

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ “Ask the Lord your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, ¹⁶ for before the boy knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right, the land of the two kings you dread will be laid waste.

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

Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Message: Pastor Eric Hanson

2nd-6th Graders Sing

Solo by Makayla Burton “Away In The Manger”

Sermon: Pastor Eric Hanson

Hymn of the Day & Offering: “I Want To Walk As A Child In The Light” #815

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.

**Vs 1: I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.**

**Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**Vs 2: I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]**

**Vs 3: I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus. [Refrain]**

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.* Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You love justice and promise your favor to those who are oppressed, brokenhearted, and incarcerated. Grant wisdom and compassion to those who work for public safety and all who work within prisons, jails, and courts, that mercy may increase and violence wither away. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need especially Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Judy Carpenter, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Geri Lindholm, Bill Quiggle, Marc Bode, and April Colby. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Listen to these & all our prayers, O God of hosts, & restore us with your great & 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.

“Of the Fathers Love Begotten” #295

Vs 1: Of the Father’s love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the Source, the Ending he, of the things that are, that have been, & that future years shall see, evermore & evermore!

Vs 2: O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race; & the babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore & evermore!

Vs 3: This is he whom seers in old time changed of with one accord, whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word; now he shines, the long expected; let creation praise its Lord, evermore & evermore!

Vs 4: Let the heights of heav’n, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing: pow’rs, dominions, bow before him & extol our God & King; let no tongue on earth be silent, ev’ry voice in concert ring, evermore & evermore!

Vs 5: Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory evermore and evermore! Amen.

“You Are My All In All”

Vs. 1: You are my strength when I am weak. You are the treasure that I seek. You are my all in all Seeking You as a precious jew’l, Lord, to give up I’d be a fool. You are my all in all

Chorus: Jesus Lamb of God, worthy is Your name! Jesus Lamb of God, worthy is Your name

Vs. 2: Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, Rising again I bless your name; You are my all in all When I fall down, you pick me up; When I am dry, You fill my cup; You are my all in all. [Chorus]

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 17, 2023

Prelude: Pianist, Debbi St. John

Welcome & Announcements

4th Quarter Stewardship Committee Update Char Volkmann

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 5, 6 #257

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Vs 5: O come, O Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. [Refrain]

Vs 6: O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer, O Sun of justice,
now draw near Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death’s dark shadow put to flight. [Refrain]

Advent Reflection: read by Laura Ludwig *(you may be seated)*

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations or our memories push joy aside? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

Advent Prayer: read by Laura Ludwig

Joy - Dear God, in the height of our advent walk, grant us the courage to experience joy. Joy in the face of apathy, joy in the face of sorrow, joy in the face of uncertainty. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Candles & Hymn: “Light one candle to watch for Messiah” vs. 3 #240

Vs 3: Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.