



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

DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 20, 2020

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Advent Recital

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the Nations, Come), BWV 659 **Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)**

There are two chorales that are set three different ways in Bach's Leipzig Great Eighteen chorale preludes. One is Allein Gott (the "Gloria" in the Lutheran liturgy) and the other is the ubiquitous advent chorale, Nun komm. We will hear two of these settings today to close out our Advent season. The first features a continuous walking bass line, with a two-part canonic accompaniment, upon which is layered a highly ornate melody line, evoking the mystery of the incarnation. Nun komm is also featured as our sending hymn today.

Ave Maris Stella (Hail, Star of the Sea), Op. 18, Book II Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

- I. When the Salutation Gabriel had Spoken
(Canon at the 4th between the Soprano and Bass)
- II. Jesus' Tender Mother, Make Thy Supplication
(Chorale in the Tenor)
- III. So Now as We Journey, Aid Our Weak Endeavor
(Chorale ornamented in the style of J. S. Bach)
- IV. Amen (Finale)

Ave Maris Stella is a Marian hymn that was written in approximately the 8th century, and is used in the Roman Catholic liturgy as a vespers hymn. In fact, it is the prescribed hymn for the Feast of the Annunciation, which is celebrated in the Catholic church on March 25th (exactly 9 months before Christmas). Lutherans do not celebrate this as a formal feast day, but the story of the annunciation is an integral part of our Gospel reading today. Marcel Dupré was a 20th-century French organist, composer, and pedagogue. His setting of Ave Maris Stella is an example of the modern French improvisatory style, with a series of variations on the tune exploring different compositional textures and techniques, as well as highlighting the various orchestral colors of the organ. Our organist will begin this piece by playing through the plainchant.

Improvisation on "Ave Maris Stella"
Kevin Seal

Inspired by Marcel Dupré's composition, our organist presents a short improvisation on *Ave Maris Stella*.

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying), BWV 645
J. S. Bach

Bach was a practical musician above all else, and often reused his existing compositions or transcribed them for other instruments. This chorale prelude, a setting of what is sometimes known as the "king" of chorales, is a direct transcription of the fourth movement of Bach's BWV 140, a cantata by the same name. It features a trio texture, with an unadorned cantus firmus in the tenor part. This is perhaps Bach's most famous Advent organ work.

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

December 20: Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church, died 1552

Born to an impoverished nobleman, when Katharina (Katie) was five her mother died and she was sent to live in a convent. She later took vows as a nun, but around age twenty-four she and several other nuns who were influenced by the writings of Martin Luther left the convent. Six children were born to Katie and Martin. Though initially Luther felt little affection for Katie, she proved herself a gifted household manager and became a trusted partner. She was so influential that Luther took to calling her "my lord Katie."

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

*Hymn Prelude on "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," Op. 100
Flor Peeters (1903-1986)*

This Sunday, we continue our journey through various compositions based on our Advent Canticle, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." Flor Peeters arrangement begins with typical impressionist harmonies, and continues with a simple harmonization of the tune.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever.
Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin.
In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray.
We have not welcomed the stranger;
we have not loved our neighbor;
we have not been Christ to one another.
Restore us, O God.
Wake us up and turn us from our sin.
Renew us each day in the light of Christ.
Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news:
by God's endless grace
your sins are forgiven, and you are free—
free from all that holds you back
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.
May you be strengthened in God's love,
† comforted by Christ's peace,
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

All sing in unison:

**O come, O King of nations, come,
O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you;
restore the broken, make us new
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

A reading from Second Samuel.

¹Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the 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." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

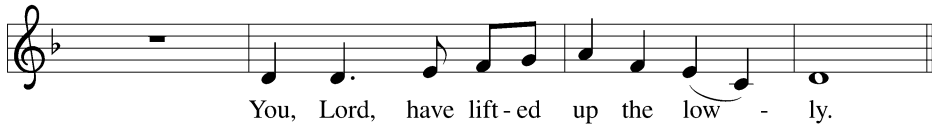
⁴But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever 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?" ⁸Now 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; ⁹and 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. ¹⁰And 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, ¹¹from 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. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Luke 1:46b-55

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Luke 1:48

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* © 2008 Augsburg Fortress.
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^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,
⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will | call me blessed:
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
and holy | is your name.
⁵⁰**You have mercy on | those who fear you,**
from generation to | generation. REFRAIN
⁵¹You have shown strength | with your arm
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,
⁵²**casting down the mighty | from their thrones**
and lifting | up the lowly.
⁵³You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.
⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,**
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made | to our forbears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. **REFRAIN**

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

A reading from Romans.

²⁵Now 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 ²⁶but 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—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #175

The assembly sings the Alleluia before and after the gospel verse.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo and meter are not explicitly stated. The lyrics are 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

Cantor: Here I am, the servant | of the Lord;*
let it be with me according | to your word. (Luke 1:38)

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Springer



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
 and Chris-tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
 Glo - ri - a!

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
 Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition: “Lord in your mercy,” the assembly responds **“Hear our prayer.”**

Waiting with great anticipation for the coming of our Lord, let us pray for this weary world and everyone in need.

A brief silence.

Heavenly Father, in this holy season let the church’s voice sing of your steadfast love. May its witness extend to all people who do not have hope in Jesus Christ, that your salvation be made known to them, and that all hearts would turn to you rejoicing in the power of your forgiveness and the hope of resurrection.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. We pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us, and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Help us to, like Mary, surrender ourselves - hearts and hands - to be used as you will, always to your glory and the welfare of your people.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Creator God, everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect all that you have made. Give us humility as we care for all that surrounds us.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Stretch out your arm to still the storm of strife and warfare. Shatter all hatred, partisanship and divisiveness, that the world may enjoy justice and peace.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Come Emmanuel, to all in sorrow and fear. We call to mind before you all those whom it would be easy to forget: the homeless, the destitute, the sick, the aged, and all who have none to care for them. Embrace everyone in need of healing with your tender presence, especially those we name before you . . . Guide all who are surrounded by the changes and uncertainties of life, and defend them by your gracious and ready help.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We rejoice in the saints, known and unknown, whose way of self-giving witnessed to their love and caring. We thank you for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors, and for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. Fill all our days with your abiding presence, and bring us at last into glory.

Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

MEDITATIONMembers of Dove of Peace Chancel Choir

Dixit Maria

Hans Leo Hassler (1564-1612)

Mary said to the Angel:
Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord,
let it be done to me, according to your word.

Hassler was a leading German composer and organist of his time, who, although Lutheran, was active in both Lutheran and Catholic circles. Hassler's motet, Dixit Maria comes from Cantiones sacrae (Sacred songs), a collection of Latin texted works and mass settings dedicated to the Catholic imperial Octavio Fugger, and is inspired by Mary's Annunciation from today's Gospel.

COMMISSIONPastor Stephen Springer

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.



- 1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
 3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
 4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
 was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
 Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
 hallows night with newborn light.
 Night cannot this light subdue;
 let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
 virgin's son, incarnate Word!
 To the holy Trinity
 praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version
 Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524
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EPILOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the Nations, Come), BWV 661
J. S. Bach

The third setting of Nun komm from the Leipzig Great Eighteen is a three-part keyboard fugue in the manuals, typical of Bach's large scale free organ fugues, with an angular theme derived from the melody. The cantus firmus is heard in long notes in the pedal. The fugal theme, the counter-subject and their inversions are combined in numerous ways throughout the piece.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Assisting Minister: Dianne Huston
Lector: John Hoelter
Cantor: Eric Holtan