

# The Promise of LOVE

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 21, 2025 – 11:00 AM

## AS WE GATHER

God's promise in Isaiah is that He would come to dwell with His people and rescue them. This is fulfilled in the birth of Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with us. Jesus made a great sacrifice, giving up the splendors of heaven to come to earth. But He did more than just live among us. Because of His great love, He provided a way for us to have eternal life. His mother, Mary, displayed great love in humbly giving life to the Son of God. And in doing so Jesus became the Savior of the world...love is made present.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WE SING

**"God So Loved"  
"How Far Love Goes"**

## WORDS OF PREPARATION AND CONFESSION

P: As we gather to hear God's Word and His promises to us in Christ, it becomes impossible not to recognize that we are dependent on His merciful forgiveness to us through our Savior Jesus. We sin in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. We sin when we don't think, say, or do the things that should flow from our lives as God's children. We cannot set ourselves free from our sins. But God has placed the punishment of our sins on Jesus Himself. He promises forgiveness to all who confess their sins and trust in this Good News of rescue through Jesus.

**C: Almighty God, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins, and give to us the assurance of everlasting life!**

(a time of quiet before the Lord)

## GOD FORGIVES OUR SIN

### WE PRAY

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

**Isaiah 7:10-14**

<sup>10</sup>Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>"Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test." <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

**Luke 1:26-38**

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

## **KIDS' TIME**

*DCE Liz Peters*

## **MESSAGE**

### **"Love Made Present"**

*Pastor Doug Slavens*

(Today's Readings)

## **AN ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH IN THE SAVIOR, JESUS**

In this time of Advent we declare our faith in the Christ whom we anticipate, in the Christ whom we celebrate!

We believe that Jesus is the Son of the living God! – He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea – that He is the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. We believe that Jesus lives today in our hearts – His commitment to us brings about our response of love and commitment to Him.

We believe that in Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled, our peace is sealed, our joy is complete, and our love is made full. By faith, we know that Jesus is coming again to bring all His promises to their final completion in the everlasting Kingdom of Heaven.

We believe this all to be true. Amen.

## **WE SHARE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION – THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

#### **SHARING OF PEACE**

P: Come now and receive Christ's body and blood together with His blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**WE SING**

**"When Love Crossed Over"**

**"God Really Loves Us"**

#### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

#### **PRAYER**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**THE CLOSING BLESSING**

**WE SING**

**"Child Of Love"**

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**OUR OFFERINGS**

All that we have and all that we are, belong to the Lord. He fills us with what is good! We pray: "Fill us, Lord, to overflowing, that others may receive blessed through the blessings we ourselves have received from You."

You can give online **[memoriallutheran.net](http://memoriallutheran.net)** or drop in the offering boxes located throughout the worship center.