

You ought to live holy and godly lives <sup>12</sup> as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. <sup>13</sup> But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. <sup>14</sup> So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him. <sup>15</sup> Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

**Gospel Acclamation:** *"Blessed Is The One"* (stand as you are able)

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.**

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**Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8**

<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, <sup>2</sup> as it is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" <sup>3</sup> "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" <sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Message:** *Pastor Eric Hanson*

**Sermon:** *Pastor Eric Hanson*

**Hymn of the Day & Offering:** *"Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"* #244

*Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you'd like to sign up for online giving please visit <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZHX5> Children's coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.*

**Verse 1: Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear! The evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The Bridegroom is arising & soon is drawing nigh; Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.**

**Verse 2: The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near; go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**

**Verse 3: The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff' rings bore, shall live and reign forever, when sorrow is no more: Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold, in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**

**Verse 4: Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!**

**Offertory Response:** *"Give Thanks"* *Ushers may bring offering forward.*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.**

**Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong".**

**Let the poor say, "I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us". Give thanks.**

**Offertory Prayer:**

P: Let us pray.

**C: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.**

**Nicene Creed** *(Please stand as you are able)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**The Prayers:** *(call and response)*

With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration. *A brief silence.* Send forth your faithful people with words of promise and forgiveness. Teach your church to be bold in revealing your good news in word and in deed. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Reveal your majesty in mountain peaks, flowing rivers, and blossoming wilderness roads. Heal the earth where it longs for renewal. Bring wholeness to the earth and all its creatures. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Turn the hearts of the nations toward righteousness and peace. Increase cooperation for justice between countries, commonwealths, political parties, and diplomatic leaders. In times of prosperity, direct leaders to be generous for the sake of all. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Comfort your people with tender words of love and healing. Surround all who are grieving, all who know depression or anxiety, or all who feel lonely or forgotten. Be a steadfast presence when all else feels uncertain. We especially pray for; Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Judy Carpenter, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Shawn Frederix-on, Geri Lindholm, April Colby, and the family & friends of Tayven Geiger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Grant holy patience to all who are waiting this season. Give hope to those seeking employment. Bring reassurance to people awaiting new diagnoses or treatments. Protect expectant parents. Watch with those who keep bedside vigil. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With you a thousand years is like a day. Bless the memory of the saints from ages past and the anticipation of saints yet to be born. Inspire us to live with faith as we await your new heaven and new earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy. **Amen.**

**Sharing the Peace:** P: The peace of Christ be with you always, C: **And also with you.**

**The Great Thanksgiving:** P: The Lord be with you C: **And also with you**

P: Lift up your hearts. C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: **It is right to give Him thanks & praise.**

**The Words of Institution**

**Lord's Prayer: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Meal and Hymns:**

*All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine.*

*Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune. Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.*

*“We Are Waiting For Jesus”*

**Vs 1:** We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings peace. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
Sun of justice, shine upon us; we are trusting in your promise.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

**Vs 2:** We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings peace. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.  
Loving Shepherd, walk beside us; stir our hearts, and gently guide us.  
We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.

*“Angel’s We Have Heard On High” #289*

**Vs. 1:** Angels we have heard on high; Sweetly singing o’er the plains.  
And the mountains in reply; Echoing their joyous strains.

**Refrain:** Gloria, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

**Vs. 2:** Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be; Which inspire your heavenly song? *(Refrain)*

**Vs. 3:** Come to Bethlehem and see; Him whose birth the angels sing,  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *(Refrain)*

*“Holy Child Within The Manger”*

**Vs. 1:** Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;  
come as friend to ev’ry stranger, come as hope for ev’ry fear.  
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,  
as you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.

**Vs. 2:** Once again we tell the story-- how your love for us was shown,  
when the image of your glory wore an image like our own.  
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.  
May the fire of your compassion kindle ev’ry land and race.

**Vs. 3:** Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,  
so we see in ev’ry stranger how you come to us today.  
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,  
that our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.

**Communion Prayer:**

P: Let us pray.

**C:** God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

**The Blessing:** *(please stand as you are able)*

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn:** *“Soon And Very Soon” #439*

**Vs 1:** Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

**Vs 2:** No more cryin’ there we are goin’ to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

**Vs 3:** No more dyin’ there, we are goin’ to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!

**Vs 4:** Soon and very soon we are goin’ to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

**Dismissal:** P: The world waits for Christ. You are the body of Christ. Go be His hands and feet.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude** *Pianist, Debbi St. John*



**St. Luke Lutheran Church • Pastor Eric Hanson**

**9:30AM • December 10, 2023**

**Prelude:** *Pianist, Debbi St. John*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Greeting:** *(please stand as you are able)*

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

**Confession and Forgiveness:**

P: In Advent we prepare for the coming of Christ. Let us open our hearts to God’s mercy.  
Together we confess our sins,

**C: Gracious God, we confess that we have sinned against you, and against our brothers and sisters. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin, and come quickly to save us.**

P: Children of God, the advent of Christ brings the promise of grace. Through Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. Live reconciled to each other. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn:** *“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs 3, 4 #257*

**Vs 3:** O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai’s height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**Vs 4:** O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan’s tyranny; From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o’er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

**Advent Reflection:** *read by Murphy Voth (you may be seated)*

Last Sunday we lit the first candle – the hope candle. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

**Advent Prayer:** *read by Murphy Voth*

*Peace* - Dear God, as we journey down this advent road, grant us the courage to make peace.  
Peace in our hearts, Peace in our homes, Peace in our communities. **Amen.**

**Lighting of the Advent Candles & Hymn:** *“Light one candle to watch for Messiah” vs 2 #240*

**Vs 2:** Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

**First Reading:** **2 Peter 3:8-15a**

<sup>8</sup> But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. <sup>9</sup> The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup> But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. <sup>11</sup> Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be?