



**St. Luke's  
Lutheran Church**



4801 Anderson Ave  
Manhattan, KS 66503  
[www.stlukesmanhattan.org](http://www.stlukesmanhattan.org)

*Sharing Jesus Christ's love with those around us.*

**Sunday, December 22, 2024 – 11:00 AM**

*Rev. Michael J. Schmidt, Sr. Pastor  
William Prann, Director of Christian Education  
Gretchen Hartsook, Director of Music*

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

**(Series C)**

## **WELCOME**

We are glad you are here to worship our Savior with us. Please remember to turn your cell phone to silence. Restrooms are on the west side of the sanctuary. Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office through email, [office@stlukesmanhattan.org](mailto:office@stlukesmanhattan.org), or by calling 785-539-2604. On Communion Sundays, if you need non-gluten wafers at communion, or need to have communion brought to you, please notify the elder who is serving. We hope you will join us again so that you may experience Jesus.

## **AS WE GATHER**

We often hear it said, and even say it ourselves, that “things aren’t like they used to be.” We can see it around us in our world, our culture, and even among our own families and homes, whether for better but often for worse. People sometimes have the same impression of the Lord. But our Lord remains unchanged (see Malachi 3:6), and Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (see Hebrews 13:8). Since the beginning, our holy Lord has always desired and even demanded holiness. Holiness comes only by the one perfect bodily sacrifice. Our Lord Jesus Christ has made us holy through Himself alone. Because of and through Him, we do not have to be like we used to be; rather, we live in that grace and love as He first loved us.

## **IMAGE ON THE COVER**

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. *Micah 5:2*

## **PRELUDE**

*(Please use this time to prayerfully prepare your hearts to enter into the presence of Jesus.)*

## **✠A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE✠**

## **WELCOME**

**PRESERVICE SONG** – Special Music  
A Joyful Sound

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**INVOCATION**

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

**C** Amen.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**P** We light the fourth Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**C** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**P** The fourth Advent candle has been known as the angel candle and the candle of love. As our Advent season soon ends, we await the angelic message of the good news of a Savior. We have come to know the love of the one true God this season and always as we have prepared to celebrate His birth. We know God’s promises come to fruition in Jesus, who later made known His Father’s love in His being born into this world; in His life, ministry, teaching, preaching, healing; and ultimately in His dying and rising. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

**C** **The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.**

**P** Guided by the light of love, we respond with the psalmist: “Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the clouds.

**C** **Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; Your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast You save, O LORD.**

**P** How precious is Your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

**C** They feast on the abundance of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your delights.

**P** For with You is the fountain of life;

**C** in Your light do we see light.”

## WE LIGHT FOUR CANDLES OF THE ADVENT WREATH

### WE LIGHT THE ADVENT CANDLE

*st. 4*

4 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And share the won - drous  
Word. With love, we tell of Je - sus Till  
all a - round have heard. God's love is for each  
na - tion Through - out His whole cre - a - tion. We  
wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!

Text: Lisa M. Clark

Tune: Swedish, 17th cent.

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Tune: Public domain

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean.  
**C Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**P** We have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.  
**C Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**P** Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**C Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**  
**O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to be born in our flesh, to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins.  
**C Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**P** As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and the Holy Spirit. To those who believe on His name He gives the power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. Those that believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

**C** Amen.

### **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

**P** Lord, have mercy,

**C** Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

**P** Into the darkness,

**C** You bring light,

**P** and into our lives

**C** You make known Your perfect and everlasting love.

**P** Make us ready for the celebration of our Savior's birth,

**C** that we receive Him as He comes to us as a humble infant,

**P** bringing to fruition

**C** the new covenant of Your love;

**P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**P** We confess our faith together, using the words of the Apostles' Creed,

**C** **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.**

*Sit*

## **OPENING SONG – “Mary Did You Know”**

- 1 Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would one day walk on water?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?  
This child that you delivered will soon deliver you
  
- 2 Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will calm a storm with His hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?  
When you kiss your little baby you kiss the face of God  
Mary did you know?
  
- 3 The blind will see, the deaf will hear  
The dead will live again  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak  
The praises of the Lamb
  
- 4 Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Is Lord of all creation?  
Mary did you know that your baby boy  
Will one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy was heaven’s perfect Lamb?  
The sleeping child you’re holding is the Great I Am



## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Micah 5:2-5a*

*(The coming King born in Bethlehem.)*

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

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

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

*Psalm 80:1-7; antiphon: v. 7*

**P** <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;

**C** let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**P** <sup>1</sup> Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**C** You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

**P** <sup>2</sup> Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

**C** stir up your might  
and come to save us!

**P** <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God;

**C** let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**P** <sup>4</sup>O LORD God of hosts,

**C** how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

**P** <sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears

**C** and given them tears to drink in full measure.

**P** <sup>6</sup>You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,

**C** and our enemies laugh among themselves.

**P** <sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;

**C** let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**P** <sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;

**C** let your face shine, that we may be saved!

## EPISTLE

*Hebrews 10:5-10*

*(Jesus comes to do God's will.)*

<sup>5</sup>When Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,  
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’”

<sup>8</sup>When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, “Behold, I have come to do

your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA AND VERSE

*Matthew 1:23a*

**P** Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

**C** and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 1:39-45*

*(Mary visits Elizabeth.)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, <sup>40</sup>and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, <sup>42</sup>and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Sit*

## LAMB'S MESSAGE

## SERMON

## VOTUM

- P** The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.
- C** Amen.

## OFFERING

There are several ways to give.

1. Please **send** your offerings to  
St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
4801 Anderson Avenue  
Manhattan, KS 66503
2. **Electronic Funds Transfer**  
Sign up through the church office.

**STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE:** Luke 1:45 – “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” The Lord always fulfills what He promises. We can be certain of that, and He has proven it over and over again. This faith in the Lord's own faithfulness is what gives us the courage to follow the Lord's commands in the face of the world's anger and resistance, just as it gave Mary the courage to carry on in her seemingly embarrassed circumstances.

## OFFERTORY – “Silent Night, Holy Night”

- 1 Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and Child, Holy Infant so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace
  
- 2 Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar; heav’nly hosts sing alleluia  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!
  
- 3 Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth  
(Lyrics: Joseph Mohr, Music: Franz Gruber, arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music. CCLI #288089)

*Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P** O Lord, there is none like You in holiness, constancy and might; yet, You exercise Your power for the salvation of sinners. As we draw near to the celebration of Jesus’ birth, fill our hearts with gratitude that Your Son humbled Himself and became flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**
- P** Mighty God, You have done great things for us, looking upon our humble estate and exalting us to be Your children for Jesus’ sake. Preserve us by Your Holy Word, that we would properly fear Your name and rejoice in it all our days. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C** **hear our prayer.**



**P** Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is truly the King of the nations and their desire. He who formed us of clay took on our human nature that He might save us. He came to His own and was rejected by them, yet You established Him as the true cornerstone, tested and precious, that whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day; for You live and reign, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** **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.**

## 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** Amen.

## GREET ONE ANOTHER

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “The Lord be with you,”  
“Peace be with you,” or “The peace of the Lord be with you”.*

## CLOSING SONG - “Joy to the World” Luke 2:10

- 1 Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav’n and nature sing  
And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing
- 2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let men their song employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders of His love

(Isaac Watts & George Frederick Handel, arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089)



## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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