

*December 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> , 2024 | 6:00pm & 8:15 am  
Advent 3*



Preacher: Rev. Carlton Andersen

St. Luke's Lutheran Church & Preschool/4K  
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*We at St. Luke's dedicate ourselves to grow in faith and love, to serve together, and to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC &amp; LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

## WELCOME &amp; GREETING

OPENING HYMN AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES~ 'Savior of the Nations  
Come' (vs. 1,4-5) LSB 332

1 Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

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4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all  
From His pure and kingly hall;  
God of God, yet fully man,  
His heroic course began.

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5 God the Father was His source,  
Back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
Back then to His throne and crown.

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*(Rise)*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: The Lord says, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

**C: We thank You, O Lord!**

P: The Lord who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**C: We praise You, O Lord!**

P: Confident of receiving God's great mercy, let us confess together that we by nature are sinful and that through our thoughts, words, and deeds we have sinned against our God and deserve His punishment now and eternally.

**C: Almighty God, we repent of our sins and ask for Your forgiving grace in our lives. Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus grant us remission of**

**our sins so that, as Your redeemed people, we may greet you in Advent hope and with trusting hearts serve You in time and in eternity.**

**P:** In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Stir up Your power, O Lord Jesus, and come and help us by Your might that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy. for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

#### FIRST READING~ Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup>"But 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."

<sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup>He 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.

<sup>5</sup> And he will be their peace.

**R:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:***Sing* **Thanks be to God.**

#### SECOND READING~ Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup>Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.' "

<sup>8</sup>First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). <sup>9</sup>Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your

will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C:** *Sing*            **Thanks be to God.**

6:00 p.m. Choir~ Long Ago

8:15 a.m. Solo

*(Rise)*

P: This is the Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**All:** *sing*            **Glory to You, O Lord.**

GOSPEL READING~ Luke 1:39-56

<sup>39</sup>At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup>where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me--  
holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

<sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful  
<sup>55</sup>to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our  
fathers."

<sup>56</sup>Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned  
home.

<sup>57</sup>When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a  
son. <sup>58</sup>Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great  
mercy, and they shared her joy.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

CONFESSION OF FAITH ~ The Apostles' Creed

**ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in  
Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died  
and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again  
from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of  
God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living  
and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the  
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*(Be seated)*

CHILDRENS TIME

SERMON HYMN~ 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' (vs. 1-3)

LSB 361

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king  
And peace to all the earth!

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3 How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

## SERMON

## THE GATHERING OF OUR GIFTS & WE CARE CARDS

*(Rise and sing)*

OFFERTORY HYMN~ 'Take My Life'

**All: Take my life and make it Thine.  
It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart it is Thine own.  
It shall be Thy royal throne.  
It shall be Thy royal throne.  
Take my love my Lord I pour.  
At Thy feet its treasure store.  
Take myself and I will be.  
Ever only all for Thee.  
Ever only all for Thee.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer. (after final petition: Amen.)**

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Guests Please Note: As Lutheran Christians we believe in the Real Presence of Christ in Holy Communion; that as we participate in the sacrament we receive His body and blood. If you are confirmed and trust in Jesus and Savior and Lord and accept this understanding of communion you are invited to commune with us. There is a choice of individual or communion cup. You may choose a Gluten free wafer from the brass container as the host is served.

## WORDS OF INVITATION

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who entered human history as one of us, who suffered, died, and rose again to secure for us eternal salvation, and who has promised to return to usher us into His eternal kingdom. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**C: *sing* Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.**

## WORD'S OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ.....This do in remembrance of me.

## THE LORDS PRAYER

**All: 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 PEACE OF THE LORD

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

*(Be seated)*

## DISTRIBUTION AND HYMNS

'Come Thou Long Expected Jesus'

LSB 338

1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

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2 Born Thy people to deliver;  
Born a child and yet a king!  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

'Ye Watchers & Ye Holy Ones'

Text: Public domain

LSB 670

1 Ye watchers and ye holy ones,  
Bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,  
Raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!"



Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,  
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs:

"Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

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2 O higher than the cherubim,  
More glorious than the seraphim,  
Lead their praises: "Alleluia!"

Thou bearer of the\_ eternal Word,  
Most gracious, magnify the Lord:

"Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

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3 Respond, ye souls in endless rest,  
Ye patriarchs and prophets blest:

"Alleluia, alleluia!"

Ye holy Twelve, ye martyrs strong,  
All saints triumphant, raise the song:

"Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

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4 O friends, in gladness let us sing,  
Supernal anthems echoing:

"Alleluia, alleluia!"

To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit, Three in One:

"Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

Text: Public domain

LSB 643

'Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,  
Our true faith confessing,  
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.  
The Supper is ended.  
O now be extended  
The fruits of this service in all who believe.  
The seed of His teaching,  
Receptive souls reaching,  
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.

His grace did invite us,  
His love shall unite us  
To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

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2 With praise and thanksgiving  
To God ever-living,  
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing,  
In love ever caring,  
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.  
With Your feast You feed us,  
With Your light now lead us;  
Unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all the living  
With praise and thanksgiving  
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

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*(Remain Seated)*

#### THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**P:** We give thanks to You, almighty God, that in this Sacrament You have refreshed us so that we confidently await Your Son's return.  
Grant that we live each day of our pilgrimage in love toward You and the people around us until that day we greet our Savior at His return in glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Rise)*

#### CLOSING HYMN~ 'O Little Town of Bethlehem' (vs 4)

LSB 361

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

Text: Public domain

## BENEDICTION

P: The Lord Bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**C:** *sing* **Amen, Amen, Amen.**

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## POST-SERVICE MUSIC