

**Lighting of the Advent Candles & Hymn:** *“Light one candle to watch for Messiah”* vs 2 #240

**Vs 2: Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.**

**He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.**

**The Reading:** **Joel 2:12-13, 28-29** *read by Anna Petree*

<sup>12</sup>Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; <sup>13</sup>rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and relents from punishing. <sup>28</sup>Then afterwards I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. <sup>29</sup>Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

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.*

*“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”*

**Vs 1: Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear! The evening is advancing, and darker night is near. The Bridegroom is arising & soon is drawing nigh; Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.**

**Vs 2: The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near; go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear. The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**

**Vs 3: The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff’rings bore, shall live and reign forever, when sorrow is no more: Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold, in triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.**

**Vs 4: Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; arise, O Sun so longed for, o’er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see the day of earth’s redemption that sets your people free!**

**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.**

**Nicene Creed:** *(please stand as you are able)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence. *A brief silence.* Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering 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, and Chase Hanson. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and 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.*

*“We Are Waiting For Jesus”*

**Vs 1: We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings peace. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.**

**Sun of justice, shine upon us; we are trusting in your promise.**

**We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.**

**Vs 2: We are waiting for Jesus, Jesus brings peace. We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.**

**Loving Shepherd, walk beside us; stir our hearts, and gently guide us.**

**We are waiting for Jesus; Jesus brings peace.**

*“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

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)*

*“Holy Child Within The Manger”*

Vs. 1: Holy Child within the manger, long ago yet ever near;  
come as friend to ev’ry stranger, come as hope for ev’ry fear.  
As you lived to heal the broken, greet the outcast, free the bound,  
as you taught us love unspoken, teach us now where you are found.

Vs. 2: Once again we tell the story-- how your love for us was shown,  
when the image of your glory wore an image like our own.  
Come, enlighten with your wisdom, come and fill us with your grace.  
May the fire of your compassion kindle ev’ry land and race.

Vs. 3: Holy Child within the manger, lead us ever in your way,  
so we see in ev’ry stranger how you come to us today.  
In our lives and in our living give us strength to live as you,  
that our hearts might be forgiving and our spirits strong and true.

**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 8, 2024**

**Prelude:** *Music by Calvin Ryan*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Quarterly Financial Update:** *Char Volkmann*

**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 3, 4 #257

Vs 3: **O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on Sinai’s height in ancient times you gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Vs 4: **O come, O Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan’s tyranny; From depths of hell your people save, and give them victory o’er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**Advent Reflection:** *read by Evelyn Volkmann (you may be seated)*

Last Sunday we lit the first candle—the hope candle. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

**Advent Prayer:** *read by Evelyn Volkmann*

*Peace* - Let us pray. Dear God, as we journey down this advent road, grant us the courage to make peace. Peace in our hearts, Peace in our homes, Peace in our communities. **Amen.**

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

**Sunday Worship: 9:30AM • Starting June 12th: Zion Church Wednesday Worship 7PM**

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