



Light in Our Bones: Women of Advent

First Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023 | 9:30am | Normandale Lutheran Church

If the Word truly became flesh... then attending to human emotions, human bodies (of every kind), and complex human stories can help us understand the strangely present power of God in our all-too-human lives. This Advent we pause to consider the variety of women in Jesus' lineage and young life—at least the very few we know of, who actually receive names. We ponder how their true and messy humanity connects with our own, including through tales of beauty, courage, creation, longing, and trauma. We wonder at the gift of knowing God is present with us all! And stunned, we consider what it means to claim that the divine One became human at all... the Light of the World, embodied... and still being borne... in us, to us, and through one another.

* Congregational responses in **bold**

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Call To Worship

Bringing of the Light

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Stanzas 1 & 2)

ELW 257

Confession and Forgiveness

God of shadows and light, our thoughts are not your thoughts. Our ways are not your ways.
Hear our confession. Heal our hearts. Forgive our sins.

(silence)

In Jesus you call us to hope
that your justice will prevail –that the hungry will be fed and the lowly lifted up.

In Jesus you call us to faith
in the mystery of your Presence in the world, and the truth that nothing will be impossible with you.

In Jesus you reveal your love,
that we might love more fully and know how deeply we are loved.

In Jesus you reveal your power
a power with and for the vulnerable; a power held in mercy and grace.

In Jesus you call us to joy
a joy that can hold the world's grief and its beauty.

(silence)

In the light of the Christ child, in the shadow of the Most High, we make our confession and receive your forgiveness.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (Stanzas 1, 3 & 4)

ELW 244

Greeting

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

Prayer of the Day

God of Promises Fulfilled, sometimes the arrival of your good news is just as overwhelming as it is full of joy. Help us to trust your power and intentions, and celebrate your goodness still-arriving among us. Then, when you call, lead us to answer with the courage of Mary; "Here I am... Let it be with me as you will." In the name of Jesus, whose light we all bear. Amen.

Reading

Isaiah 64:1-4

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**

Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

**O Lord| God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?**

You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

**You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

**Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.**

And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.

**Restore us, O Lord| God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.**

Gospel Acclamation

ACS Page 33

Gospel

Luke 1:26-45

The Holy Gospel reading in Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The 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. And 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. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then 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. In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Light in Our Bones: Trust" Pastor Rebecca Gamble

Hymn of the Day *Unexpected and Mysterious* ELW 258
(Choir sings stanza 1. All join on stanzas 2 and 3)

Thanks for Your Generosity

Sharing of the Peace

Music at the Offering *People, Look East* Hal H. Hopson

Noisy Offering | Offertory Response

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Children are invited to cheerfully bring their "Noisy Offering" to the front during the Offertory Response.
This offering will help Every Meal in their fight to end child hunger.*

Holy Communion

Prayer

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus ACS Page 36

Words of Institution

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. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Agnus Dei ACS Page 40

Distribution Hymn *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* ELW 247
Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715

Communion Blessing

Sending Hymn *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!* ELW 246
(Stanzas 1, 2, & 4)

Blessing and Sending

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sending Music *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* J. S. Bach

WELCOME TO NORMANDALE



We're Glad You're Here!

Led by the Holy Spirit and living in God's grace, Normandale Lutheran Church is a community of believers who love, learn, worship, and serve as we walk in relationship with Jesus Christ and others. We hope you find in us a place of welcome, a place of worship, a place for you.

Welcoming Statement

We affirm that all people are created in the image of God, and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome all people into full participation in the life and ministries of Normandale Lutheran Church.

We celebrate that there are differences among us, and believe that we can love one another, even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and society.

Normandale Lutheran Church is committed to a ministry of reconciliation. We welcome and affirm our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith, history, socioeconomic status, physical and mental ability. We embrace this diversity as a gift from God, and invite all into a faithful journey toward greater love, understanding, and reconciliation.

Connect with us today



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normluth.org

SUNDAY AT NORMANDALE

Join us for Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship in the Fireside Room following worship.

Livestream of Sunday worship is available as a way to participate in the regular worship life of our congregation. Visit normluth.org/livestream to watch from wherever you are.

Hymnals are located in the pew backs. Both the ELW (red) and ACS (purple) hymnals are used in worship.

Hearing Devices are available to enhance your worship experience. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

Holy Communion is offered during worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

WAYS TO GIVE

Online: normluth.org/give

Text: gift amount to: 952.260.5601

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Select "Normandale Lutheran" (55436)



Altar Flowers were given by the children of Curt and Kay Melby in honor of their 65th wedding anniversary.

NLC Kids

PrayGround is located at the front of the worship space and is filled with quiet toys and comfy seating for the littlest in our midst and their caregivers.

Extended PrayGround is located outside of the sanctuary next to the Fishbowl for children age 4 and up and their families. There are quiet activities for and a screen to see and hear worship.

Busy Bags filled with quiet activities are hanging outside the main entrance of the sanctuary.

Bulletins & Coloring Sheets are located on a table outside of the main sanctuary doors.

Noisy Offering

Children are invited to cheerfully bring their "Noisy Offering" to the front during the Offertory Response. This offering will help Every Meal in their fight to end child hunger.

Sunday School | 10:40-11:20am

First Floor: Pre K & Kindergarten - Room 100

3rd Floor:

Grades 1 & 2 - Children's Choir Room

Grades 3 & 4 - Multi Purpose Room North

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presider: Pastor Rebecca Gamble
Liturgist: Pastor Paul Pettersen
Organist: Gregory Peterson
Cantor: Rachael Leadholm
Choir: Normandale, Gregory Peterson, Director
Accompanist: Lorna Wolthoff
Instrumental: Diane Larson, flute
Light Bearers: Kimberly Wild with daughters Kaia & Blake

Acolytes: Max Berkholtz, Duncan Kluis
Lector: Bella Carpenter
Sacristan: Cindy Nelson
Ushers: Kemme Team
Greeters: Bennet Breuer & Bennet Lew
Communion Set Up: Jonathan Kuehl & Linda Van Guilder
Communion Deacons: Jim Granquist, Pat Lindstrand, Grant Nyberg, Michael Howard