

LARGE PRINT

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1: 26 – 28

In this annunciation,
Luke makes clear that God comes
with good news for ordinary people
from little known places. This king will
not be born to royalty in a palace,
but to common folk in a stall. Here
Luke highlights the role of the Spirit,
a special emphasis in this gospel.



December 20, 2020

9:30 a.m.

HOLY NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

New Hope, Minnesota

www.holynativity.net



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Welcome to WORSHIP at Holy Nativity!

Holy Nativity Lutheran Church ~ 3900 Winnetka Avenue
North ~ New Hope, MN 55427

Phone 763-545-1647 www.holynativity.net

Email: office@holynativity.net

Our Mission & Ministry: “Grounded in Christ’s love, Holy Nativity Lutheran Church is a welcoming community dedicated to helping all know God’s love through worship, service, and fellowship.”

Join us for Sunday worship at 9:30am on Facebook “LIVE”
at [facebook.com/holynativitynewhope!](https://facebook.com/holynativitynewhope)

Staff Members:

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom, Senior Pastor

Rev. Ashley Updegraff, Associate Pastor

Iver Hubert, Director of Music & Worship

Lisa Baker, Organist & Communications Coordinator

Kristen Chamberlain, Sunday School Director

Linda Lien, Congregational Care Coordinator
& Funeral Coordinator

Wendy Grimes, Youth Ministry Associate

Tom Wiblishauser, Custodial Care & Activity Set-Up

Kara Holt, Financial Coordinator

Amy Laite, Sunday Nursery Coordinator

Tawn Hanson, Wedding Coordinator

Brittany Anderson, Director of Week-Day Childcare Center
(hncccc.org)

Worship & Sound Team:

Mark Chamberlain

Andrew Kubly

Chris Daniels

Greg Eklund

Brian Hanson

ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Quote: "I am not alone at all, I thought. I was never alone at all. And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses." -Taylor Caldwell

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

*This is a time to quietly listen, pause to pray,
and reflect on why we are here.*

GATHERING MUSIC

"Comfort, Comfort, Now My People"

Hovland/Near

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: We gather in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS (P-Pastor, C-Congregation)

P: Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

(silence is kept for reflection)

P: Loving and forgiving God,

C: we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

P: People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free – free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, †comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

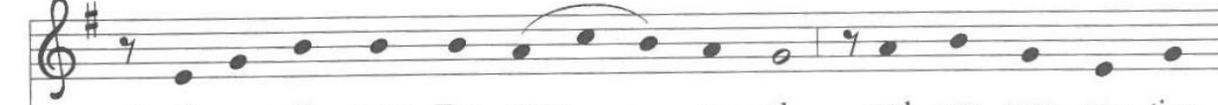
WE PRAISE GOD

GATHERING HYMN

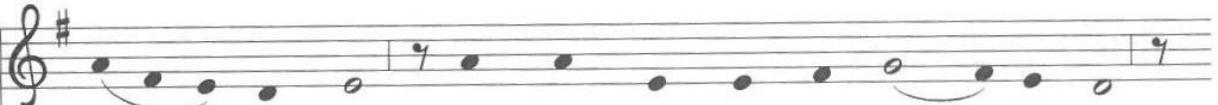
“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hymnal #257

(verses 1, 4, & 6)



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,



Refrain
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.

- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of Justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

KYRIE – “Lord Have Mercy”

Assistant: (sings verses) In peace, in peace...

Assistant:

Congregation sings refrain:



Let us pray — to the Lord, have mer - cy,

(Refrain)



Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have

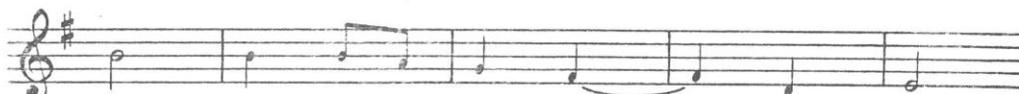


mer - cy.

Assistant: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all. Let us pray to the Lord... (Refrain repeats)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word. Let us pray to the Lord...(Refrain repeats)

Assistant:



Help, save and de - fend us, O God.

Congregation: (sings ‘Amen’)



A - - - - - men.

SALUTATION (Before the Prayer of the Day)

Presider:

Congregation:



The— Lord be with you. And— al - so with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (unison) **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

“O Come, Emmanuel”
Nativity Ensemble

Elaine Hagenberg

*O come, O come! O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

*O come thou Dayspring come and cheer our spirits
by Thine Advent here, and drive away the shades of night,
and pierce the clouds and bring us light!*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to Thee O Israel.

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all people in one heart and mind;
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease,
and fill the world with Heaven’s peace.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to Thee O Israel. O come.

GOD'S WORD IS READ
AND PROCLAIMED

FIRST READING

2nd Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders^[a] of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover

the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.
¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before
me; your throne shall be established forever.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words...

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

SECOND READING

Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words...

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL VERSE

“Alleluia ”

Red Folder Pg. 15

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? — You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

Pastor: The gospel reading according to Luke...

Cong.: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD!

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will

overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Pastor: Holy Wisdom, Holy Words...

Congregation: THANKS BE TO GOD!

SERMON

“God’s New Home”

Rev. Jason Wahlstrom

MOMENT TO REFLECT (*We pause in silence.*)

WE RESPOND

APOSTLES’ CREED

Hymnal Pg. 105

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

OFFERING/CHILDREN’S TIME

(You are invited to mail or drop off your offering, or donate online – go to our website at holynativity.net and click on “Make Donation.” Thank you!)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*(After each prayer petition... P: Lord, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.)*

LORD'S PRAYER (unison) **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 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**

BENEDICTION

P: Now may the light of God surround us, the love of God enfold us, and the presence of God watch over and protect us. For wherever we are, our God is also there. We close as we began, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

MISSION HYMN

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Hymnal #254

1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con-so - la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev-'ry na-tion, joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING MUSIC

“People, Look East!”

Kristina Langlois

*Flowers by the altar are given by Elizabeth Rokala
in memory of Sylvia & Eddie Rokala.*

WEEKLY INFORMATION

<p><i>Sunday, December 20</i> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 9:30am Worship (Online) 12:00pm Word of Life worship 3:30pm – 4:30pm Nativity Faire Activities 4:30pm – 5:00pm Nativity Faire Worship 6:00pm Word of Life Youth</p>	<p><i>Thursday, December 24</i> Office Closed 3:30pm Christmas Eve Prelude Music (online) 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship (online) 7:00pm Word of Life Choir</p>
<p><i>Monday, December 21</i> Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 5:30pm – 6:30pm Centering Prayer (on Zoom)</p>	<p><i>Friday, December 25</i> Office Closed 11:00am Word of Life Worship</p>
<p><i>Tuesday, December 22</i> Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm NO Bible Study in December 2:30pm Staff Meeting (on Zoom)</p>	<p><i>Saturday, December 26</i> 9:00am – 12:00pm Sunday School program recordings</p>
<p><i>Wednesday, December 23</i> Office Hours 9:00am – 3:00pm 11:15am HNCCCC Chapel 7:00pm Ensemble</p>	<p><i>Sunday, December 27</i> <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i> 9:30am Worship (Online) 12:00pm Word of Life worship 6:00pm Word of Life Youth</p>
<p>PRISM is accepting food donations Monday to Thursday, 9-3. Items in short supply are ramen noodles, pasta, pancake mix and breakfast cereal. Also see school supplies drive information below! December’s Mission Offering is designated to ELCA World Hunger. December’s Mission Offering is Beacon’s Families Moving Forward.</p>	

TODAY...

Education Hour is at 10:30am:

- **Sunday School** is online! You can watch lessons here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mv4IANtS9Rs>. New lessons will be posted starting January 10th.
- **Sunday Forum** - Topic is "ELCA World Hunger Advent Study Part 2" - Google Meet link for both sessions this month: <https://meet.google.com/ebn-vzej-szw>. If the link doesn't work, manually enter the code online. That should work.
- **Youth Forum** - 7th - 9th graders! Today is Christmas Fun with Lori! Join us via Zoom here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88430539532?pwd=Um1HK3ZrRTc1Yzh sT3E0aHU0RTFkZz09>

It's time for the Nativity Faire! Plan to join us today for the first ever Nativity Faire at Holy Nativity! There will be cookies, hot chocolate, pictures with the pastors, crafts, a LIVE petting zoo and more! This is the lead-in to a candle-lit worship. It all takes place outdoors in the parking lot, social-distanced and we ask you to wear a mask. You can come for all or just part of the faire. Festivities run from 3:30-4:30pm and the worship goes from 4:30-5:00pm.

What are you grateful for this Christmas? At the Nativity Faire you are invited to share what you are grateful for this Christmas in a brief, informal video! We hope to compile these short video clips into one that we can share with Holy Nativity.

THIS WEEK...

Holy Nativity has an INTERACTIVE Advent Calendar for you! It goes to December 25th and you can find it online here: <https://calendar.myadvent.net?id=85588cb5eb3f56426ecbb41b3e40721f>. Each day you can open a new “door” for an activity, video, or readings to reflect on. You can’t open each door until 12:00am or after each day though! But check the calendar each day for something special from the Holy Nativity staff!

The Sunday School Christmas Program is now on Facebook and YouTube! Check our pages for the video and thanks to all the kids and families who participated!

Christmas Eve Worship! The Christmas Eve prelude music will be livestreamed on Facebook this Thursday, December 24th at 3:30pm, and the service will be livestreamed at 4:00pm. Join us LIVE or watch later!

On Christmas Day, you are invited to spend some time in your homes in family worship and prayer (or if you are by yourself, in personal devotion). Tell the Christmas story, pray, and maybe even sing some Christmas hymns! A Christmas Day worship at home resource has been created for you by Pastor Jason! [You can find it on our website here!](#) If you would like it mailed to you, please contact the church office.

MORE INFORMATION...

Equipping Parents is back in January – online!

- **The Social Dilemma: A Zoom Conversation about Netflix's New Movie is coming up on Wednesday, January 6th, 7-8:30pm.** Social media connects us, but it also controls us. The Social Dilemma is a new documentary exploring the powerful impact that a relatively small number of engineers in Silicon Valley have over modern-day society. The film deftly tackles concepts like technology addiction, social engineering, and surveillance capitalism and makes them visceral, understandable, and urgent. This is a must-view movies for families. Watch the film, and then join us for a conversation so we can unpack the implications for our daily lives.
- **When the World Feels Like a Scary Place: A Zoom Conversation with Author Abigail Gewirtz is on Sunday, January 17th, 7:00 – 8:00pm.** In a complicated world, big issues make both parents and children anxious--from disturbingly routine active shooter drills at school, to frightening news about climate change, pandemics, social justice issues, and violence. It's all too easy for parents to feel at a loss for how to equip their child to deal with it all in a healthy way. Join us as Dr. Abigail Gewirtz, an award-winning child psychologist and leading expert on families under stress, offers parents a clear and practical guide to discussing these sensitive topics in a calm, reassuring, and productive way that will help kids comprehend and process the world around them.
- **Use this Zoom link for BOTH dates:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85255480757?pwd=b1grcURXR1daS1pLNVBlcmFLMTgvUT09>.

Holy Nativity Book Club is back! You are invited to participate in an online discussion of the book, “How to Be an Antiracist,” by Ibram X. Kendi. In this book, Ibram X. Kendi, the founding director of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University, presents an original approach to understanding and uprooting racism and inequality in our society – and in ourselves. Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism – and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In his book, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas – from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities – that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves. Pastor Jason will lead the discussion on Google Meet. We will meet on three Wednesdays, from 7-8pm: January 20, 27, and February 3. Read the introduction and the first six chapters for the first meeting. The book is available on Amazon or at your favorite local bookseller. The Google Meet link for all three sessions is: <https://meet.google.com/vtp-vrog-pre>. If the link doesn't work, open Google Meet and enter: vtp-vrog-pre.

Scripture readers needed for Sunday morning worship! Readers come to church in-person. Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050b48afad2fa4fb6-scripture1>.

Our 2021 stewardship campaign, **Continuing to Share God's Love**, is happening now! If you haven't already, please return your intent card enclosed in your mailing as soon as possible, or use this convenient online form: <https://forms.gle/AGho7tFDjrwxe9Jm7>. Thank you for your continued support!

Thank you for your continued financial support! During this time of online worship, there are still many ways you can financially support Holy Nativity!

1. **Mail your offering** (you may use your offering envelopes or mail checks to us at Holy Nativity, 3900 Winnetka Avenue N, New Hope, MN 55427).
2. **Give online** via [our link](#). Or just go to our website at holynativity.net and click on “Make Donation.”
3. **Ask the office to send you a Simply Giving form** for automatic withdrawals.

Today’s cantor: Iver Hubert
Today’s scripture reader: Sven Sjostedt

People & needs to keep in your prayers this week:
Geri Lingen, Roiger family, family of Roger Danielson

*If you have a prayer request or update,
or wish to be added to our prayer group,
please contact the church office at 763-545-1647 or
office@holynativity.net.*