

December 22nd, 2024 | 10:30
Advent 4



ADVENT

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 AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

WELCOME & GREETING

OPENING SONG~ 'Follow The Light'

- 1 Star in the sky we behold you
How could our eyes turn away
Drawn to the light of mercy
That comes to make a way

- 2 A lamp for our path that was darkness
Eternity's secret revealed
A hope to illumine these shadows
A love that was born to heal

Chorus 1:

And we will follow the light
We will follow the light
Seeking the Lamb our saving love divine

- 3 Even the night will not shake us
In the desert our hearts will not fear
Drawn to the hope of salvation
We wait for the sun to appear **(Chorus 1)**

Bridge:

O star of wonder star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Chorus 2:

And we will follow the light

We will follow the light

Seeking the Lamb seeking the Lamb

We will follow the light

We will follow the light

Seeking the Lamb our saving love divine

CCLI Song # 6401124 Marc Byrd | Sarah Hart | Trey Heffinger © 2012 Blue Raff Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Meaux Jeux Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Meaux Mercy (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) River Oaks Music Company (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) spiritandsong.com (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) Tunes From The Basement (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) For use solely with the SongSelect® [Terms of Use](#). All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 365397

(Rise)

CALL TO WORSHIP

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!**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by the promise of Your coming into our world. We pray this the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING~ ~ Psalm 85:1-7

¹You showed favor to your land, O LORD; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. ²You forgave the iniquity of your people and covered all their sins. *Selah* ³You set aside all your wrath and turned from your fierce anger.

⁴Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us. ⁵Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger through all generations? ⁶Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

⁷Show us your unfailing love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING~ Zephaniah 3:14-17

¹⁴Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm.

¹⁶On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING~ Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But 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.

²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

²³"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us."

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDRENS TIME

MESSAGE SONG~ 'Come O Lord'

Refrain:

Come, O Lord, and set us free, bring Your people peace.

Come, O Lord, and set us free. Come, Lord Jesus come.

1 On that great day a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse's tree,
From ancient roots new blossoms rise for His people to see.
The spirit of God shall rest on Him and make Him wise to know His word.
The spirit of council and of strength and the fear of the Lord. **(Refrain)**

2 Then shall the wolf and lamb be friends the kid and leopard play,
Peacefully calf and lion browse with each other today.
From the near and far they'll seek Him out and His swelling shall be filled.
In all the earth no harm nor pain when they know of His word. **(Refrain)**

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MESSAGE

THE GATHERING OF OUR GIFTS & WE CARE CARDS

OFFERING AND OFFERING SONG~ Duet~ 'Even So Come'

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

All: 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.

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.

SONG AND DISTRIBUTION~ Praise Team~ 'The Earth Stood Still'

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.

SENDING SONG~ 'He Shall Reign Forevermore'

1 Solo~ In the bleak mid-winter, all creation groans
For a world in darkness, frozen like a stone
Light is breaking, in a stable
For a throne

Chorus:

And he shall reign forevermore, forevermore
And he shall reign forevermore, forevermore
Unto us a child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And he shall reign forevermore, forevermore

2 If I were a wise man, I would travel far
And if I were a shepherd, I would do my part
But poor as I am
I will give to Him my heart

Chorus:

And he shall reign forevermore, forevermore
And he shall reign forevermore, forevermore
Unto us a child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And he shall reign forevermore, forevermore

Bridge:

Here within a manger lies
The One who made the starry skies
This baby born for sacrifice
Christ, the Messiah
Into our hopes, into our fears
The Savior of the world appears
The promise of eternal years
Christ, the Messiah

Chorus:

He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
He shall reign forevermore, forevermore
And he shall reign forevermore, forevermore
Unto us a child is born
The King of kings and Lord of lords
And he shall reign forevermore, forevermore

SENDING

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: Amen, Amen.

P: Go in peace and serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

POST-SERVICE MUSIC