

St. Luke's Table

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

A virgin shall conceive
and bear a son,
and his name shall be
called Emmanuel:
God with us.

Matthew 1.23



Madonna and Child from Mexico,
Mosaic from Church of the Annunciation,
Nazareth, Israel

Good Morning and Welcome!

Morning Prayer

*(Service of the Word 2,
Supplementary to the BAS)*

The Gathering
of the Community



Love is the Only Solution

Opening Hymn:



Gloria! -- Prince of Peace Abbey, Oceanside, CA

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.

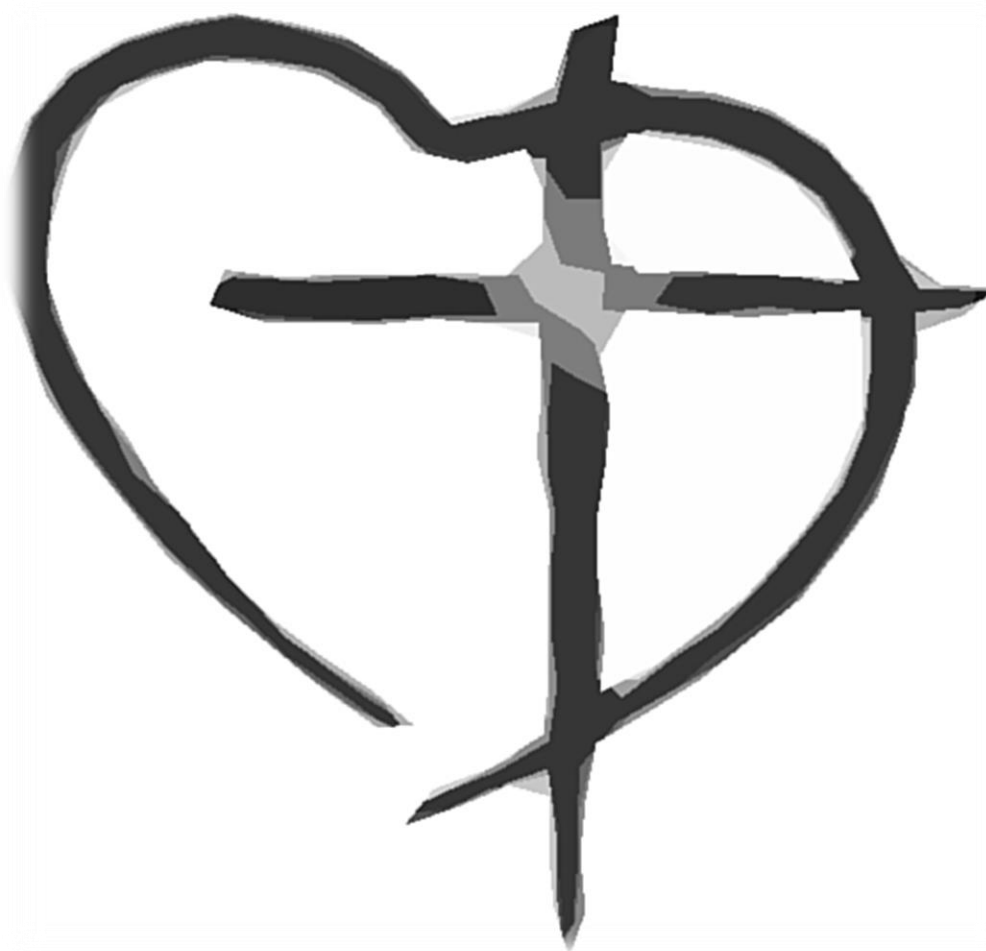
God's love is a perfect love.
It holds nothing back.

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)

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.



Heart with Cross

Hymn of Prayer:

These Candles Shine with Glorious Light

**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.

Let us pray.

**We thank you, O God,
that you have again brought us together
to praise you for your goodness
and to ask your blessing.
Give us grace to see your hand
in the week that is past,
and your purpose in the week to come;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,
as we turn our hearts and minds
to worship Almighty God,
let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with our neighbour.

**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.**

Merciful God,
grant to us, your faithful people pardon and peace,
that we may be cleansed from all our sins
and serve you with a quiet mind;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord is our light
and our life.

O come, let us worship.

Venite: (alternating verses)

Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

**For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land.**

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our maker.
For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

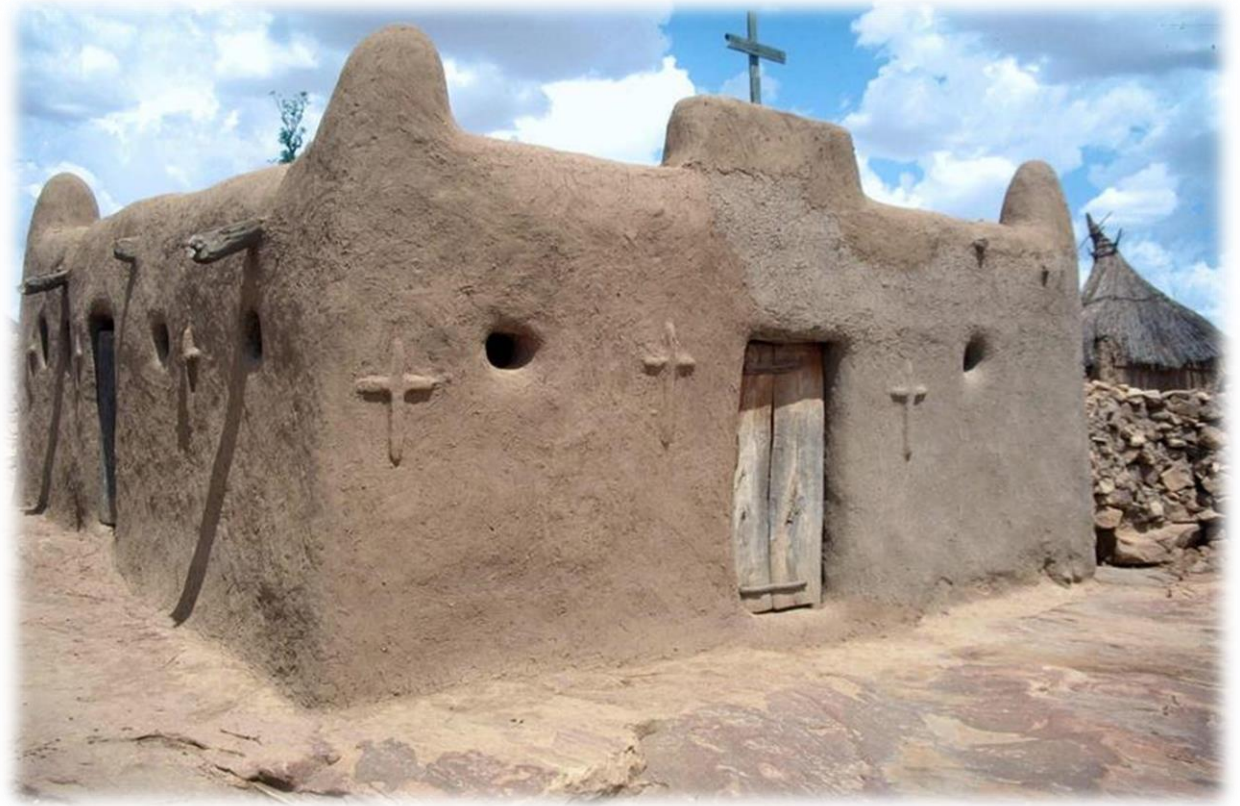
The Collect of the Day

**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:

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16



Church in a Dogon Village, Mali

2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

7:1 Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him,

7:2 the 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."

7:3 Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

7:4 But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan:

7:5 Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in?

7:6 I 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.

7:7 Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

7:8 Now 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;

7:9 and 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.

7:10 And 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,

7:11 from 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.

7:16 Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Canticle 18 (Luke 1: 47-55): (alternating verses)

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

*for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his
servant. Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed;*

***for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.***

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

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

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance
of his mercy,

**according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

Song of Mary, (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: Romans 16: 25-27



Love and Faithfulness Meet

Romans 16: 25-27

16:25 Now 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

16:26 but 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 --

16:27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Song of Simeon, (alternating verses)

Lord, now you let your servant go in peace;
your word has been fulfilled.

**My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;**

a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

**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.**

Gradual Hymn:



The Annunciation, Church of Our Lady of Pity
Swaffam, England

The Good News:

The Holy Gospel of Christ
according to
Luke 1: 26-38



The Annunciation
Fra Angelico Prado Museum Madrid, Spain

Reflection

A Message of HOPE from our Primate Archbishop Linda Nicholls

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3jbK6ah9c8&feature=youtu.be>

The Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith 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

Offered by
Jerry Cavanaugh



Love, (four ways), Indiana, Robert, 1928-

The Peace

We are the body of Christ;
in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory Hymn



Smile on Your Brother, Fonseca, Rico

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.**

Parish Discernment

Missional Litany Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, let your presence
fill our hearts and overflow in our actions,
that we may proclaim
the good news of your Kingdom.
Let your glory fill this place,

Let your glory fill this world.

Lord, fill us with your welcoming Spirit of truth,
that we may faithfully teach,
baptize and nurture those
who come to believe in you.
Let your glory fill this place,
Let your glory fill this world.

Lord, as you came to serve
and not to be served,
fill us with the compassion
and insight to respond
to human need by loving service.
Let your glory fill this place,
Let your glory fill this world.

Lord, let the fire of your goodness
and justice burn into us and through us,
that we may seek
to transform the unjust structures of society.
Let your glory fill this place,
Let your glory fill this world.

Lord, as you come into our lives
to redeem all that is good,
guide us in our turn to renew and sustain
the life of your creation.
Let your glory fill this place,
Let your glory fill this world.

**Almighty God,
in our baptism you adopted us for your own.
Fill us with your Spirit, that we,
being renewed both in body and mind,
may serve you in sincerity and truth;
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen**

Prayer of General Thanksgiving

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life;
but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray, give us such an awareness
of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts
we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up ourselves to your service,
and by walking before you
in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has 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 Blessing

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia.

Thanks be to God, Alleluia.

Closing Hymn:



Thou Shalt Love the Lord Thy God...
Schnell, Sister Maurice, 1839-1902

Closing Prayer

**May the God of hope
fill us all with joy and peace in believing
through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Acknowledgement of Sources:

Scripture:

The Revised Common Lectionary, a service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, (Fourth Sunday of Advent), Revised Common Lectionary (vanderbilt.edu)

Art:

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Mary of the Annunciation, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56335> [retrieved December 10, 2020]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Israel_Nazareth9_tango7174.jpg.

Love is the Only Solution, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56342> [retrieved December 10, 2020]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/thomashawk/5653108193> – Thomas Hawk.

http://www.flickr.com/photos/mariya_umama_wethemba_monastery/2646933603/

Heart with Cross, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57557> [retrieved December 10, 2020]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/29807771@N02/5964131678-liv4gss>.

Church in a Dogon Village, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56343> [retrieved December 10, 2020]. Original source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/herr_hartmann/429627010.

Love and Faithfulness Meet, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56328> [retrieved December 10, 2020]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sevendipity/1410013612/>.

Annunciation, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56722> [retrieved December 10, 2020]. Original source: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/2052404610/> - Fr Lawrence Lew, O.P..

Angelico, fra, approximately 1400-1455. Annunciation to Mary, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56337> [retrieved December 10, 2020]. Original source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Angelico,_prado.jpg.

ndiana, Robert, 1928-. Love (four ways), from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55272> [retrieved December 10, 2020]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/unlisted sightings/2383631294/>.

Fonseca, Rico. Smile on Your Brother, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55211> [retrieved December 10, 2020]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/tonythemisfit/2569759440/>.

Schnell, Sister Maurice, 1839-1902. Thou Shalt Love the Lord Thy God..., from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56207> [retrieved December 10, 2020]. Original source: https://commons.m.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Thou_Shalt_Love_-_Sister_Maurice_Schnell.jpg.