power no wisdom
As wounds which mar the Chosen One	But I will boast in Jesus Christ
Bring many sons to glory	His death and resurrection
Behold the Man upon a cross	Why should I gain from His reward
My sin upon His shoulders	I cannot give an answer
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice	But this I know with all my heart
Call out among the scoffers	His wounds have paid my ransom

## Prayer

### Children Excused to Children's Church

#### Readings

**First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a**

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

<sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace  
when the Assyrians invade our land  
and march through our fortresses.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-12**

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

*This is the Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**Alleluia**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-56**

<sup>39</sup> At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup> where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup> But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

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

<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

<sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful

<sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”

<sup>56</sup> Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*  
**Praise to You O Christ!**

### **Nicene Creed**

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Sermon**

*“The Gift of Love”*

### **Offering**

**“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” LSB 334**

1 O Lord, how shall I meet You,  
How welcome You aright?  
Your people long to greet You,  
My hope, my heart's delight!  
O kindle, Lord most holy,  
Your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly  
All that may please You best.

2 Your Zion strews before You  
Green boughs and fairest palms;  
And I too will adore You  
With joyous songs and psalms.  
My heart shall bloom forever  
For You with praises new  
And from Your name shall never  
Withhold the honor due.

3 I lay in fetters, groaning;  
You came to set me free.  
I stood, my shame bemoaning;  
You came to honor me.  
A glorious crown You give me,  
A treasure safe on high  
That will not fail or leave me  
As earthly riches fly.

4 Love caused Your incarnation;  
Love brought You down to me.  
Your thirst for my salvation  
Procured my liberty.  
Oh, love beyond all telling,  
That led You to embrace  
In love, all love excelling,  
Our lost and fallen race.

5 Sin's debt, that fearful burden,  
Cannot His love erase;  
Your guilt the Lord will pardon  
And cover by His grace.  
He comes, for you procuring  
The peace of sin forgiv'n,  
His children thus securing  
Eternal life in heav'n.

6 He comes to judge the nations,  
A terror to His foes,  
A light of consolations  
And blessed hope to those  
Who love the Lord's appearing.  
O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth Your beams so cheering,  
And guide us safely home.

**Prayers**

*Please add your prayer requests to the  
live chat*

**Thanksgivings**

**Pastor:** O Lord, we praise You.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Petitions**

**Pastor:** Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **Hear our prayer.**

**St. John's People and Families**

Gisela Chaudhary  
David, Kathy, Eric, Michael, & Rachael Fitzgerald  
Clare King  
Cindy, Whitney, Ella, & Bryce Powers  
Jane Terra  
Jeff, Kristal, Ashlyn, & Austin Broyles  
Joe, Sheena, Brynn, & Easton Giovannoni  
Greg, Stacy, Jack, & Emma James  
Jeffery, Valerie, Declan, & Ryan Owens  
Todd, Robin, & James Wenzel

## The Service of Holy Communion

### Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming him the Messiah, the very Lamb of God, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when he comes again in glory.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Graciously receive our prayer; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**People: 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.**

### The Words of Institution

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

## Communion

Pastor: Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

People: **Amen.** *(Take and eat)*

Pastor: Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.

People: **Amen.**

*(Take and drink)*

## Communion Hymn "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" LSB 357

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee,  
O Israel!

2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]

3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height  
In ancient times didst give the Law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. [Refrain]

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,  
Free them from Satan's tyranny  
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave.  
[Refrain]

5 O come, thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. [Refrain]

6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
[Refrain]

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. [Refrain]

## "O Come to the Altar"

Are you hurting and broken within  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin  
Jesus is calling  
Have you come to the end of yourself  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well  
Jesus is calling

O come to the altar  
The Father's arms are open wide  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes  
Come today there's no reason to wait

Jesus is calling  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy  
From the ashes a new life is born  
Jesus is calling

Oh what a Savior  
Isn't He wonderful  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen  
Bow down before Him  
For He is Lord of all  
Sing alleluia Christ is risen

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown  
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

### **Communion Blessing**

**Pastor:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. His peace be with you.

**People:** **Amen.**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith through our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

### **Prayer**

### **Benediction**

#### **"Joy to the World"**

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.

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.

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.

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 and wonders of His love.

### **Offering**

<http://stjohnslutheran.net/give/>

You may also mail your offering to St. John's (3521 Linda Vista, Napa, CA 94558)

**Memory Verse for This Week**

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.  
*1 John 4:9-10*

**Serving in Worship Today**

Preacher	Rev. Michael A. Schmid
Lay Readers	Dove Bain, Kristi Carey
Communion Assistants	Mike Newton, Joel Wahlers, Kayden Kirkman
Sound Technician	Brian Schoenfeld
Streaming Technicians	Joshua Wright
Worship Preparation Team	Betsy Gewirz, Bob & Doris Klein
Ushers	Clint & Bev Holdsworth
Projection Technician	Sarah Kramer
Organist	Erin Blackwood
Worship Band	James Regan, Steve Jeffery, Tom Hoff, Christopher Newman, Christi Jeffery

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