

St. Luke Lutheran Church • Pastor Eric Hanson

9:30AM • December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude *Pianist, Debbi St. John*

Welcome and Announcements

Greeting *(please stand as you are able)*

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, & 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. Almighty God,

C: **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: *(you may be seated)* "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs. 7, 8 #257

Vs 7: **O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:**

refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. [Refrain]

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

Vs 8: **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,**

that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. [Refrain]

Advent Reflection: *read by Grace Ludwig* We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love because God loves us.

Advent Prayer: *read by Grace Ludwig* Love - Dear God, as our advent pilgrimage draws to completion, grant us the courage to share your love. Love for the unexpected challenge, love for the vulnerable one. Love for the presence of God. Amen.

Lighting of Advent Candle & Hymn: "Light one candle to watch for Messiah" vs. 4 #240

Vs 4: **Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.**

He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

First Reading - Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." ³Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses. We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders.

Gospel Acclamation: "Celtic Alleluia" *(Stand as you are able)* **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. 2X**

Gospel Reading - Luke 1:39-56

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" ⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his art; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors." ⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

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

Children's Message: *Pastor Eric Hanson*

Sermon: *Pastor Eric Hanson*

Hymn of the Day: *"Magnificat" lead by Sara Strusz*

Offering plates are passed during the Hymn of the Day. Thank you to those who give through Online Giving. To sign up for online giving, please visit our website at <http://www.stlukegoodhue.org/index.html> and click the Online Giving button. St. Luke thanks you for your gifts.

**Sara: My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.**

**All: Great and mighty are you, O Holy One, strong is your kindness evermore.
How you favor the weak and lowly one, humbling the proud of heart.**

**Sara: You have cast the mighty down from their thrones, and uplifted the humble of heart,
you have filled the hungry with wondrous things, and left the wealthy no part.**

**All: Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One, strong is your justice, strong your love,
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.
My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you,
You have looked with love on your servant here, and blessed me all my life through.**

Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, & was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, & he will come to judge the living & the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, & the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers: *(call and response) read by Jon Roschen*

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence. *A brief silence.* Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your loving kindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need especially: Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Dean Kirkland, Finley Budensiek, Sara Nolte, Mark Jacobson, Deb Huneke, Jill Louise Plank, Gabriel Ryan, Roger Kurtti, Ross Schrimpf, Judy Carpenter, Blake Carlson, Joan Quiggle, Donald & Nancy Nord, Ben Haenel, Larry Reese and the family of Josh Budensiek. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation & community. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary

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

Ushers bring offering forward.

Offertory Prayer: God of our waiting & watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts & our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving:

L: The Lord be with you C: And also with you L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord. L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. C: It is right to give Him thanks & praise.

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.

The Meal & Solo: *"Breath of Heaven" sung by Michelle Matthees*

Communion Prayer:

P: Blessed Jesus,

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.

Blessing: *(Please stand as you are able.)*

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: *"When He Cometh"*

Vs 1: When He cometh, when He cometh To make up His jewels,
All His jewels, precious jewels, His loved and His own.

Refrain: Like the stars of the morning, His brightness adorning,
They shall shine in their beauty, Bright gems for His crown.

Vs 2: He will gather, He will gather The gems for His kingdom;
All the pure ones, all the bright ones, His loved and His own. [Refrain]

Vs 3: Little children, little children, Who love their Redeemer,
Are the jewels, precious jewels, His loved and His own. [Refrain]

Dismissal: L: The world waits for Christ. You are the body of Christ. Go be His hands & feet.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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