To Study and Share with those You Love. WEEK OF DECEMBER 24, 2023





IN THIS CHILD We will see all prophecies fulfilled

Hymn of Invocation Savior of the Nations, Come 332

+ The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism +

<u>INTROIT PSALM 19</u>

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;* let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may | bear fruit. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his | handiwork.* In them he has set a tent | for the sun, which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his | chamber,* and, like a strong man, runs its | course with joy. Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the | end of them,* and there is nothing hidden | from its heat.

Glory to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | righteousness;* let the earth open,

<u>COLLECT OF THE DAY</u>

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

<u> PSALM 89</u>

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness." You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations." Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! Glory to the Father and to the + Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen. O LORD, God of Armies, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you?

APPOINTED READINGS 24 DECEMBER 2023

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16Romans 16:25–27Luke 1:26–38The Lord Builds a House for David: Jesus Christ Who Comes in the Flesh

- When King David "lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies," he piously supposed that he would build a house for God (2 Sam. 7:1–2). But the Lord would turn it around: He would establish a house for David and an everlasting throne. This He has done not only for David, but also for all His people, in the Son of David, Jesus Christ, "conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary" (Apostles' Creed).
- That holy child, the incarnate "Son of the Most High," receives "the throne of his father David" and begins to reign "over the house of Jacob forever" (Luke 1:32–33). Having given Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of the world, His body is the true and eternal temple of God in which His people have their own place of peace and rest.
- That is "the mystery that was kept secret for long ages" but is now "made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God" in order that we may have faith and life in Christ (Rom. 16:25–26).

NICENE CREED

Hymn of the Day The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came 356

SERMON NOTES

Fourth Sunday in Advent 24 December 2023 *The Holy One Who is to be Born* Luke 1:35

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

In this Child born of Mary by the coming of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Most High we will see all prophecies fulfilled in an eternal kingdom ruled by the Son of God with truth and grace.

- 1. In this Child, all that was foretold has come to pass
 - 1. The throne of His father David established forever
 - 2. "I have cut off your enemies from before you."
- In this Child, we are brought into an eternal kingdom
 An everlasting dominion which shall not pass away
 - 2. "Be it done to me according to your word."
- 3. In this Child, we worship and serve the Holy One, the Son of God
 - 1. We are overshadowed by the power of the Most High
 - 2. Salvation is created, in the midst of the earth, O God, Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT 24 DECEMBER 2023

Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

O Lord, our God, nothing is impossible with You. Grant us faith to believe Your Word and follow the example of Your servant Mary, to receive the miraculous gift of Your Son, our Immanuel. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal God, Your Word has been sent forth into the world to the joy and edification of Your holy people. Encourage, comfort and strengthen all who hear it. Grant faith to those who do not know You, both here and abroad, that all peoples may sing to Your name and extol Your goodness. By the power of the Holy Spirit, fill all who hear Your Word with joy and peace in believing. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, bless Matthew, our Synod president; Rpger, our district president; Stene, our circuit visitor; and Paul, our pastor(s), that like the angel Gabriel, they may be faithful messengers of Your Good News. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, let Your favor rest upon all pregnant women and mothers of young children, that they may rejoice in the blessing of new life You give. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Lord of lords, by the reign of Your Son You govern all things in heaven and earth. Raise up true Davids among us to govern our land in faithfulness and in humble strength to do Your will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, uphold ____ and] all who suffer in mind or body. Give them the knowledge of Christ, their Immanuel, who is with them in their trials. Grant them health and healing in accord with Your perfect will. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, give us joy that as surely as Your Son was conceived in blessed Mary at Your Word, so He comes to abide in us also at Your Word in the blessed Sacrament. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**