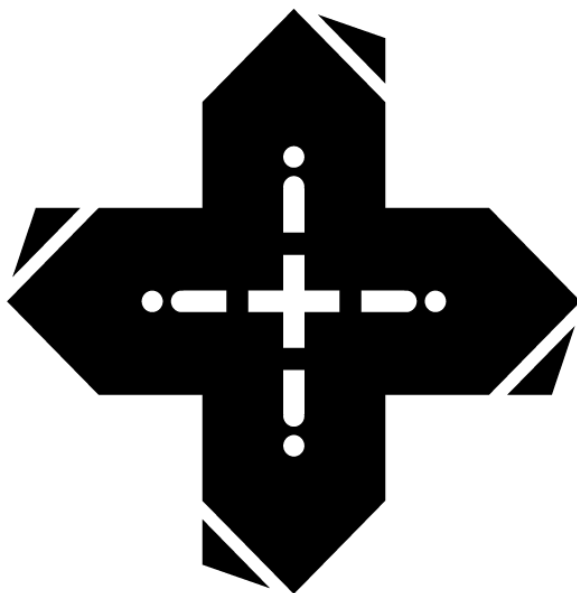


**CONNECTING CHRIST. CREATING COMMUNITY**



**HUNTERSVILLE**  
*Lutheran Church*

**12.13.20 | Season of Advent**



# Huntersville Lutheran

*A Changeless Message for  
A Changing Community*

Worshipping at the Brick Row

Bible Class @ 8:45am | Worship @ 9:30am

Huntersvillelc.com | 248-807-3057 | [pastor@huntersvillelc.com](mailto:pastor@huntersvillelc.com)

**W**elcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Our service is centered on our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose from the dead so that we would have eternal life in him. God reveals this soul saving message in his Word. We gather to find strength though God's powerful and holy Word. Take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the order of service, readings, and hymns, and fill out the take action card. May God bless our time together this morning.

## About Our Worship

The gospel is the good news about what Jesus did to be the Savior for sinners. It is also the power of God—the very thing he uses to work faith in our hearts and transform our lives. Therefore, gospel-centered worship places the gospel in central focus. This order of service is called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children).

## For Your Convenience

**Restrooms** are located through the doors at the rear of the building, to the right. Follow the arrows once you are in the hallway.

## Service Participants

Rev. Doug Van Sice, *pastor of Huntersville Lutheran*  
Andrea Van Sice, *keyboardist*

## Service Notes | *The Season of Advent* |

Advent is a Latin word that means “coming.” The season of Advent is the four-week period before Christmas that the church uses to remember the “coming” of Christ as the savior of the world.

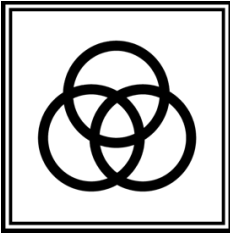
## Today’s Theme | *The Forerunner Points* |

So far this Advent, we’ve looked at the John the Baptist and how he prepared people: through a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. We’ve looked at how, through his preparation, he pointed people to the Christ. And today, we are introduced to a different character in the Advent narrative: Mary. She was prepared by another messenger for the coming of God’s Son. But this messenger was an angel. She was prepared for the coming of God’s Son by being told she would give birth to him. And in Mary, we are given a picture of the best preparation for Christmas: a readiness to receive.



## About Huntersville Lutheran

Huntersville Lutheran is supported by, and are members of, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a collection of over 1,300 churches across the United States and Canada. Our mission is to show you to the authentic Jesus, build you up in his Word, and connect you to your community and neighbors in ways you have never been able to before. For find out more about us, visit our website: [huntersvillelc.com](http://huntersvillelc.com).



## ORDER OF SERVICE

*Normally, no hymn of praise is sung during Advent and Lent. This practice accentuates the solemn and penitential nature of these seasons. This Advent, the Gloria is replaced by the gathering rite for the season. At the heart of this gathering rite is thought of waiting. The season of Advent is marked by waiting in anticipation for the coming of God's Son in flesh and blood to be our Savior. It is in him we hope. It is for him we wait. It is to him we pray, "Come quickly, Lord."*

### Gathering Song

### *I Will Wait For You*



1 Lord, from the depths I call to you; Lord, hear me  
2 Lord, in your pres- ence who can stand, if you our



from on high and give at - ten - tion  
sins re - cord? But yet for - give - ness



to my voice when I for mer - cy cry.  
is with you, that we may fear you, Lord.

### Invocation

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**L** Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord; Lord, hear my voice.

*Psalm 130:1*

**C** Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

*Psalm 130:2*

## Confession

**L** The Lord Jesus comes to us and offers his grace and love. It is good for us to repent of our sins and to plead for his mercy.


**C** Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin,  
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,  
For sins of habit and sins of choice,  
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do.  
You should cast me away from your presence forever.  
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

## Sung Response

**L** Out of the depths I cry to you, in darkest places I will call;  
Incline your ear to me anew, and hear my cry for mercy, Lord.

Were you to count my sinful ways, how could I stand before your throne?  
Yet full forgiveness meets my gaze: I stand redeemed by grace alone.

**C** Refrain:



I will wait for you, I will wait for you; on your  
word, I will re - ly. I will wait for you, sure - ly  
wait for you, till my soul is sat - is - fied.

## Absolution

**L** If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

*Psalm 130:3*

**C** But with you there is forgiveness.

*Psalm 130:4*

**L** Put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love;

**C** And with him is full redemption.

*Psalm 130:7*

**L** God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Sung Response

**L** So put your hope in God alone; take courage in his power to save—  
Completely and forever won by Christ emerging from the grave.

Now he has come to make a way, and God himself has paid the price,  
That all who trust in him today, find healing in his sacrifice.

**C** Refrain:

I will wait for you, I will wait for you; through the  
storm and through the night. I will wait for you, sure-ly  
wait for you, for your love is my de - light.



# THE WORD

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## Prayer of the Day

**L** Let us pray:

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Children's Message

### First Reading | *2 Samuel 7:8-16* |

<sup>8</sup>“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup>and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup>When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. <sup>15</sup>But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

## Psalm 89

- L** I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
- C** **I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.**
- L** I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
- C** **That you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.**
- L** The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
- C** **Your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.**
- L** O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?
- C** **You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.**
- L** Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
- C** **Who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.**
- L** They rejoice in your name all day long;
- C** **They exult in your righteousness.**

## Second Reading | *Romans 16:25-27* |

<sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, <sup>26</sup> but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.



## Lighting Rite<sup>1</sup>

*Please Stand.*

- L** We light three Advent candles remember Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.
- C** We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.
- L** We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.
- C** We light three Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.
- L** Come quickly, Lord Jesus, come.

### *The Congregation Sings:*

- C** Oh come, O Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home.  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel!

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<sup>1</sup> *The Advent Wreath is a combination of two very common symbols: light and the fir tree. From the early centuries of Christianity, it has been the practice to represent Christ by a burning candle. The fir tree has a long history of religious use. No doubt the Advent Wreath was suggested by the Christmas tree. It seems that the Advent Wreath originated a few hundred years ago among the Lutherans of eastern Germany. A wreath of evergreens, made in various sizes, was either suspended from the ceiling or placed on a table. Four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent were fastened to the wreath. Eventually the use of the Advent Wreath became widespread and moved also from the home into the church. The general symbolism of the Advent Wreath lies in the growing light of the wreath, increasing each week as we approach the birthday of Jesus, the Light of the world.*

## The Gospel

**L** The Gospel, according to Luke, chapter one.

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.



**L** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to you, O Christ!

## Hymn of the Day | *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* |



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,  
 3 "This is the Christ, our God most high, Who hears your  
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad ti - dings of great joy  
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of low -  
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will him - self your Sav -  
 God for all be - low, That in his king - dom, bright



I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:  
 ly birth Shall be the joy of all the earth.  
 ior be From all your sins to set you free.  
 and fair, You may with us his glo - ry share.

14 My heart for very joy must leap;  
 My lips no more can silence keep.  
 I, too, must sing with joyful tongue  
 That sweetest ancient cradle song:

15 Glory to God in highest heaven,  
 Who unto us his Son has given!  
 While angels sing with pious mirth  
 A glad new year to all the earth.

## **Sermon | *You Are Highly Favored* |**

*Luke 1:26-38*

### **Personal Sermon Notes**

## **Confession of Faith | *Apostles' Creed* |**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**



# THANKSGIVING

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**Offering |** The members of Huntersville Lutheran have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you would like to give digitally, text any dollar amount to **84321**. Easy to follow instructions will be sent to your phone to complete your digital offering. Guests, you are welcome to participate in supporting our ministry, but certainly do not feel obligated.

**Take Action Cards |** In your service folder, you will find *Take Action* Cards. If you haven't done so already, please take a moment and fill it out completely to give us a record of your attendance. In addition, you may request prayers be said on your behalf today. Place your *Take Action* card in the offering plate as it comes around.

## Prayer of the Church

### Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

# BLESSING

## Lord's Blessing

**L** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.

*Numbers 6:24*

**G** Amen.

## Song of Departure | *Of the Father's Love Begotten* |



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten  
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed  
3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers  
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,



Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is  
When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the  
Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the  
An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -



Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the  
Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior  
Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their  
min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our



end - ing he, Of the things that are, that  
of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -  
faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -  
God and King. Let no tongue on earth be



have been, And that future years shall  
 deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred  
 spect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its  
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert  
 see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank You |** You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning and you chose to spend it here, so thank you. To our guests and visitors this morning we pray that your time with us has been enjoyable. If you have any questions, feel free to speak with any of our members or pastor after the service.

**Want to Learn More? |** Aside from worship, one of the best ways to learn more about Scripture and Huntersville Lutheran teaches is to join a Faithbuilders class. Faithbuilders is a class on the basics of Christianity and is our path to membership at HLC. Whether you are brand new to Christianity or a life-long believer, this class is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen your faith and grow in your relationship with your Savior. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Pastor ([pastor@huntersvillelc.com](mailto:pastor@huntersvillelc.com)).

**Advent Dinner and Devotion |** On Wednesdays, December 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:30pm, we will meet for a time of dinner and devotion. It will take place at the church office (9820 Northcross Center Court Huntersville). We will have some food brought in and, after dinner, have a brief devotion. If you have not already, please take a moment to RSVP via the SignUp Genius. This will let us know how much food to order.

**Christmas Outreach Opportunity |** After worship on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, there will be an opportunity to invite our community to worship with us on Christmas Eve. In the back, there will be packs of door hangers with accompanying maps. If you are willing to serve Jesus in this unique way, please grab a pack on your way out the door and hang them at your convenience! Thank you for your consideration!

## Holiday Worship Schedule

Wednesday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:30pm	Dinner and Devotion
Sunday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols
Thursday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	5:00pm	Festival of the Nativity
Sunday, December 27 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Festival of Holy Innocents