

THE ORDER FOR OUR WORSHIP

PRELUDE - "Ricercar on Hail Mary Pure"
by Johan Fischer

HYMN 331 - *we sing, standing*

ADVENT WREATH ~ 4th SUNDAY

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ, on this Fourth Sunday in Advent, we recall the fullness of time, when the Son of God became man, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. We remember Mary's joyful acceptance of God's plan. In her "yes" to God, the Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. As we light the fourth candle on the Advent wreath, let us join Mary as willing servants of the Lord; may our "yes" welcome Christ into our world.

Lord Jesus, You are mighty God and Prince of Peace. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You are the Son of God and Son of the Virgin Mary. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, You are Word made flesh and splendor of the Father. **Lord, have mercy.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**O Come, desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Stir up Your power, O Lord,
and come and help us by Your might, that**

the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(please be seated)

FIRST LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 24 - *Men read odd numbered verses
Women read even numbered verses*

SECOND LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

page 173 - **ALLELUIA VERSE** - *all standing*

GOSPEL *(bulletin back page)* - *all standing*
Before, all shout: Glory to you, O Lord!
After, all shout: Praise to you, O Christ!

HYMN 357 vs 1, 4, 5, 6 - *we sing, seated*

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED - *hymnal, back cover*

OFFERTORY

During the gathering, we sing **HYMN 398 vs 1, 2, 3**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **Hear our prayer!**

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN 352 vs 1, 2, 3, 6 - *we sing, standing*

POSTLUDE - "Puer Natus"

NEWS AND NOTES

Last Sunday Here

Attending: 78 Offering: \$9,755

This Week Here

Wed- 1:30 PM - Bible Study
- 7:00 PM - Bell Choir
- 7:45 PM - Parish Choir
Thur-10:00 AM - Bulletin Pick Up
Sat - 3:20 PM - Parish Choir Rehearsal
- 4:00 PM - Christmas Eve Com. Serv.
- 8:30 PM - Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00 PM - Candlelight Com. Serv.

Worship Schedule for December

Dec 18 - 8:00 Worship Service
10:30 S Sch Christmas Program
Dec 24 - 4/9:00 Christmas Eve Commun.
Dec 25 - 9:30 Communion Service
Jan 1 - 9:30 Lessons and Carols

Attn Council Members! If you have not already done so, please hand in your year-end reports to the office by January 2 so that it may be included in the Annual Report.

2023 Volunteers Needed to deliver items to the **food pantry** and **Hope Pregnancy Center**. If you are able and would like to deliver items once or twice a year, please sign up on the bulletin board.

2023 Flower Chart - if you would like to provide altar flowers on a particular Sunday, please sign up on the flower chart located on the bulletin board.

Do you know the date that you were Baptized? If you do, we'd like to know it in the Church office too. We already keep track of birthdays and wedding anniversaries, including them in the monthly newsletters and the Sunday morning prayers. We would like to add "Baptismal Birthdays" to that list too. Look for the packet on the counter outside the Church office for people to write down the date of their Baptism. We hope to have the information collected in time to start including the list of those special days (just the month and date, not the year) with the first *Heavenly Herald* of the new year.

Hope for Life, d.b.a. Hope Pregnancy Center, located at 110 Main Street, Cheshire - our ongoing ministry of collecting "gently used" or new baby clothes, blankets, toys, disposable diapers, etc. for babies 0-12 months benefit new mothers who have no means to support a newborn child. No stuffed animals please. Items purchased new or from the Good Will store, etc. can be placed in the basinet located in the hallway.

A WORD ABOUT THE LESSONS

God's Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary - The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that "the virgin shall conceive and bear a son" (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, "God with us." The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus "descended from David according to the flesh" (Rom. 1:3-4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called "Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately "did as the angel of the Lord commanded him" (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.