

# St. Luke's Table

## FOURTH SUNDAY of ADVENT

I am the servant of the Lord;  
let it be to me  
according to his word.

*Luke 1.38*



Visitation, Church of El Sitio  
El Sitio, El Salvador

# Good Morning and Welcome!

A service of Holy Eucharist from the Book of Alternative Services.

Artwork from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

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Presiding and Preaching:

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Musician:

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Prayers of the People:

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# The Gathering of the Community

## Opening Hymn



## Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE

Last Sunday we lit the Candle of Joy.  
We light it and the candles of Hope  
and Peace again as we remember that Christ,  
who was born in Bethlehem,  
will come again to fulfill all of God's promises  
and bring us everlasting peace and joy.

*(The candles of Hope, Peace and Joy are lit)*

The fourth candle of Advent is the Candle of Love.  
God's love is a perfect love. It holds nothing back.

The bible says that

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that whoever believes in him should not perish,  
but have eternal life.”

We light the Candle of Love  
to remind us that Jesus  
brings us God's love  
and shows us how  
to love others.

*(The Candle of Love is Lit)*



God is Love

Love is like a light shining in a dark place.  
As we look at this candle  
we celebrate the love we find in Jesus Christ.

Hymn of Prayer:

These Candles Shine with Glorious Light

These Candles Shine with Glorious Light  
*(to the tune of On Jordan's Bank)*

**These candles shine with glorious light,  
give peace and hope to those in night.  
The joy they bring gives hope today,  
and peace through Christ, in all our ways.**



**Give Love, O Lord, to us this day,  
make in our hearts a ready way.  
That Christ, our Hope, our King, may show  
His love and grace from heav'n above.**

## The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Almighty God,  
**To you all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# Kyrie Eleison

Lord, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

## The Collect of the Day

**Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Virgin Mary, full of grace,  
to be the mother of our Lord and Saviour,  
now fill us with your grace,  
that we in all things may embrace your will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

# The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading:  
Micah 5.2–5a



Nativity in the Snow  
Church near Xavier University

## Canticle 18a, (alternating verses)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; \*  
for he has looked with favour on his lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.**

He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.

**He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.**



He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.

**He has filled the hungry with good things, \***  
**and the rich he has sent away empty.**

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy  
Spirit: \***

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever.  
Amen.**

Second Reading:  
Hebrews 10.5–10



"With the grace of God and the effort of will,  
we obtain the excellence of virtue."

# Gradual Hymn





The Good News:

The Holy Gospel of  
Luke 1.39–45, (46–55)



The Visitation, Brother Eric  
Church of Reconciliation, Taizé, France

# Sermon



Feeding the Hungry  
Biberach, Germany

## The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess the faith of our baptism,  
as we say,

**I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

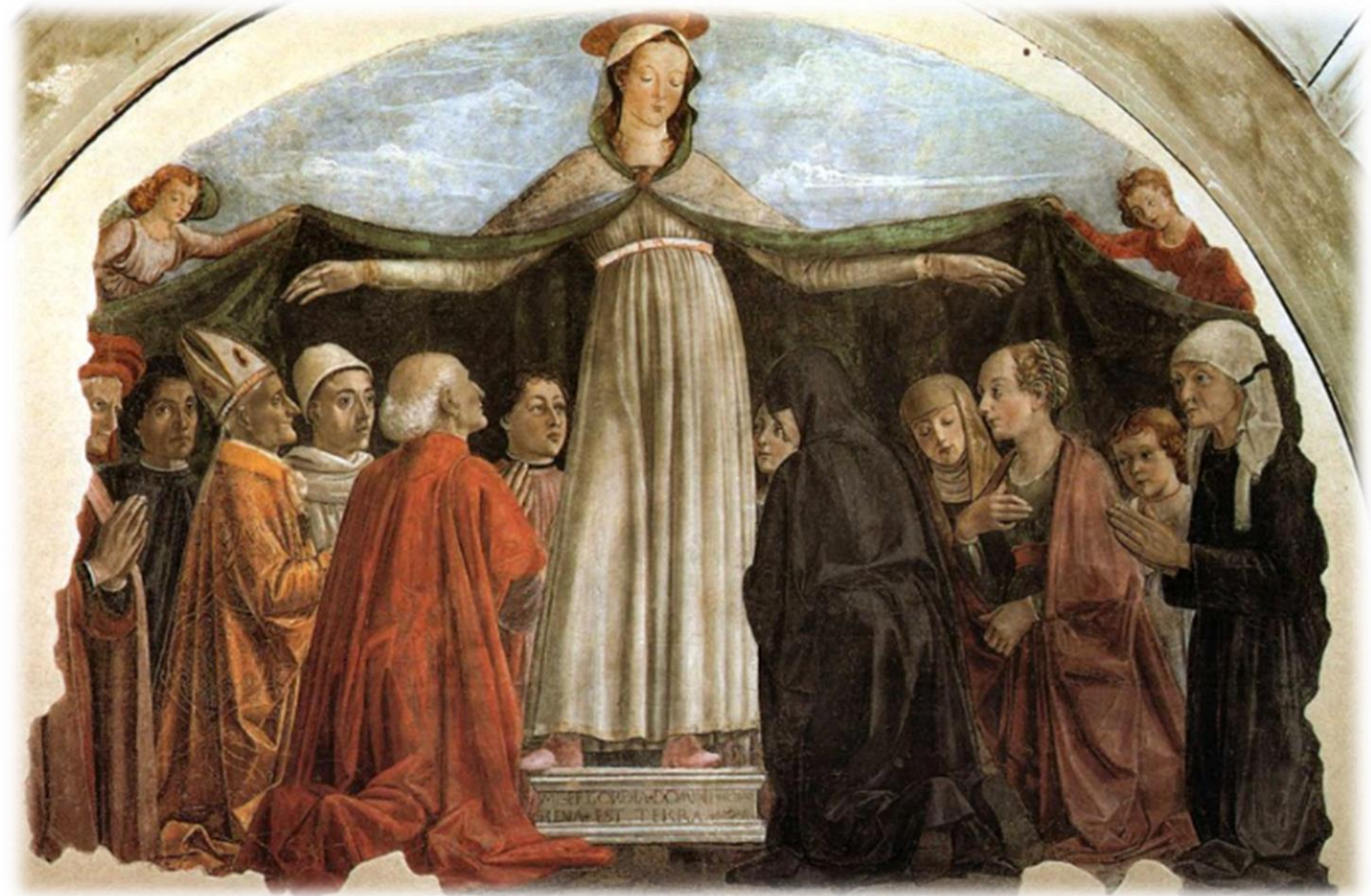
**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He 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,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again  
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.**

## Prayers of the People



Madonna of Mercy -- Domenico Ghirlandaio, San  
Salvatore di Ognissanti, Florence, Italy

## Confession and Absolution

Dear Friends in Christ,  
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;  
God welcomes sinners  
and invites us to his table.  
Let us confess our sins,  
confident in God's forgiveness.

Most merciful God,  
**We confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## Absolution

Almighty God have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# The Peace

The peace of the Lord  
be always with you.

**And also with you.**

# The Celebration of the Eucharist

## Preparation of the Gifts

### Offertory Hymn





## Prayer over the Gifts:

**Gracious God,  
by the power of the Spirit  
who sanctified the mother of your Son,  
make holy all we offer you this day.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving  
Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, gracious God,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
we give you thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who in the fullness of time came among us in our flesh,  
and opened to us the way of salvation.

Now we watch for the day when he will come again  
in power and great triumph to judge this world,  
that we, without shame or fear,  
may rejoice to behold his appearing.  
Therefore we praise you,  
joining our voices with angels and archangels  
and with all the company of heaven,  
who for ever sing this hymn  
to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks to you, Lord our God,  
for the goodness and love  
you have made known to us in creation;  
in calling Israel to be your people;  
in your Word spoken through the prophets;  
and above all in the Word made flesh,  
Jesus your Son.

For in these last days you sent him  
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.  
In him, you have delivered us from evil,  
and made us worthy to stand before you.

In him, you have brought us  
out of error into truth,  
out of sin into righteousness,  
out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over  
to suffering and death,  
a death he freely accepted,  
our Lord Jesus Christ took bread;



and when he had given thanks to you,  
he broke it, and gave it to his disciples,  
and said, “ Take, eat:  
this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine;  
and when he had given thanks,  
he gave it to them,  
and said, “Drink this, all of you:  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, Father, according to his command,  
**we remember his death,**  
**we proclaim his resurrection,**  
**we await his coming in glory;**

and we offer our sacrifice  
of praise and thanksgiving  
to you, Lord of all;  
presenting to you, from your creation,  
this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God,  
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,  
that they may be the sacrament  
of the body of Christ  
and his blood of the new covenant.  
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,  
that we, made acceptable in him,  
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time,  
reconcile all things in Christ,  
and make them new,  
and bring us to that city of light  
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the firstborn of all creation,  
the head of the Church,  
and the author of our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,  
now and for ever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us,  
we are bold to pray

**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,  
the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

God of promise,  
you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

**Happy are those who are called  
to the supper of the Lamb.**

# The Communion

The gifts of God for  
the Children of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Prayer After Communion

**Faithful God,  
in this sacrament we receive the promise of salvation.  
May we, like the Virgin Mary,  
be obedient to your will.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.  
Amen.**

## Doxology

Glory to God,  
**whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more  
than we can ask or imagine.**  
**Glory to God, from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,  
for ever and ever. Amen**

The Blessing

Announcements

Closing Hymn



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