

# ***Good Shepherd Lutheran Church***

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December 24, 2023 9:30am

Fourth Sunday of Advent



## ***Luke 1:26-28***

*<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,  
<sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name  
was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."*

To listen to the service, please turn your radio to

FM 88.9

Thank you for joining our service today.

*Please leave your offering in the plate at the door as you enter or leave the service.*

*This worship we will be using ELW Setting 3.*

*You may stand during worship with asterisk (\*) in this bulletin.*

## **Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Prelude**

**Tena Rackow**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Lighting of Advent Wreath**

L: Seek the Lord while he may be found, **C: call upon him while he is near.**  
L: Prepare the way of the Lord, **C: make the Lord's paths straight.**  
L: Lift up your heads, O gates, **C: that the king of glory may come in.**  
L: The Spirit and the church cry out: **C: Come, Lord Jesus!**  
L: All those who await his appearance pray: **C: Come, Lord Jesus!**  
L: The whole creation pleads: **C: Come, Lord Jesus!**  
P: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe...

**Wreath Hymn**

**"Light One Candle to Watch"**

**ELW #240, verse 4**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

**ELW page 94**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone.**

**Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **C: Amen.**

\* **Gathering Hymn**

**“All Earth is Hopeful”**

**ELW #266**

\* **Greeting**

**ELW page 138**

P: 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.**

\* **Kyrie**

**ELW page 138**

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

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\* **Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, “See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent.”

<sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan:

<sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

<sup>1</sup>Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

**<sup>2</sup>For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.**

<sup>3</sup>“I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**<sup>4</sup>‘I will establish your line forever, and preserve your throne for all generations.’”**

<sup>19</sup>You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: “I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

**<sup>20</sup>I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.**

<sup>21</sup>My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong.

**<sup>22</sup>No enemy shall deceive him, nor shall the wicked bring him down.**

<sup>23</sup>I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

<sup>24</sup>**My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him, and he shall be victorious through my name.**

<sup>25</sup>I will set his hand on the sea, and his right hand on the rivers.

<sup>26</sup>**He will say to me, ‘You are my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.’**

### **Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27**

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

### **\*Gospel Acclamation**

**ELW page 142**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **\* Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke. C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

<sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

<sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

**Childrens Christmas Pagent  
T’was the Night Before Christmas**

“Silent Night”	Verses 1 & 2	ELW#281
“Angels We Have Heard on High”		ELW#289
“Away in the Manger”		ELW#277
“Go Tell It On The Mountain”		ELW#290

**\* Apostles’ Creed**

ELW page 105

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith,

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

*Congregation responds to each petition with the following:*

**L: Merciful God, C: receive our prayer.**

### *We lift our prayers for*

*Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Sheridan Brinker, Fern Harnish, Taylor B., Denny Bergmann, Willie Kayser, Rene', Paul Fahr, Gary Hudik, Brady Meier, Leona Block, Connor Stadermann, Brooke, Jon Forsythe, Diane, Randy, Brian, Paul Heller, Janet, Ryse Stone, Nicole, Meghan and her baby, John, Chuck, Joyce, Terri, Tina, Julie, Jamie, Crystal, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, Richard Gordon, Kay, Shanna, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Jack, Gretchen, Tina, Joe, Dan Kempel, Justin Yeager, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar Hail, Connie, Rachel Collins, Jim Clay, Sharon Janicke, Ethan, Hanna, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Heckman, Vera Kempel, Jeri, Allie, Al Glen Hagemann, Bruce Stewart, Pam, Caroline, Betty Tina D., Howard D., Christine, and Michelle.*

## Choir Anthem

## “Bethlehem Town”

### Lord's Prayer

**ELW page 145**

**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**

### Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**Blessing**

**ELW page 146**

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,  
In the name of the Father, † and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” ELW #257 - verses 5–8**

**\* Dismissal**

**ELW page 146**

P. Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**Tena Rackow**

*Attendance December 10<sup>th</sup>  
In-person 34. Online 39*

**Announcements**

Please be sure that any offering contributions you would like credit for this year, is received prior to the end of worship on Sunday, December 31, 2023. Contributions received after that time will be credited in 2024. that you for your cooperation, in an ongoing effort to reduce expenses, your offering envelope number for next year may change.

*It is imperative that you write you name on your envelope so that you receive proper credit.*

Your generosity and cooperation are very much appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sheila at (815)369-5101

Thank you.

Piece Corps Quilters  
*Meet every Wednesday in Fellowship Hall from 8:00-11:30am.  
Come to enjoy the fellowship and help make loving quilts for Lutheran World Relief and those in need.*