

### The Second Reading: Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup>Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. <sup>2</sup>Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. <sup>3</sup>Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. <sup>4</sup>Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. <sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord, for at his command they were created, <sup>6</sup>and he established them for ever and ever—he issued a decree that will never pass away. <sup>7</sup>Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, <sup>8</sup>lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, <sup>9</sup>you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, <sup>10</sup>wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, <sup>11</sup>kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, <sup>12</sup>young men and women, old men and children. <sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens. <sup>14</sup>And he has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his faithful servants, of Israel, the people close to his heart.

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

### The Third Carol: *Congregation Chooses*

#### The Third Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. <sup>13</sup>Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. <sup>14</sup>And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. <sup>15</sup>Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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

### The Fourth Carol: *Congregation Chooses*

#### The Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

<sup>41</sup>Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. <sup>43</sup>After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. <sup>44</sup>Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup>When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.” <sup>49</sup>“Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” <sup>50</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying to them. <sup>51</sup>Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

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.myoanco.com/L-ZHX5> Children’s coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.*

### Hymn of Thanksgiving: “Angels We Have Heard On High” *Ushers may bring offering forward.*

**Vs. 1: Angels we have heard on high; Sweetly singing o’er the plains.**

**And the mountains in reply; Echoing their joyous strains.**

**Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo. Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

**Vs. 2: Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?**

**What the gladsome tidings be; Which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)**

**Vs. 3: Come to Bethlehem and see; Him whose birth the angels sing,**

**Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)**

### Statement of Faith: “In Christ Alone” “In Christ Alone”

**V1: In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song; This cornerstone, this solid ground. Firm through the fiercest drought and storm; What heights of love, what depths of peace; When fears are stilled, when strivings cease. My comforter, my all in all; Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**V2: In Christ alone, who took on flesh; Fullness of God in helpless babe; This gift of love and righteousness. Scorned by the ones He came to save; ‘Til on that cross as Jesus died; The wrath of God was satisfied. For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.**

**V3: There in the ground, His body lay; Light of the world, by darkness slain; Then bursting forth in glorious day. Up from the grave, He rose again; And as He stands in victory; Sin’s curse has lost its grip on me. For I am His and He is mine; Bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**V4: No guilt in life, no fear in death; This is the power of Christ in me; From life’s first cry to final breath. Jesus commands my destiny; No pow’r of hell, no scheme of man; Can ever pluck me from His hand. ‘Til He returns or calls me home; Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand; No power of hell, no scheme of man; Can ever pluck me from His hand. ‘Til He returns or calls me home; Here in the power of Christ I’ll stand.**

### The Prayers: *(call and response) read by Mike Kurtti*

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. *A brief silence.* For those who teach and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the thriving of creation, we pray. Protect the habitats of all living things. Increase our knowledge of the natural world and the care of its inhabitants. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world, we pray. Raise up rulers who lead with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Let your peace rule in their hearts and in all land. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your people, we pray. Keep watch over all who travel this holiday season. Accompany those who are alone or ill especially Keith Brown, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Shawn Fredrixon, Marc Bode, Harlan Reese, Beth Carlson, Gage Miller, Alex Stehr, Maria Starr Quiggle, Perry Fitzgerald, Tanya Bakken, Lorraine Hinsch, Jeff Ferkinhoff, Henry Strauss, Diane Krenke, Steve Pabst, Rollie Quade, and Chase Hanson. Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Console parents and children whose relationships are strained or severed. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the ministry of this place, we pray. Let the word of Christ dwell among us. In times of conflict, clothe us in love and move us to forgiveness. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For your holy, beloved, and chosen ones of every time and place, we give thanks. Draw us all into everlasting praise and joy. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**Lord’s Prayer:** P: We pray together as Christ taught us to pray,

**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.**

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

### The Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

### Sending Hymn: *Congregation Chooses*

**Dismissal:** P: Go in peace, God is all around you. Love the Lord & serve your neighbor.   **C: Thanks be to God**

### Postlude



**St. Luke Lutheran Church**  
**Guest Speaker Larry Miller**  
**9:30AM • December 29, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Christmas**

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

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Greeting:** *(Please stand as you are able)*

P: The Light Shines in the Darkness

**C: And the Darkness has not overcome it!**

**Confession and Forgiveness:**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God-with-us,

**C: we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us. Amen.**

P: Hear the good news, You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved and forgiven in Christ. Be freed to respond in love. **C: Amen**

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

**The First Reading: Philippians 2:5-11**

<sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; <sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross! <sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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

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