



*Blessed are thou
amongst women*

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 20, 2009

*The Day of Katharina von Bora Luther (d. 1552)
Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Setting Five*



First Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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The Rev. Steven Woyen
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Pastor
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INTRODUCTION

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the Blessed Virgin Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the Holy Communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552

Born to an impoverished nobleman, Katie eventually took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. She later married Martin Luther and she operated their household. Six children were born to Katie and Martin.

+ + + + + + + + + +

GATHERING

The GATHERING MUSIC: Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus; Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming
The BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of Holy Baptism
In the Name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

Amen

As our nights grow longer and our days grow short,
we look on these earthly signs—light and green branches—
and remember God's promise to our world:
Christ, our Light and our Hope, will come.
Listen to the words of Isaiah the prophet:

*The people that walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those who lived in a land as dark as death
a light has dawned.
You have increased their joy
and given them gladness;
They rejoice in your presence
as those who rejoice at harvest,
as warriors exult when dividing spoil. [Is. 9:1-2]*

All four candles are lit. The devotion at the wreath concludes with the following:

Let us pray...
O God of rejoicing,
we remember the promise of your Son.
As the lights burn from these candles,
may the blessing of Christ come upon us,
brightening our way
and guiding us by his truth.
May Christ our Savior bring life
into the darkness of our world,

and to us as we wait for his coming.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The GATHERING HYMN
“Love Divine, all loves excelling”

ELW 631

The GREETING

The Pastor greets the assembly with the following words:
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.

The KYRIE

ELW pp. 156-157

The PRAYER OF THE DAY
The assembly is seated

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WORD

The FIRST READING

Micah 5:2–5a

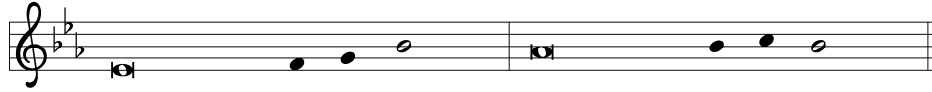
²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.
³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.
⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

The reading concludes
The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The PSALMODY

Luke 1:46b–55





^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,
^{48e}**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will | call me blessed:
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
and holy | is your name.
⁵⁰**You have mercy on | those who fear you,**
from generation to | generation. Refrain
⁵¹You have shown strength | with your arm
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,
⁵²**casting down the mighty | from their thrones**
and lifting | up the lowly.
⁵³You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.
⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,**
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made | to our forebears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. *Refrain*

The SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.
⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."
⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and
offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the
law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in
order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified
through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The reading concludes

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands

The GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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The HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,
⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth
heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with
the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women,

and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

The CHILDREN'S MESSAGE
The SERMON

Silence for reflection

The assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.

The HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lo, how a rose e'er blooming"

ELW 272

The CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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;
by the power of the Holy Spirit**

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He 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**

The PRAYERS & PEACE

ELW p. 143

The SENIOR CHOIR: "Come To Us, O Promised One"

MEAL

Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.
Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV
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**The
GRE
AT THANKSGIVING**

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The SANCTUS

ELW p. 162

The THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (III)

Holy One,
The beginning and the end...*The prayer continues*

...Let us proclaim the mystery of faith



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

The prayer continues... We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

The prayer continues... Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

The prayer continues and concludes...
All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High
one God, now and forever.



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

The LORD'S PRAYER (Sung)

ELW p. 163

The BREAKING OF THE BREAD

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed.

The assembly is seated

The LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 164

The DISTRIBUTION

*Believing in the Real Presence of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America practices Eucharistic Hospitality. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. **The Sacrament is distributed by coming up the center aisle and moving to the far end of the rail. Please kneel as you are able.** Those who do not wish to receive the Sacrament may approach with their arms crossed to receive a blessing.*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

"O come, O come, Emmanuel"

ELW 257

"Wait for the Lord"

ELW 262

The assembly stands.

The POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Let us pray... Almighty God, in the Eucharist you cleanse us from our sins and prepare us for the coming of your Son. Make us ready always to welcome him into our hearts as we receive

your Holy Sacrament; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

The SOLEMN BLESSING FOR ADVENT

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin.

Amen.

May He whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love.

Amen.

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life.

Amen.

And the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

The SENDING HYMN

“Joy to the World”

ELW 267

The SENDING

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

The SENDING MUSIC: “Fling Wide The Door”

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Acknowledgements

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Assisting Minister

Brenda Bitikofer

Lector

Heather Lautenschleger

Acolyte:

Madison Burk

Ushers:

Floyd Everhart, Jeff Duff, Heather Duff

Altar Guild:

Jane McGrath, Carol Schott, Debra Himes

PRAYER CONCERNS—Judy Himes, Doris Keener, Harold Burkett, and all nursing home residents.

The **Altar Flowers** are given by Sam & Cyndi Seward in honor of daughter Leigh Ann’s 31st birthday.

The **Eternal Candle** is given by Tim Whitman in memory of the Hardy and Bixler families.

The **Social Missions** committee is supporting “The Carpenter’s Cupboard” (the food pantry @ United Methodist Strasburg) for the month of December. Cash donations are needed but we are also collecting the following:

Gallon Ziploc food storage bags

Disposable diapers

Sanitary Napkins or tampons

Cleaning Supplies

Laundry detergent and dish soap

Toothpaste and toothbrushes

Deodorant (men and women)

Cleaning supplies

Bath soap & shampoo

Toilet paper, tissues and paper towels

We will collect these items in the box in the Narthex beginning Sunday, December 6th thru Sunday, January 3rd, 2010. Please give generously for those in need in our community.



The Epiphany of Our Lord

Did you know the Church doesn't celebrate the arrival of the Wise Men until January 6? January 6 is the Twelfth Day of Christmas and it's a day to celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—the visit of the Wise Men, the Baptism of Jesus, and the first miracle of turning water into wine. A joint Holy Communion will be held on Epiphany, **Wednesday, January 6, 7pm at Beach City**. Begin 2010 by being a faithful disciple in the life of our congregation communities and attend worship.

Church Council – There are still openings for Church Council. Please contact Pastor Steven or Dennis Jensen.

Bids for tables – Bidding closes this Sunday at 12:01p.m. for the tables in the Social Hall. Make sure you have placed your bid if you are interested in owning one of the tables. Please do not put your bid in the offering plate as it will be disqualified. You may place your bid in the Narthex.

Luminaries – There is a need for white, clean gallon milk jugs to be used for luminaries. Please bring all milk jugs to the kitchen.

Children's Church – There will be **no Children's Church until January**.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN (Week of 12/20—12/27)

Sunday	<u>The Fourth Sunday in Advent</u> 9 AM—Beach City Holy Communion 10:15 AM—Beach City Christian Education 9:15 AM—Strasburg Christian Education 10:30 AM—Strasburg Holy Communion 11:30 PM—Catechism
Monday	No Scheduled Activities
Tuesday	No Scheduled Activities
Wednesday	NO <i>The Book of Concord</i> (Beach City)
Thursday	<u>The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Eve</u> 4 PM—Christmas Children’s Mass (Strasburg) 7:30 PM—Beach City Holy Communion with Candlelight 10 PM—Strasburg Holy Communion with Candlelight
Friday	<u>The Nativity of Our Lord—Christmas Day</u>
Saturday	No Scheduled Activities
Sunday	<u>John, Apostle and Evangelist</u> 9 AM—Beach City Holy Communion 10:15 AM—Beach City Christian Education 9:15 AM—Strasburg Christian Education 10:30 AM—Strasburg Holy Communion NO Catechism

All ministry is open to disciples in both Strasburg and Beach City congregations. The names “Strasburg” or “Beach City” denotes location