

St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church

Fourth Weekend in Advent

Saturday, December 18, 2021 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 19, 2021 9:30 a.m.

Introduction to the day

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

~Please quiet your hearts, your minds, and your cell phones~

PRELUDE (5:00) "He Shall Feed His Flock" (from Messiah) -G.F. Handel

(9:30) "Dona Nobis Pacem" Handbell Quartet

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

***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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

L: Today we relight the first three candles of the Advent Wreath — the candles of HOPE, PEACE and JOY. Now we light the fourth candle of Advent. This is the candle of LOVE. Jesus demonstrated self-giving love in his ministry as the Good Shepherd. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us the most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also. From the Gospel of John we hear:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."—John 13:34-35

Let us pray:

C: **Teach us to love, O Lord. May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ's footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus' birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior. Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God for whom we wait,

C: **in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you.**

We fail in believing that your good news is for us.

We falter in our call to tend your creation.

We find our sense of self in material wealth.

We fear those different from ourselves.

**We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.**

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
✠ your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

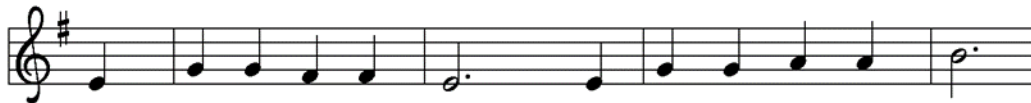
C: Amen

GREETING

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



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might,
free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you
always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now
and forever. Amen

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time

Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others

when she who is in labor has brought forth;
 then the rest of his kindred shall return
 to the people of Israel.
⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,
 in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
 And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth;
^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
 "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
 but a body you have prepared for me;
⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings
 you have taken no pleasure.
⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God'
 (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."
⁸When 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), ⁹then he added,
 "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And
 it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ
 once for all.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

P: The holy Gospel according to Luke

C: **Glory to you O, Lord**

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." [

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

MESSAGE - "Visitors" Rev. Brian Hooper

ANTHEM "Creation Will Be At Peace" -Page

Choir

APOSTLES' CREED

**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,**

Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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

L: In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

L: Nurturing God, you give us life and care for our every need. Use the church's gifts and ministries for your service, bringing your word to all who seek your transforming grace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Creator God, you proclaim your boundless love for all that you have made. Renew barren lands, polluted waters, and melting ice caps. Make us servants of your creation that brings forth abundant life. We pray for the relief and recovery efforts after tornadoes and storms, and for all left scared and grieving. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Righteous God, you bring down the mighty and lift up the lowly. Strengthen those who seek justice. Bless the work of community organizers, activists, journalists, and all who call our attention to imbalances of power. We pray for the work of emergency responders and relief agencies, including Lutheran Disaster Response. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Compassionate God, you proclaim your love and mercy. Show your lovingkindness to teen parents and those who are pregnant. Comfort any struggling with infertility and those who await test results, are in treatment and hospice care, and others in need especially those we name now out loud and in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Gracious God, you fill the hungry with good things. Bless the local food pantries and outreach centers, including Unity Soup Kitchen, Bay View Community Center, Faith/Santa Fe and others. Guide us to share your bounty with those who hunger or live in poverty. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Faithful God, you stir up the hearts of those who love you. We give you thanks for those who, like Mary, were courageous in their witness. Give us such courage until that day when you fulfill all things. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others

OFFERING

(Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis. Information for both programs can be found on the Electronic Giving page at ssmelca.org)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

C: Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*Prepare your elements by opening the two separate parts, wafer and wine (if you need assistance, please wave to an usher). The Pastor will recite the words of institution and consecrate the elements. Partaking of the elements will occur **after** the Lord's Prayer is spoken. The Pastor will lead the assembly with the words: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others

P: The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
C: Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 257 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs 7-8

**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.
Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.
C: Thanks be to God.

Reminder: Sunday Morning Service streaming and recording continues through the postlude with the room microphone on. Conversations do get picked up by that microphone. If you would prefer that your conversation not be recorded and posted on YouTube, please refrain from speaking in the sanctuary until after the postlude.

POSTLUDE (5:00) “Tell Out My Soul” -arr. P. Manz
(9:30) “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” arr. W. Held

*From sundaysandseasons.com.
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*The Eternal Candle is given by
Dennis Lucchesi in honor of Dennis & Geri’s 50th Wedding Anniversary
Flowers are given by Dennis Lucchesi in honor of Dennis & Geri’s 50th Wedding Anniversary*

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN THE WORSHIP!

Reader: (5:00) Judy Merritt
(9:30) Mary Luedtke
Ushers: (5:00): Patti Nelson & Herb Leppien
(9:30): Diane Moraza, Shelly Rosenstock & Julie Starks

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark your Calendars for Christmas Services

The Christmas worship services will be: Christmas Eve, Friday, December 24th at 4:00 and 9:00 p.m.; Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th at 9:30 a.m. (Note: there will not be a worship service on Sunday, December 26th.) *As we anticipate a greater number of children at the 4:00 p.m. service, we kindly ask all in attendance to wear masks for the safety of all.

Many thanks for all who participated in the **Bay View Christmas Gift** collection. All of the wishes of the recipients were fulfilled. The gifts were picked up last week and are on their way to be delivered to the grateful recipients. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others

The Flower and Eternal Candle sign-up forms are now posted on the office door for 2022.

January is coming up fast and all slots for January 2022 are available now. The 2022 flower chart is under the 2021 chart and the 2022 Eternal Candle sign-up is below the 2021 sign-up. Get your spots early.

2022 Envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex just as you enter the Fellowship Hall. they are arranged in alphabetical. Note that your envelope number is probably different than it was in 2021. Even if you use one of the giving apps you may want to pick up your envelopes so that you can make use of the special envelopes.

Save the date: **The SSM Annual Congregational Meeting** will take place on January 30, 2022 immediately following the worship service. There will also be a budget discussion session on January 23rd, also immediately following the worship service. More information to follow.

This Week at SSM			
Sunday	12/19	1:00pm	Advent & Christmas Organ Recital presented by Tabitha Moldenhauer
Wednesday	12/22	5:45pm	Handbell Rehearsal
		7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday Christmas Eve	12/24	4:00pm	Ushers: Dennis Lucchesi, Nancy Mineau & Patti Nelson
		9:00pm	Ushers: Bob DeFrank, Bob Lieske, Bob Rasmussen & Doug Winter
Saturday Christmas Day	12/25	9:30am	Ushers: Herb Leppien, Bob Rasmussen & Bonnie Zimmermann
Sunday	12/26	NO WORSHIP SERVICE OR SUNDAY SCHOOL	

KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Suzi Angeletti, Bob Brownell, Melissa Cooper, Bonnie Daleness, John Drover, Mary Freiburger, Diana Gastrau, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Carolyn Kahl, Tasha Kopplin, Carol Kucharski, Vic & Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, Shirley Rau, John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, Carole Ropel, Bob & JoAnn Soderstrom, Richard Sontvedt, Kim Sussman, John Winter

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of Joan Retzlaff	Cathy & Mark Kossov, friends of Lynda Johnson
Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM	Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend of the Homeless
Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil & LaVerne Morgan	Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning
Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family	Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff	Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan Kowalewski
Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother-in-law of Barbara & Dan Davies	Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of Karen Miller
Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman	Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne Niese
Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob Lieske	Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas	Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann	Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson
Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb Davies	Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson	Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman
Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus	Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll
Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan	Sharon Maschke, sister-in-law of Pam Maschke
Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau	Tim Ingram, grandson of Carole & Ron Ropel
Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant	Denise Hajos, friend of Kelly Sachse
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant	Bonnie, friend of Kurt & Jenny Koeff
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese	Louie Baumgartner, family member of the Lieske's.
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt	Bob Guiliani, brother of Char Guiliani
Nikki Bruneau, friend of Kelly Sachse	Barbara Goelz, friend of Kelly Sachse
James Haas, friend of Mark & Patti Winter	Peter Misko, friend of Doug Winter family
Rose Zovi, friend of Shelly Rosenstock	Kathy Manders, friend of Doug Winter family
Peter Salza, friend of Doug Winter family	Tom Freiburger, son of Mary Freiburger
Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller	Janet Heino, great aunt of Stephanie Falksen
Gloria Klinter, sister-in-law of Shirley Lieske	Paulie Long, friend of Kelly and Greg Sachse
Sandy, sister of Kevin Ernst	Tom Schmidt, friend of Kelly and Greg Sachse
Tom Riedasch brother of Patti Winter	Tim Drover, son of John Drover
Mark Weber, son-in-law of Marian Walton	Alicia Davilla, granddaughter of Barb and Dan Davies
Hartmut Barsnick	Bob Guiliani, brother of Char Guiliani
Paula Peterson sister of Bonnie Court	

Rev. Brian Hooper, Pastor - 262-271-8913
Tabitha Moldenhauer, Music Director
Mark Bruetzmann, Saturday Musician
Bonnie Zimmermann, Ministry Assistant
Office phone - 414-421-3543
Jim Hennessy, Church Maintenance

Welcoming all, Worshiping God, Serving others