

### The Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-12

<sup>7</sup>Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup>No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

P: This is the Word of the Lord,

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### The Third Carol: *Congregation Chooses*

#### The Third Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. <sup>6</sup>Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

P: This is the Word of the Lord,

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### The Fourth Carol: *Congregation Chooses*

#### The Fourth Reading: Revelation 21:1-5

<sup>1</sup>Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. <sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup>He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” <sup>5</sup>He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord,

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### The Fifth Carol & Offering: *Congregation Chooses*

*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.*

### Hymn of Thanksgiving: “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” *Ushers may bring offering forward.*

**Vs 1: What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer! O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!**

**Vs 2: Have we trials & temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!**

**Vs 3: Are we weak & heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care? Precious Savior, still our refuge - take it to the Lord in prayer! Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer! In his arms he’ll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

### Statement of Faith: “Jesus Name Above All Names”

**Vs. 1: Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord. Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

**Vs. 2: Jesus, loving Shepherd, Vine of the branches, Son of God. Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of the universe, Light of the world.**

**Vs. 3: Jesus, way of salvation King of Kings, Lord of Lords. The Way, the truth, and the life Mighty Creator, My Savior and Friend.**

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

Trusting in God’s good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves. *A brief silence.* You inspire faith in our hearts and call us to rejoice with our whole selves at the salvation you bring. Make our churches places of belonging for all people in the fullness of their being. Raise up the gifts and the witness of people who are neurodivergent, living with disability, or bearing invisible illness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your praise is sung throughout creation in all times and seasons. As the new year turns, ground us in your changeless and sustaining love. Keep us attentive to the rhythms of the cosmos and inspire us to live in harmony with all the earth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Give hope and stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. We pray especially for organizations working on behalf of children to provide basic needs, to protect from abuse and neglect, to address trauma, and to rescue from trafficking. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness. We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. We especially pray for Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Judy Carpenter, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Geri Lindholm, Bill Quiggle, Shawn Fredrixon, Marc Bode, and April Colby. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Let this community of faith be a joyful and welcome place for all ages and generations. Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace. Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace. **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.*

*“God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman” piano solo by Aleaha Hanson*

## Choir Songs

### Hymn of Thanksgiving for the Holy Supper: *“Now Thank We All Our God”*

**Vs 1:** Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers’ arms, has blest us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

**Vs 2:** Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.

**Vs 3:** All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav’n adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

### The Blessing:

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ Child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### Sending Hymn: *“Joy to the World”*

**Vs. 1:** Joy to the world the Lord has come! Let earth receive its King; Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room  
and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n, and nature sing.

**Vs. 2:** Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills  
and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**Vs. 3:** No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

**Vs. 4:** He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove. The glories of his  
righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

### Dismissal:

P: Go in peace, shine your light!

**C: Thanks be to God**

### Postlude



## St. Luke Lutheran Church Pastor Eric Hanson 9:30AM • December 31, 2023 First Sunday of Christmas

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

**Welcome & Announcements**

*“In Christ Alone” Solo by Calvin Ryan*

**Greeting:**

P: Christ has come, the home of God is with God’s people!

**C: Christ has come. Amen.**

**Confession and Forgiveness:**

P: O Lord, as we marvel at the miracle of the birth of the Christ Child,

**C: let us remember that his birth was necessary because we are born sinful and in need of forgiveness.**

**We confess to you & to one another our failure to be the kind, forgiving servants you created us to be.**

*A moment of silent reflection.*

P: Behold, I announce to you that the grace and mercy of the Christ Child is reborn in you. Your sins are forgiven through the perfect love of the Son of God, who was born for your salvation.

**C: Amen, thanks be to God.**

**The First Carol:** *Congregation Chooses*

**The First Reading:** **John 1:1-5, 10-14**

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – <sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: This is the Word of the Lord,

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**The Second Carol:** *Congregation Chooses*