

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2024

9:30 a.m.

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

– Luke 1:46b-47a

## Welcome!

If you are looking for a church home or would like to know more about St. Philip the Deacon and its ministries, please visit our website: [spdlc.org](http://spdlc.org).

Please visit [spdlc.org/livestream](http://spdlc.org/livestream) for worship resources, including bulletins, materials for children, links to our Family Faith Creek (Sunday School) online programming, and Confirmation worship notes.

Video archives of past services and sermons can be found at [spdlc.org/videoarchive](http://spdlc.org/videoarchive). Audio archives of past sermons can be found at [spdlc.org/sermons](http://spdlc.org/sermons).

Visit [facebook.com/spdlc](https://facebook.com/spdlc) for additional online resources.

There are also many video resources from the church on our YouTube channels. Search "St. Philip the Deacon" on YouTube to find past events, sermons and podcasts.

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## Prelude

*Carols for Brass*

arr. Richard Price

## Welcome

Please stand

## Opening Hymn

*Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Red Hymnal #256

1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.  
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,  
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.

Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.  
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.  
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.

To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!  
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.  
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,

Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for - ev - er.  
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum - ble fa - vor.  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

## Today's Worship

### Participants

#### Musicians

Celina Kobetitsch, organ  
Stone Arch Brass  
Sanctuary Choir

#### Acolyte

Maggie Danielson

#### Readers

Kainalu Lazarus  
Steve Root

#### Altar Guild

Carla Helming  
Nicole St. John  
Jean Stoermer

#### Altar Flowers Given by

Would you like to sponsor altar flowers? Your commemoration will be printed here and on the opening slide of the livestream. Thank you!

#### Notes on the Notes:

Today's postlude, the first movement of Rheinberger's "Magnificat" Sonata, felt especially appropriate for today's service, given that the Magnificat—when Mary exclaims her praise for the Lord—is today's Gospel reading. The German composer Rheinberger based his sonata on a Gregorian chant tone called "tonus peregrinus" (English: wandering tone). In Lutheranism, this chant tone is associated with the Magnificat, since Luther's German translation of the Magnificat was traditionally set to it. This earns the sonata its name and makes it a favorite of the Advent season in Germany, especially on this particular Sunday!

## Invocation, Confession, Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen**

## Greeting

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.**

## Kyrie

Red Hymnal page 147

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

## A Prayer for Advent

### The Lighting of the Advent Candle

*As the Advent candle is lit, the people sing:*

Oh come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by your advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

*Refrain:*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to you, O Israel.

## Salutation and Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray. . . **Amen**

*Please be seated*

### Lesson

Luke 1:39-45

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Anthem

*Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming*

arr. Howard Cable

## The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:46-55

After the announcement, the people stand and say, "Glory to you, O Lord."

At the conclusion, the people say, "Praise to you, O Christ!"

## Children's Message

Norah Long, Children's Ministry

## Homily

Pastor Makayla Dahleen

Please stand

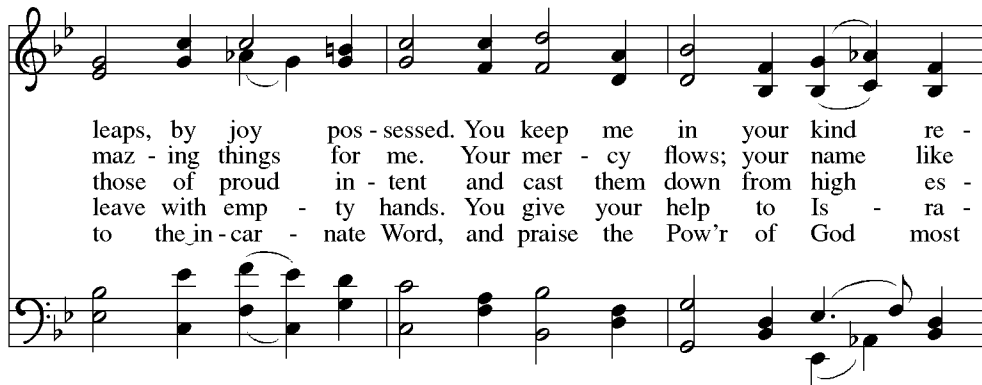
## Hymn of the Day

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

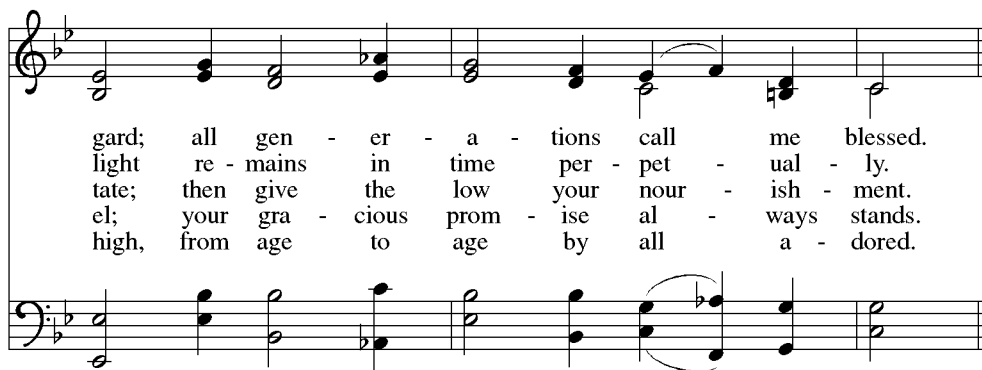
Red Hymnal #573



1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; my spir - it  
2 For you a - lone, O God of might, have done a -  
3 Your arm is strong; your strength is great. You scat - ter  
4 You feed the hun - gry as your own; the wealth - y  
5 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or



leaps, by joy pos - sessed. You keep me in your kind re -  
maz - ing things for me. Your mer - cy flows; your name like  
those of proud in - tent and cast them down from high es -  
leave with emp - ty hands. You give your help to Is - ra -  
to the in - car - nate Word, and praise the Pow'r of God most



gard; all gen - er - a - tions call me blessed.  
light re - mains in time per - pet - ual - ly.  
tate; then give the low your nour - ish - ment.  
el; your gra - cious prom - ise al - ways stands.  
high, from age to age by all a - dored.

## Offering

People, Look East

arr. Sondra K. Tucker

Your offerings can be left in the offering plates at the entrance to the sanctuary, mailed to the church, given electronically at [spdcl.org/give](http://spdcl.org/give), or by scanning the QR code located on the back of the bulletin. Thank you for your generous support of God's mission and ministry at St. Philip the Deacon. Remember: Your gifts make a difference.

## We Remember in Prayer ...

Mike Windsor  
Lorna Anderson  
Gloria Luedtke  
Kathy Kulich  
John Nelson  
Leah Leeper  
Corvin Anderson  
Amy Moon  
Jane Suhr  
Mark Lauffenburger  
Ron Armstrong  
Bob Engelstad  
Kitty Anderson

## Those Rejoicing

Mirlie Abraham & Paulin Mathurin, as they celebrate the baptism of their daughter, Theodora Rosephine Mathurin

## A Rose on the Font

As an expression of our life together, a red rose on the baptismal font indicates that we have received news of a birth and a white rose that we have received news of a stillbirth or a miscarriage. As Paul writes, we "rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn." (Romans 12:15)

To make a prayer request, send an email to [prayers@spdcl.org](mailto:prayers@spdcl.org).

### Next Week's Scriptures

To prepare for worship next week, please read the following scripture passages:

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12-17

Luke 2:41-52

### New Member Class

If you are interested in joining St. Philip the Deacon, please attend our next New Member Class:

**Thursday, Jan. 16  
at 6:30 p.m.**

Register at [spdlc.org/register](http://spdlc.org/register) or contact Cindy Carlson at 763-475-7115. Childcare is available. New Members will be received on Sunday, Jan. 26.

*Please stand*

### Offertory

Red Hymnal #186

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

*Please be seated*

### Prayers of the People . . . Merciful God, receive our prayer.

*The names mentioned in the prayers represent a much longer list. If you have made a prayer request and do not hear the name mentioned here please know that the Healing Prayer Group prays daily for each and every person brought to our attention.*

*Please stand*

### The 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**

### Benediction . . . Amen

### Closing Hymn

*People, Look East*

Red Hymnal #248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel. **Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

“Tempo moderato” from *Sonata No. 4 ‘Magnificat’* Josef Rheinberger

*“Those who wish to sing always find a song.”  
— Swedish Proverb*

### **Your Gifts Make a Difference**

St. Philip the Deacon is blessed with a thriving music ministry—one that continues to be sustained by over 200 musicians, parents, partners, and other volunteers whose time and talents bless us each week with the gift of music. We are grateful for all of them. We are also blessed to be able to engage dozens of professional musicians throughout the church calendar, including our four staff singers and instrumentalists and other contracted musicians. On Christmas Eve, our orchestra will feature 21 of the best orchestral players in the region. Thank you for your support of our truly exceptional music ministry. Remember: Your gifts make a difference!

### **Did You Know**

On December 9, 42 volunteers from SPD joined hundreds of other area volunteers for 3,000 Acts of Kindness at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Volunteers served a hot lunch, fitted people for coats and boots, washed feet and prayed over thousands of guests. This event served about 3,000 guests experiencing homelessness. We heard stories about guests getting the help they most needed, agencies making connections and volunteers getting blessed by serving others. It was a beautiful event and we couldn't have done it without all of your prayers, support and financial donations. If you would like to know more about this event, visit [coatedinlove.org](http://coatedinlove.org).

### **Worship Schedule**

Saturday	5 p.m.
Sunday	8:15, 9:30 <sup>+</sup> & 10:45 <sup>+</sup> a.m.

<sup>+</sup>Sunday School meets.

Childcare is available at all Sunday services.

**Join us in Fellowship Hall  
for refreshments following  
8:15 & 9:30 a.m. services.**

## Pastors

**Tim Westermeyer**

Senior Pastor

**Mark Schmid**

Executive Pastor

**Valerie Strand**

**Patterson**

Adult Ministry Pastor

**Makayla Dahleen**

Pastor of Family Life

## Program Staff

**Cindy Carlson**

Congregational Life

**Joan Harper**

Hospitality

**Jen Galley**

Adult Education

**Renee Putnam**

Engagement & Service

**Beth Dudycha**

Digital Hospitality

**Susan Path**

Parish Nurse

**Kathy Hagedorn**

Early Childhood

**Norah Long**

Children's & Music Ministry

**Trish Arndt**

Children's Ministry

**Amanda Berger**

Spiritual Growth

**Olsen Pancoast**

High School & Young Adult

**Charlie Olson**

Middle School

## Musicians

**Sam Grace**

Director of Music Ministry

**Celina Kobetitsch**

Organist

**Steve Griffiths**

Associate Organist

**JoBeth Ranfranz**

Bell Choir Director

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YouTube.com:

[StPhilipTheDeacon](#)

[ReflectionsonFaith](#)

## Give Online:



## St. Philip the Deacon

17205 County Road Six  
Plymouth, MN 55447

763-475-7100

[spdlc.org](https://spdlc.org)

## This Week at St. Philip the Deacon

### SUNDAY, December 22

8:15 a.m. Worship

9:30a.m.<sup>†</sup> Worship

10:45 a.m. Worship with  
Holy Communion

### TUESDAY, December 24—Christmas Eve

Office Closed

11 a.m.<sup>†</sup> Children's Christmas Worship

2, 4 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion

5:30<sup>†</sup>, 7:30, 9, 11<sup>†</sup> p.m. Candlelight Worship  
with Holy Communion

### WEDNESDAY, December 25—Christmas Day

Office Closed

11 a.m.<sup>†</sup> Christmas Day Worship

### SATURDAY, December 28—A Liturgy of Carols

5 p.m. Worship with  
Holy Communion

### SUNDAY, December 29—A Liturgy of Carols

8:15 a.m. Worship

9:30a.m.<sup>†</sup> Worship

10:45 a.m. Worship with  
Holy Communion

<sup>†</sup> *Livestreamed*