



# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

VANCOUVER, BC | EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 2025

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**Prelude:** Allegretto quasi andantino - Léon Boëllmann, Noël huron – Denis Bédard

**Words of welcome & Announcements**

**Land Acknowledgement**

### GATHERING

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** (*You are invited to stand*)

**Love Take a Walk**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,

Whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**

**Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn- Come Now, O Prince of Peace (ELW 247)**

**Greeting (ELW page 156)**





## Kyrie 5 (ELW page 156)

### Gloria- Now the Heavens Start to Whisper (ACS 901)



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow-ing thin.  
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon-light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis-dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with-in:  
Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness shines the hope of com-ing day.  
come to bless with fire and fra-grance hours of yearn-ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom-ise, deep-ly plant-ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
Christ, the morn-ing star of splen-dor, gleams with-in a world grown dim.  
In the lone - ly, in the strang-er, in the out - cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to wel-come him.  
Heav-en's em - ber fans to full-ness; hearts grow warm to wel-come him.  
Child who comes to grace the man-ger, teach our hearts to wel-come you.

### Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### WORD

**First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16**

**Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7**



## **Gospel Acclamation 5 (ELW page 160)**

### **Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

*The Gospel of our Lord. Praise to you, O Christ*

**Homily - Carolyn Klaassen**

**Hymn of the Day- 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime (ELW 284)**

**Apostles Creed (ELW page 105)**

**Prayers of Intercession**

**Peace**

**Offering Prayer**





## MEAL

**Dialog & Preface**

**Holy, Holy, Holy 5** (ELW page 162)

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Lord's Prayer** (ELW page 163)

**Lamb of God 5** (ELW page 164)

**Invitation to Communion**

**Communion Hymn- O Come Emmanuel v. 7-8** (ELW 257)

**Prayer after Communion**

## SENDING

**Blessing**

**Sending Hymn- Canticle of the Turning** (ELW 723)

**Dismissal**

**Postlude:** Old French Carol "The Angel" - Claude-Bénigne Balbastre

***Fourth Sunday of Advent:*** The fourth candle, symbolizes love, recalling the love of Christ for the world.



### ***Those Serving the Servants Today***

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	Rev. Sylvia Schmidt	<b>Livestream Tech</b>	Alin Kucheran
<b>Homilist</b>	Carolyn Klassen	<b>Usher</b>	-
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Rachel Alflatt	<b>Communion Set-Up</b>	Mei Sum Lai
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Arvid Vimb	<b>Coffee Hour Hosts</b>	Ingrid Tymm
<b>Cantor</b>	Heidi Ackermann		Carol Vinge O'Byrne
<b>Lector</b>	Ingrid Tymm		