

**Lighting of the Advent Candles & 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!**

**The 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 the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!” <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, just as he promised our ancestors.” <sup>56</sup> Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

P: This is the Word of the Lord,

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Children’s Sermon:** *Pastor Eric Hanson*

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**Hymn of the Day & Offering:** *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 <http://www.stlukegoodhue.org/online-giving.html>. Children’s coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.*

*“What Feast of Love” #487*

**Verse 1: What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven? What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given? This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!**

**Verse 2: What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven? What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given? This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing! The word of God is given!**

**Verse 3: What wine of love is offered here, what crimson drink from heaven? What stream of everlasting life, what precious blood is given? This, this is Christ the king, the sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!**

**Offertory Response:** *“Give Thanks” (ushers bring offerings forward)*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son. And now let the weak say, “I am strong”.  
Let the poor say, “I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us”. Give thanks.**

**Offertory Prayer:**

L: Let us pray,

**C: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for gifts that sustain our lives every day. We offer back what you have first given us. Use our time, talents, and treasures to serve your mission in our world. Amen.**

**The Baptism of Maverick Lee Crowson, the son of Stephanie Meacham & Thomas Crowson**

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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people & places that long for God’s presence. *A brief silence.* God who reforms, fill your church with courage to do your will. Empower your people in taking risks that bear fruit. Raise up leaders who will proclaim the good news. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who creates, you hold in balance diverse ecosystems. Encourage efforts to protect wild lands from devastation. Care for animals and people in the path of destructive fires, storms, and other disasters. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who leads, this world cries out for true justice. Guide legislatures, judges, and lawyers in actions steeped in love and restoration. Increase the desire to advocate for all who are confronted with discrimination and oppression based on race, gender, sexuality, class, or age. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who embraces, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. We pray especially for 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. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who abides, you dwell among the people of this congregation. Deepen our relationships with one another, and make us aware of the diverse talents and gifts present here. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God who consoles, we thank you for the time we have had with loved ones who have died. Comfort us with the promise of everlasting life in you. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, & receive these prayers & the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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:** *(you may be seated)*

*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.*

*“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” #276*

**Vs 1: Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all. Swiftly winging angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!**

**Vs 2: Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!**

*"O Little Town Of Bethlehem"*

Vs 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.

Vs 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 men on earth!

Vs 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.

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

*"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear" #282*

Vs 1: It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious  
King." The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Vs. 2: Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly  
music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Vs. 3: And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing  
way with painful steps and slow, look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

Vs. 4: For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall  
come the time foretold when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the  
whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

**Communion Prayer:** *(Please stand as you are able)*

P: Let us pray,

C: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life & for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming  
among us and for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy and for sending us  
to serve the world in your name. Amen.

**Blessing:** P: May God, our Lord of endings and beginnings, may God, our Lord of the darkness and the light,  
may God, our hope for all our journeys, + bless and keep you now and forever. C: Amen.

**Sending Hymn:** *"Soon & Very Soon" #439*

Vs 1: Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

Vs 2: No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

Vs 3: No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

Vs 4: Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. 3X Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

**Dismissal:** P: Go in peace, share your gifts! C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude



**St. Luke Lutheran Church • Pastor Eric Hanson**

**9:30AM • December 22, 2024**

**Prelude:** *"Christmas Medley" Organist, Cindy Wilson*

*"O Come Little Children" Violinist, Melanie Lodermeier, Pianist, Anne Wilson, & String Bass Player, Josh Vidervol*

**Welcome & Announcements**

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

P: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the  
Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

**Confession and Forgiveness:**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.* God of mercy,

C: **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority over your power and  
authority. When we grow fearful, we cling to false comforts.**

P: God of might,

C: **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P: God in our midst,

C: **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

P: Christ the Lord, our Savior, is incarnate among us. In Christ we have forgiveness of sin, mercy, and new life.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Jesus Christ, and be  
empowered to live new each day. C: Amen.

**Gathering Hymn:** *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel" vs. 6, 7, 8 #257*

Vs 6: O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer, O Sun of justice,  
now draw near Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.

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

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]

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 Keiten Matthees (you may be seated)*

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 Keiten Matthees*

*Love* - Let us pray. 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.

**St. Luke Lutheran Church • PO Box 276 • 37750 County 6 Blvd. Goodhue, MN 55027**

**Sunday Worship: 9:30AM • Wednesday Worship 6:45PM**

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**Kamie Lodermeier, Ben Zillgitt, Char Volkmann, Maggie Voth, Scott Peterson, and Calvin Ryan**