



**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 21, 2025 – 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 A)**

## **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**

Though Matthew is already telling of the birth of Jesus Christ, it is not yet the account we look forward to hearing on Christmas Eve. But this one, lighter on details, is heavy with the promise Jesus' birth fulfills. This Sunday, we hear of Joseph's own angel visit, of the name that shall be given to this child, and of His birth to save His people from their sins. All of this is prefigured in the voice of the Advent prophet Isaiah and framed in the essential message of the church by the words of Paul. Each of the readings appointed for today remind us that God has it all figured out, and even though it all unfolded in time before us, it was appointed by God from the beginning of time. As we remember again all that happened, we also happily remember that God still has it all in hand and that Christ is not only the fulfiller of the past but also the author of the future.

## **IMAGE ON THE COVER**

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). *Matthew 1:23*

## **PRELUDE**

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

## **LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES**

## **WE LIGHT THE FOURTH CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

# ✠A SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND PRAISE✠

## WELCOME

### PRESERVICE SONG – “Angels We Have Heard on High”

- 1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains  
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo

*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.

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Psalm 130:7; Philippians 1:6*

- P** O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
**C** and with Him is plentiful redemption.

*Silence for self-examination.*

**P** Holy and gracious God,  
**C** I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.

### **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

**P** Lord, have mercy, on us.

**C** Christ, have mercy, on us.

Lord, have mercy, on us.

### **SALUTATION**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## NICENE CREED

**☐ I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life ✝ of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

## OPENING SONG – “God is With Us”

- 1           The skies don't seem to be as dark as usual  
The stars seem brighter than they've been before  
Deep within I feel my soul a stirring  
As though my hope has been restored  
The shepherds say they've heard the voice of angels  
Confirming rumors spread across the land  
That a child protected well from Herod's anger  
Is our Father's Son, and the Son of man
- 2, 4, 5       Love is raining down on the world tonight  
There's a presence here I can tell  
God is in us, God is for us, God is with us, Emmanuel  
He's the Savior we have been praying for  
In our humble hearts He will dwell  
God is in us, God is for us, God is with us, Emmanuel
- 3           I feel compelled to tell all who will listen  
That peace on earth is not so out of reach  
If we can find grace and mercy and forgiveness  
He has come to save, He is all of these
- 6           God is in us, God is for us, God is with us, Emmanuel  
(Casting Crowns Used by permission CCLI #288089)

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 7:10-17*

*("The virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel.")*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup>And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup>The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

**L** Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

**C** Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.

**L** Behold, your king is coming to you;

**C** righteous and having salvation.

**L** Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**C** From the house of the Lord we bless you.

## EPISTLE

*Romans 1:1-7*

*(Long promised by God, the Savior, Jesus Christ, has come.)*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup>concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, <sup>6</sup>including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**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

Matthew 1:18-25

*("The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.")*

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

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

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**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: Matthew 1:21 – “She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”** What our good works could never do, Jesus has done: He has saved us from our sins, paid our debt, set us free. How can we not give thanks to Him with lives of generosity and godliness? What God's Law could not do — truly motivate us to truly good works — Jesus' love has done!

## OFFERTORY – “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

- 1 It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold  
“Peace on the earth, goodwill to men from heav’n’s all gracious King!”  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing
- 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
- 3 For lo, the days have come to pass by prophets seen of old  
When down into the circling years came Christ as was foretold  
His word of peace shall to the earth God’s ancient promise bring  
And all who take this gift will hear the song of angels sing

(Text: Edmund H. Sears, Music: Richard S. Willis, public domain #288089)

*Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For faith to rejoice in the promise of the Father kept in Christ, for an end to worries and fears, and for peace to rule our hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the courage in the face of danger and confidence in the face of doubt, knowing that God will keep us as His own possession, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For this congregation and the church across many nations, called by the Spirit and sustained by the means of grace, that we may not fail to tell the story of our Savior's birth nor the promise of His name, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For the peoples and leaders of all the nations, that in every place they may know justice and be free to worship the Lord without fear, and for an end to violence and war, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For all those who protect us in this and every place, for the emergency workers and disaster relief personnel, and for those who watch on our behalf in the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For generous hearts that those in poverty and need may be supplied from the abundance the Lord has granted to us, and for our tithes and offerings to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mercy.

**P** For families and homes, especially those alone in this holy season of our Savior's birth, that we may love and serve them, extending Christ's compassion to all those around us, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For God's mercy to the sick, His relief to those who suffer, His presence with the grieving and dying, and His peace to those troubled in mind or spirit, [*especially . . .*], let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For faith to discern and believe Christ's presence in this Holy Communion and for repentance that we may receive His body and blood for our good, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** For all those who travel and those whose celebrations may be missing loved ones, that the Lord may at last bring us together in His presence on high, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** **Lord, have mercy.**

**P** Come to the aid of Your people, O Lord, and defend us against all our enemies of body and soul, that at the day You have appointed, we may rejoice in Your presence together with those who have gone before us with the sign of faith and now rest in peace; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom with the Father and the Spirit You are one God, one Lord, now and to the end of the ages.

**C** **Amen.**

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

## PREFACE

**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 and praise.

## LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and each 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.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## THE PEACE OF THE LORD

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

### The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor or an elder. For further study, see Matt. 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

## LAMB OF GOD

### DISTRIBUTION

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first. They then distribute the body and blood of Christ to those in the pews who are unable to come forward, and then finally to those who come forward.*

*Distribution and dismissal will be done by half tables.*

### DISTRIBUTION SONGS

#### “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

## “What Child is This” Luke 2:11

- 1    What Child is this, who, laid to rest  
      On Mary’s lap is sleeping  
      Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
      While shepherds watch are keeping
- 2    This, this is Christ the King  
      Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
      Haste, haste to bring Him laud  
      The Babe, the Son of Mary
- 3    So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh  
      Come, peasant, king, to own Him  
      The King of kings, salvation brings  
      Let loving hearts enthrone Him
- 4    Nail, spear shall pierce Him through  
      The cross be born for me and you  
      Hail, hail the Son of God  
      The Babe the Son of Mary
- 5    Raise, raise the song on high  
      The Virgin sings a lullaby  
      Joy, joy for Christ is born  
      The Babe the Son of Mary

(William C. Dix, traditional melody, arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089)

*Stand*



## POST COMMUNION COLLECT

**P** Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** 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 - "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

- 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."
- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

3 Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

(Charles Wesley & Felix Mendelsohn arr. ©1997 Maranatha! Music CCLI #288089]

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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