

**Luther Memorial Lutheran Church**  
**13047 Greenwood Ave N, Seattle, WA 98133**  
**Worship for Sunday, 22 December 2024**  
**+ Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C**

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**Prelude**      *ELW #257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*In this season of waiting, we begin our worship in silence. At the ringing of the bell, the congregation is invited to stand and face the Advent wreath. After the candles have been lit, we will sing a verse of ELW #257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (12/1: Verse 1; 12/8: Verse 2; 12/15: Verse 3; 12/22: Verse 4).*

4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's

tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain* Re-joyce! Re-joyce!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*Please Stand*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who opens the heavens  
and draws near to us with salvation.  
**Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.  
Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin together.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Everlasting God,  
**you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.**  
**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness**  
**that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**  
**We are complicit in systems of exploitation.**  
**We choose comfort over courage.**  
**We are careless with creation's bounty.**  
**Look upon us with mercy.**  
**Turn our hearts again to you.**  
**Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways**  
**for the sake of our waiting world.**  
**Amen.**

Hear these words of assurance:  
In the tender compassion of ✝ Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
God's covenant is eternal,  
and God's blessing rests upon us all.  
**Amen.**

# Kyrie

Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.

Ky-ri - e e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

## Apostolic Greeting

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

## Gathering Hymn #265 *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (verses 1-3)*



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."

### Prayer of the Day

**P:** Let us pray:

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

### Welcome and Announcements

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

“As for you, Bethlehem in Ephrathah,” says YHWH, “small as you are among Judah’s clans, from you will come a ruler for me over Israel, one whose goings out are from times long past, from ancient days.”

But God will give them over to their enemies until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of the ruler’s sisters and brothers will return to the Children of Israel.

The ruler will rise up to shepherd them in the strength of YHWH, by the power of the Name of YHWH their God. They will live in security, for now the ruler’s greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

They’ll say, “This at last is the one who will be our peace!”

Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55**

*Read Responsively*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

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

you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

**You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
**casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

## Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

And this is what Jesus said, on coming into the world: “You who wanted no sacrifice or oblation prepared a body for me. In burnt offerings or sacrifices for sin you took no pleasure. Then I said, just as it was written of me in the scroll of the book, ‘God, here I am! I have come to do your will.’ ”

In saying that God doesn’t want burnt offerings and sacrifices—which are offered according to the Law—and then saying, “I have come to do your will,” Jesus abolishes the first Covenant in order to establish the second. By God’s will, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once and for all.

Word of God, Word of Life.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Acclamation

*Please Stand*

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## **Holy Gospel Luke 1:39-45**

**P:** The holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st Chapter

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Within a few days Mary set out and hurried to the hill country to a town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth.

As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why am I so favored, that the mother of the Messiah should come to me? The moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who believed that what our God said to her would be accomplished!"

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

## **Sermon**

## Hymn of the Day #258 *Unexpected and Mysterious*



1 Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle  
2 In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni -  
3 We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the



word of grace. Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain -  
ty and time, Mar - y learned that she would car -  
com - ing Christ, to em - bod - y God's com - pas -



ing is the peace of God's em - brace. If we fal - ter  
ry both the mor - tal and di - vine. Then she learned of  
sion for each frag - ile hu - man life. God is with us



in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known, God is  
God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy, and she  
in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth, while we



faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own.  
ran to greet the wom - an who would rec - og - nize her boy.  
watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth.

## Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For**



**us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers and Peace**

**P:** ...Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Receive our prayer.**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*From your place in the congregation, feel free to share a sign of peace with other members of the assembly.*

### **Offering**

### **Offertory Anthem**

### **Offertory Prayer**

*Please stand*

**P:** Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn titled "Great Thanksgiving". It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: "The Lord be with you." and "And al - so with you." The second staff also has two measures: "Lift up your hearts." and "We lift them to the Lord." The third staff has two measures: "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God." The fourth staff has two measures: "It is right to give our thanks and praise." The music is written in a simple, melodic style with quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

## Eucharistic Liturgy

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
 the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Distribution of Holy Communion**      *You may be seated*

*Please proceed up the center aisle to pick up a piece of bread from the Presiding minister. You will then take an already filled glass of either wine or grape juice from the tray the assisting minister is holding.*

*There will be baskets off to the side where you can dispose of your used cups. The communion bread is all gluten free, but does contain honey. All are welcome to receive from Christ's table.*

*You may also come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing.*

**Communion Hymn #256      *Comfort, Comfort Now My People***



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.  
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.  
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

## **Post-communion Prayer**

P: Generous God,  
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see  
together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news  
of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## **Blessing**

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God,  
our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

# Sending Hymn #267

# Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

## Postlude

## Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

## Today's Worship Leaders:

Pastor Sara Funkhouser  
Annie Perret  
Julie Moe  
Laurie Meade  
Andrew Wesly (all readings, including Psalm)  
Marilyn and Bob Enloe  
Vicki Cook

Presider/Preacher  
Musician  
Communion Assistant  
Usher  
Lector  
FOSS Transport  
Altar Care

## Next Week's Readings








First Reading: *1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26*  
Psalm: *Psalm 148*  
Second Reading: *Colossians 3:12-17*  
Gospel: *Luke 2:41-52*

**Pledge Cards:** Please return your pledge cards to church by Christmas Eve so that your Council can finalize our 2025 budget ahead of our January Annual Meeting.

**Lessons and Carols:** As usual, the Sunday after Christmas will be a Lessons and Carols service. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or email Pastor Sara any Christmas hymn requests you have. We will try to accommodate as many of the requests as possible throughout the Christmas season.

**Christmas Eve:** Join us on Christmas Eve at 6:00 P.M. for worship!

## Upcoming Events

22	DEC, SUN	 All day	4th Sunday of Advent LMLC Office
		 10:30 – 11:30am	In-Person & Live Stream Worship Sanctuary
24	DEC, TUE	 All day	Christmas Eve United States
		 1 – 5pm	Pastor Sara @FOSS Foss Home & Village
25	DEC, WED	 All day	Christmas Day United States
26	DEC, THU	 11:30am – 12:30pm	Pause for Prayer Zoom
		 6 – 9:30pm	Sound Harmony Sanctuary

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