

Advent Midweek 2



The Gift of Love

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021
4:00PM**

The Gift of Love

*In this is love, not that we have loved God
but that he loved us and sent his Son.*

1 John 4:10

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (Vs 1, 2, 4 and 6) LSB 358



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
low - ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.
bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

6 How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.

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OPENING LITANY

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Every good and perfect gift is from heaven above,

People: Coming down from the Father of lights.

Pastor: We gather to celebrate the good and perfect gift of love.

People: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son

Pastor: That whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

People: Though the mountains be shaken,

Pastor: And the hills be removed,

People: God's unending love will not be shaken,

Pastor: Nor his covenant of peace be removed.

People: Let us love one another. For love comes from God!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: In Advent we light a second candle and call it Love.

(The acolyte lights the first and second blue candles.)

Pastor: This is love.

People: Not that we loved God,

Pastor: But that he loved us.

People: We call this candle Love because God showed his love among us

Pastor: And sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

People: Let us love one another, for love comes from God!

HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (Vs 3) LSB 334



3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.

I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.

A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high

That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to our loving and gracious heavenly Father.
Love is patient.

People: **But we grow impatient.**

Pastor: Love is kind.

People: **But we push and shove.**

Pastor: Love does not envy.

People: **But we covet and demand.**

Pastor: Love does not boast.

People: **But we are pompous and proud.**

Pastor: Love keeps no record of wrongs.

People: **But we compute, calculate, catalog and refuse to let it go.**

Pastor: Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

People: **But our love is fickle, finite and so frequently fails.**

Pastor: I announce the grace of God to you, for in the name of Jesus you have God's sure and certain unfailing love—sin's debt, that fearful burden, cannot his love erase. Your guilt the Lord will pardon and cover by his grace. He comes, for you procuring the peace of sin forgiven, his children thus securing eternal life in heaven.

People: **Let us love one another, for love comes from God!**

HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You (Vs 4) LSB 334



4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.



Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.



Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace



In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

God of love, it is impossible for you to love us any more than you love us right now and you will never, ever love us less. Your love in Christ meets our deepest needs and satisfies our most intense longings. Show us anew that your call to love others is not a burden, but a constant blessing. In Jesus' name.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 54:7-10

7 "For a brief moment I deserted you, but with great compassion I will gather you. 8 In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the Lord, your Redeemer. 9 "This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go

over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you. 10 For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed," says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

1 John 4:7-11

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son

into the world, so that we might live through him. 10 In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord
People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:13-17

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter, verses 13-17
People: **Glory to You, O Lord**

13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 For God

so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of our Lord
People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

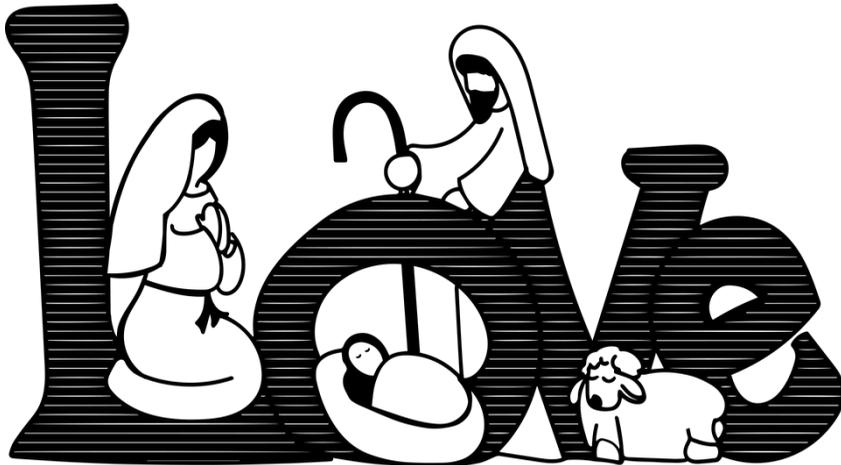


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HYMN OF THE DAY

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord (vs. 1-4, 6) LSB 352



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly,
2 What the Fa - thers most de - sired, What the proph - ets'
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of



kept His word And at last to us did send
heart in - spired, What they longed for man - y a year,
Ja - cob's Lord— Him of two - fold race be - hold—
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.
Tru - ly came, as long fore - told.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

6 Then when You will come again
As the glorious king to reign,
I with joy will see Your face,
Freely ransomed by Your grace.

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SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let your love for us

People: live through us.

Pastor: God of all love, help us love our families by extending grace instead of holding grudges; by caring instead of being overly critical; and by expressing great delight instead of bombarding them with our selfish demands. Let your love for us

People: live through us.

Pastor: God of all love, empower us to love our sisters and brothers in Christ by being more humble instead of haughty; by being more compassionate instead of callous; and by being more forgiving instead of focusing on their faults. Let your love for us

People: live through us.

Pastor: God of all love, empower us to love the world by showing them more of Jesus and less of our judgment; by showing them more patience and less of our pretense; and by showing them more comfort and less of our unloving condemnation. Let your love for us

People: live through us.

Pastor: God of all love, empower us to love our enemies by rejecting revenge and choosing redemption; by rejecting accusation and choosing restoration; and by rejecting hatred and choosing your pathway to hope and healing. Let your love for us

People: live through us.

Pastor: God of all love, you so loved the world that you gave us Jesus. And with him we have your unfailing love, your permanent and perpetual love. Let your love for us

People: live through us.

Pastor: Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9–13

People: **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.**

BENEDICTION

May you grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge. And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forevermore.

CLOSING HYMN

“In Thee is Gladness” (vs. 1-2) LSB 818



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
 2 Since He is ours, _____ We fear no pow - ers, Not of



sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
 earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -



heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
 tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the



wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -
 sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -



cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
 joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
 glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him



To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
 And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

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For with you is the fountain of life;



in your light we see light. Psalm 36:9

Fountain of Life Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod

15630 N. Del Webb Boulevard

Sun City, AZ 85351

Phone: (623) 933-8246

Website: www.suncitylutheran.org

Pastor: Thomas R. Daly

Cell: (480) 522-0777

Email: pastor@suncitylutheran.org

Office Email: execsecretary@suncitylutheran.org

Service Times

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study 11:15 am

Advent Services

December 1, 8 and 15 at 4:00p

Christmas Eve Services

December 24 at 4:00p and 6:00p

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday (9am-2pm)

****Closed Friday****

Fountain of Life Lutheran Church