



Light in Our Bones: Women of Advent

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 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

*Savior of the Nations, Come
Creator of the Stars of Night*

arr. Sandra Eithun
arr. Kurt Meyer

Words of Welcome

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

Hark! The Glad Sound

ELW 239

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 song, God of power, God of glorious light, you shake the earth with love, a love that lifts the lowly and brings down the proud. From Mary's voice within, may we burst forth in song to magnify you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, come down to save us all. Amen.

Reading

Isaiah 64:1-4,11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Holy wisdom, holy word.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Song of Hannah

Samuel 2:1-5, 8

Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted | in my God.

My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice | in my victory."

"There is no Holy One | like the LORD,

no one besides you; there is no Rock | like our God."

Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come | from your mouth;

for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him act- | -ions are weighed."

The bows of the might- | -y are broken,

but the feeble | gird on strength."

Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are | fat with spoil.

The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children | is forlorn."

He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap,

to make them sit with princes and inherit a | seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has | set the world."

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?

ACS Page 33

Gospel

Luke 1:46b-55

The Holy Gospel reading in Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

And Mary said, "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." 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

"Bursting Into Song"(joy)

Pastor Paul Pettersen

Hymn of the Day

My Life Flows On in Endless Song (Stanzas 1, 2, & 4)

ELW 763

Sharing of the Peace

Music at the Offering

A New Magnificat

Carolyn Jennings

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 Music

Anthem

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper
(Welsh Melody)

Mary Louise Bringle

Hymn

He Came Down

ELW 253

Communion Blessing

Sending Hymn

All Earth Is Hopeful

ELW 266

Blessing and Sending

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sending Music

Awake Us, Lord, and Hasten

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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Normandale Lutheran Church
Normandale Lutheran Youth

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

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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. Their 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 Christmas Party Today!

10:40- 11:20 in Fellowship Hall. Classes will resume January 14, 2024.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Presider: Pastor Paul Pettersen
Liturgist: Pastor Rebecca Gamble
Organist: Gregory Peterson
Acolytes: Duncan Kluis, Liam Henningsen, Wyatt Pence
Choir: Normandale & Youth, Gregory Peterson, Director
Accompanist: Lorna Wolthoff
Instrumental: Normandale Bells, Lorna Wolthoff, Director, Debbie Henry, flute, Amanda Smith, percussion

Cantor: Stephen Rush
Lector: Katie Hein
Light Bearers: Joan Levin & Julia Levin
Sacristan: Edel Henningsen
Ushers: Kemme Team
Greeters: Dee & Gordy Sprenger
Communion Set Up: Sarah Howard & Jim Niemeier
Communion Deacons: Karen & Lee Newcomer, Jenny Bock, Sue Hendrickson