

St. Luke’s Gondola Point

**MORNING PRAYER**

ADVENT IV – December 18, 2022

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

(This liturgy was compiled and written by the Rev. Matthew Kozlowski, 2015)

The Fourth Sunday of Advent - *Love*

 “Today we light the first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is *Hope*, the second candle is *Peace*, the third candle is *Joy*, and the fourth candle is *Love*.”

[**The candles are lit.**]

John 13:34 – “Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Let us pray: **“Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.”**

Advent Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel (CP #89 Verse 5)

O Come O Key of David, come / and open wide our heavenly home

Make safe the way that leads on high / and close the path to misery

Rejoice! Rejoice! / Emmanuel

Shall come to thee / O Israel

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel: God with us. *Matthew 1.23*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**Most merciful God, we confess that 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 neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn: *Wait For The Lord Whose Day Is Near* (CP #94)

**MORNING PRAYER**

Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;

**Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now,** **and will be for ever. Amen.** **Alleluia!**

The kingdom of God is at hand: **O come, let us worship.**

**Jubilate** *- Psalm 100*

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \*

**serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.**

Know this: The Lord himself is God; \*

**he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; \*

**give thanks to him and call upon his name.**

For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; \*

**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

The kingdom of God is at hand: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A reading from the book of Isaiah 7:10–16.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ‘Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.’ But Ahaz said, ‘I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.’ Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also?

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

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

Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \*

**shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.**

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \*

**stir up your strength and come to help us.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; \*

**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

O Lord God of hosts, \*

**how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

You have fed them with the bread of tears; \*

**you have given them bowls of tears to drink.**

You have made us the derision of our neighbours, \*

**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Restore us, O God of hosts; \*

**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \*

**the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

And so will we never turn away from you; \*

**give us life, that we may call upon your name.**

Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; \*

**show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

A reading from the letter to the Romans 1:1–7.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 18b - *The Song of Simeon*

*Luke 2.29–32*

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; \*

**your word has been fulfilled.**

My own eyes have seen the salvation \*

**which you have prepared in the sight of every people;**

a light to reveal you to the nations \*

**and the glory of your people Israel.**

Hymn: *Live in Charity* (CP #553)

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew (1:18-25). **Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.”

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**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.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

In joyful expectation let us pray to our Saviour and Redeemer, saying, “Lord Jesus, come soon!”

O Wisdom, from the mouth of the Most High, you reign over all things to the ends of the earth: come and teach us how to live.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Lord, and head of the house of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and you gave the law on Sinai: come with outstretched arm and ransom us. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Branch of Jesse, standing as a sign among the nations, all kings will keep silence before you and all peoples will summon you to their aid: come, set us free and delay no more. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Key of David and sceptre of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Morning Star, splendour of the light eternal and bright Sun of righteousness: come and enlighten all who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O King of the nations, you alone can fulfil their desires: Cornerstone, you make opposing nations one: come and save the creature you fashioned from clay. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

O Emmanuel, hope of the nations and their Saviour: come and save us, Lord our God. **Lord Jesus, come soon!**

For our own needs and those of others. [***Take a moment of silence to offer up prayers and intercessions, for yourself and for others. Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin.***]

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

**[*Silence. Take a moment to offer up your own thanksgivings to God.*]**

*Gracious God,*

*you have heard the prayers of your faithful people; you know our needs before we ask, and our ignorance in asking. Grant our requests as may be best for us. This we ask in the name of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.* ***Amen****.*

Collect

*Heavenly Father,*

*who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour,*

*now fill us with your grace, that we in all things may embrace your will and with her rejoice in your salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn: *Hail to the Lord’s Anointed* (CP #101)

Dismissal

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**