

Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 20, 2020 – 8:30 a.m. Service

Gathering Song: *ELW 265 “The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came”*

Confession and Forgiveness

Loving and forgiving God,
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.

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. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

First Reading: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-28

¹Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing;

from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

²**For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever;**

you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

³“I have made a covenant with my chosen one;

I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

⁴**I will establish your line forever,**

and preserve your throne for all generations.’”

¹⁹You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:

“I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

²⁰**I have found David my servant;**

with my holy oil have I anointed him.

²¹My hand will hold him fast

and my arm will make him strong.

²²**No enemy shall deceive him,**

nor shall the wicked bring him down.

²³I will crush his foes before him

and strike down those who hate him.

²⁴**My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him,**

and he shall be victorious through my name.

²⁵I will set his hand on the sea,

and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶**He will say to me, ‘You are my father,**

my God, and the rock of my salvation.’

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38

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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.

Sermon

Prayers of the People

Pastor will begin a time of prayer. You are invited to add petitions to this time of prayer. You may end your petition: "Lord in your mercy." The congregation will respond: "Hear our prayer."

The Lord's Prayer and Communion

Sending Hymn: ELW 723 "Canticle of the Turning"

Benediction and Dismissal