

# December 1, 2024: “Hope” Extended Advent 4

## Welcome and Prelude

### Prayer of Confession

Today, as we confess our sins, we recognize how easily we overlook the gifts God gives. And we accept the sad truth that our limitations often create the conditions for sin. Let us pray.

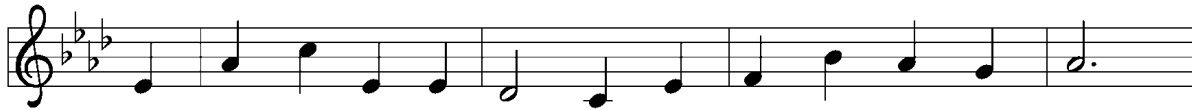
**God, we want a faith that feels like more than words, but we lack your power to embody goodness. We hear your call to serve others yet feel too worn out to make the food. We hunger to taste justice but fear the burning spice of the meal. We want our place at your table but resist sitting beside a stranger. We have lost our appetites for mere thoughts and prayers, but we fail to match our intentions to our actions. Forgive us and restore us with the healing wholeness of your presence.**

My friends, God knows you are imperfect. But God did not invite you here today for what you have done or how you have behaved. God loves you. God always cared much more for you than for your shortcomings. God forgives you all your sins. Now repeat after me.

We accept God’s forgiveness. **We accept God’s forgiveness.**

We take our place in God’s purpose. **We take our place in God’s purpose. Amen.**

### Gathering Song *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (ELW 244)



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

## Kyrie (ELW p. 203)

The words "kyrie eleison" are an ancient prayer meaning "Lord have mercy".

**Leader**

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

**All**

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

Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri - ste e - le - i - son

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

## Canticle of Praise (ELW p. 204)

Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

We sing glo - ry to God in the high - est.

We\_ wor - ship you, we\_ give\_ you thanks.

We\_ praise you for\_ your glo - ry Lord.

Sing glo - ry to God, and peace on earth.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

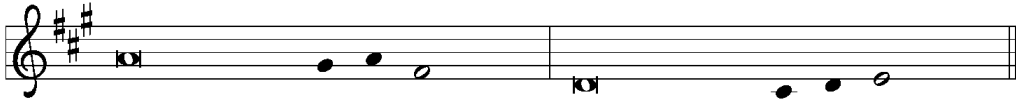
## Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice. Spirit, you know how shallow hope feels when our faith is small and afraid. Use your holy story to show us the human moments when you worked wonders for your people, so we can find hope in our lives, too. **Amen.**

### First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

### Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10



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- <sup>1</sup> To | you, O Lord,  
I lift | up my soul.
- <sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
- <sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- <sup>4</sup> **Show me your | ways, O Lord,  
and teach | me your paths. R**
- <sup>5</sup> Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- <sup>6</sup> **Remember, O Lord, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting. R**
- <sup>7</sup> Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O Lord.
- <sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and up- | right, O Lord;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
- <sup>9</sup> You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.
- <sup>10</sup> **All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R**

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Each of our Advent candles represents God's generous goodness, the advent of Jesus, God's greatest gift, the Spirit's fluttering flicker of joy. As we light each candle, we recognize the gifts God has given us this week.

Together, we pray: *(Each prayer is said as that candle is lit.)*

God, you shield us like tender flames; **your care enables us to burn brighter.**

God, we pool our faith like candlelight; **through you we reveal hidden goodness.**

God, your justice upends this broken world. **Use your mercy to transform everything that harms.**

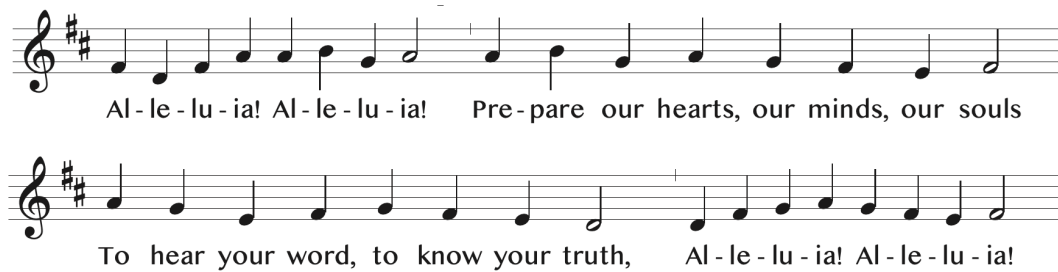
God, we reach for unreasonable hope; **and you prepare an unexpected future.**

### Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## Gospel Acclamation



## Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup> “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

### Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon

Surrender  
your expectations  
for the future based on the past  
and trust God’s vision for total  
transformation. With the gift of  
hope, the ridiculously unrealistic  
is within God’s reach,  
and ours.

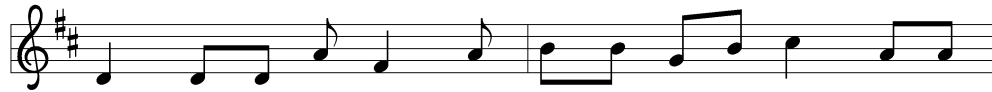
The graphic features a dark blue square background. A large white circle is centered on the page. To the right of the circle, a branch of a fig tree with several leaves and small round fruits extends into the square. The text is written in a white, serif font, centered within the circle.

Linnéa Clark  
More Than Words: Preachers’ Notes  
First Sunday of Advent

Hymn of the Day *All Earth Is Hopeful: Toda la tierra* (ELW 266)



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor  
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!  
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:  
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;  
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el  
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the  
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -  
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most  
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -  
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how  
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -  
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All  
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.  
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.  
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.  
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!  
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

**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 of Intercession**

*Each petition ends with "Merciful God," and the congregational response is "receive our prayer."*

**Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## Meal

### Offering Prayer

Together we pray.

Holy Spirit, please bless these small gifts we give. **You set the table with plenty of love.**


Prepare room in your home **for my neighbor and me.** Prepare a place in your vision **for my neighbor and me.**

Prepare a seat at your table **for my neighbor and me.**

Holy Spirit, you have blessed these gifts we give. **You set the table with plenty of love. Amen**


### Great Thanksgiving Dialogue

Leader Congregation



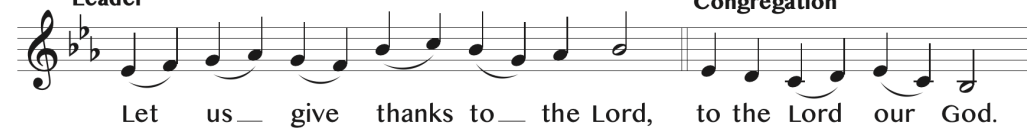
The Lord be\_ with you. And al - so\_ with you.

Leader Congregation




Lift up\_ your hearts.\_ We\_ lift them to\_ the Lord.

Leader Congregation



Let us\_ give thanks to\_ the Lord, to the Lord our God.

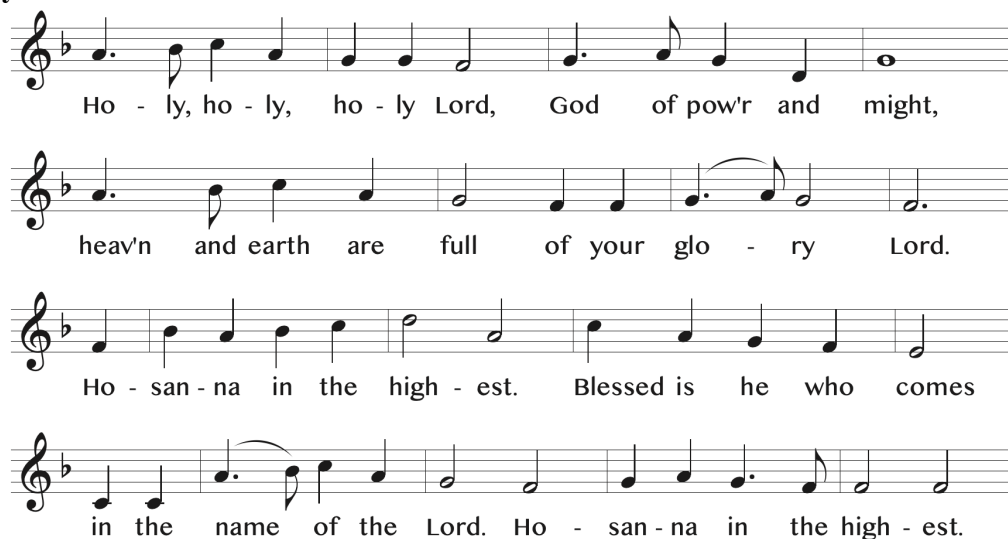
All



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### Preface

#### Holy, Holy, Holy



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

### Words of Institution

#### Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## Invitation to Communion

### Communion Song



O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

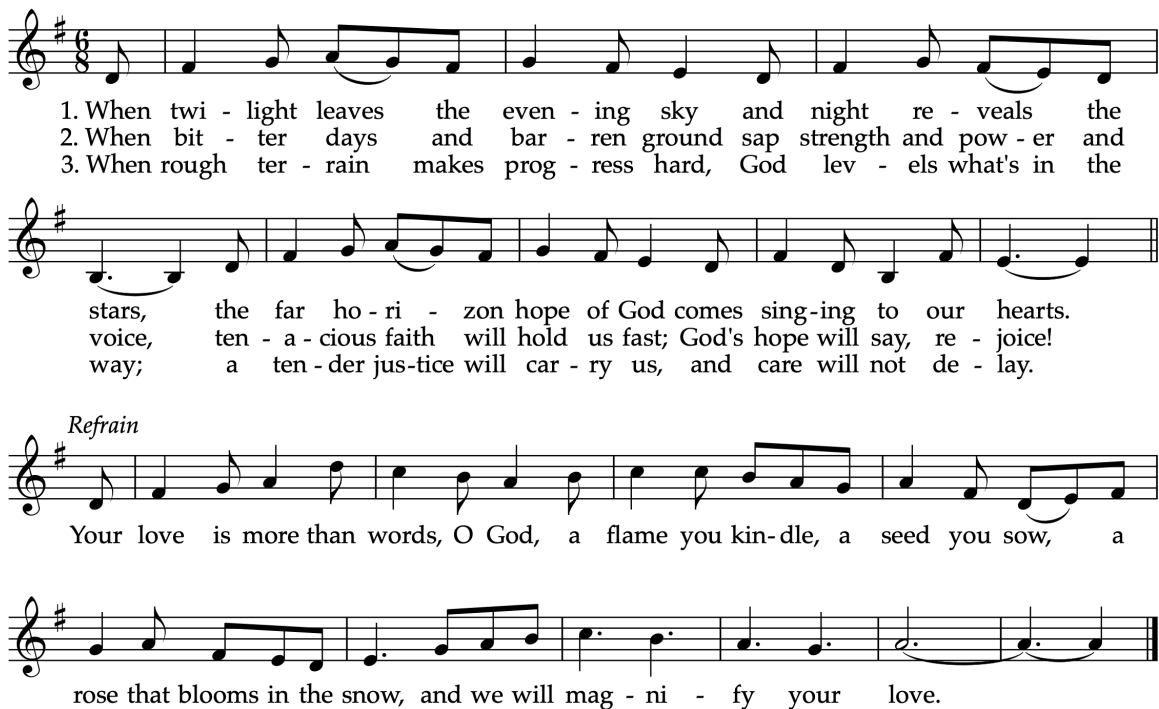
O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a-way the sin\_ of the world.

Have mer cy on us O Lord. Grant us peace. Grant us peace O Lord.

### Communion Hymn: *More Than Words*

*“More Than Words” was written to accompany worship throughout the Advent season. This original hymn explores the thematic interplay of each of the seven Advent words (care, faith, justice, hope, peace, joy, and love) as gifts from God. As God’s love is magnified for us, we magnify it like Mary, too. It will be our communion hymn for the remainder of the season.*



1. When twi - light leaves the even - ing sky and night re - veals the  
2. When bit - ter days and bar - ren ground sap strength and pow - er and  
3. When rough ter - rain makes prog - ress hard, God lev - els what's in the

stars, the far ho - ri - zon hope of God comes sing - ing to our hearts.  
voice, ten - a - cious faith will hold us fast; God's hope will say, re - joi - ce!  
way; a ten - der jus - tice will car - ry us, and care will not de - lay.

*Refrain*

Your love is more than words, O God, a flame you kin - dle, a seed you sow, a  
rose that blooms in the snow, and we will mag - ni - fy your love.

## Prayer after Communion

God, what you have planned for us unfolds slowly.

**Your love is often unrecognizable, unappreciated, gentle and unnoticed.**

But at this table we have noticed what others do not see.

**We have tasted your unspoken goodness. And now send us out to magnify your love. Amen.**

## Blessing

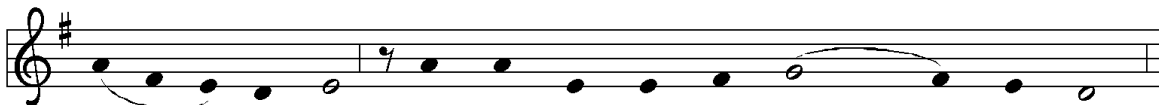
God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,

God, our hope for the journey, ✝ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

## Sending Song *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (ELW 257)



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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

## Dismissal

People of God, you have heard of the advent of God's goodness.

You carry the blessing of God, God, the First Whisper, Jesus, the Living Promise, Spirit, the Speaker of Hearts.

Now go into this world expecting God's justice and nurturing God's peace.

**God, we will magnify your love.**

## Organ Postlude:

*To allow those who wish to use the postlude as a time of reflection at the close of worship, we ask that the congregation exit the sanctuary in a way that allows that. We invite you to visit over refreshments in the centrum.*