ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

Wheatfield, New York

Fourth Sunday in Advent Sunday, December 24, 2023, 9:00 AM

LSB 365



We are a Christian community called to **worship** and sent to **serve**, welcoming all to **walk** with Christ and **grow** in faith.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

WELCOME & INVOCATION

- \blacksquare We gather in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



Text (sts. 1–2): Little Children's Book, 1885, Philadelphia; (st. 3): Vineyard Songs, 1892, Louisville, alt. Tune: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921 Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that we may know Your plan of salvation and trust that nothing is impossible with You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

PROCLAMATION John 1:1–5; Isaiah 40:9

- **P** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- **C** He was in the beginning with God.
- P All things were made through Him,
- and without Him was not any thing made that was made.
- **P** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- P Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news;
- **C** lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
- lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

MEDITATION

FIRST READING

Genesis 3:8–15

14The LORD God said to the serpent,

⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. 9But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 13Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

"Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your helly you shall go

on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,

and between your offspring and her offspring;

LSB 370

he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98 Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

2

SECOND READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace

there will be no end,

on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness

from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

C Thanks be to God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

"A GREAT AND MIGHTY WONDER"

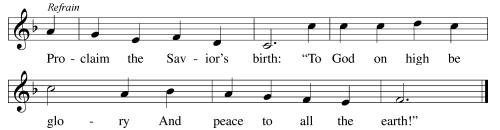
LSB 383 sts. 1-3



- 2 The Word be-comes in car nate And yet re-mains on high, 3 While thus they sing your Mon arch, Those bright an gel ic bands,
- The vir gin bears the in fant With vir gin hon or pure!

And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep-herds from the sky.

Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.



Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln Text and tune: Public domain

THIRD READING

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might,

the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the

Isaiah 11:1–3, 6–9

young goat,

and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;

and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,

and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

C Thanks be to God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

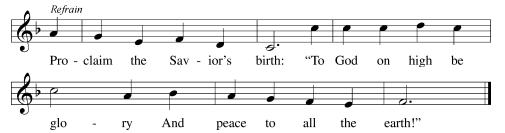


LSB 383 sts. 4-5





The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord. And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.



Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt

Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599,

Köln

Text and tune: Public domain

FOURTH READING

² 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.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time

when she who is in labor has given birth;

Micah 5:2–4 then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,

in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God

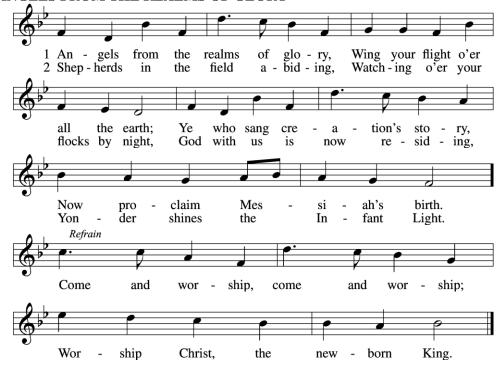
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great

to the ends of the earth.

- This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.



LSB 367 sts. 1-2



Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79 Text and tune: Public domain FIFTH READING

Luke 1:26–35, 38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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 father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

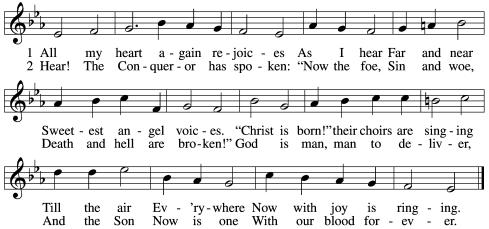
³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.



LSB 360 sts. 1-2



Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

SIXTH READING

Luke 2:1, 3-7

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

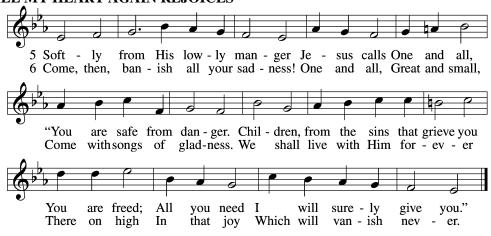
³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.





Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662 Text and tune: Public domain

SEVENTH READING

Luke 2:8–16 suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

- **L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

APOSTLE'S CREED

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.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

After each petition

- P Hear our prayers, O Lord,
- for to us a child is born, to us a son is given.
- We entrust these prayers and all petitions on our hearts and minds to Your never-failing mercy; through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9–13

- P Taught by our LORD and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- 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.

BENEDICTIONNumbers 6:24–26

- **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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



POSTLUDE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.

Poinsettias

Flowers adorning our church have been placed to the Glory of God:

In Memory of

Jan Meissner Our Parents June Werth

K. Gilbert Kroening,

Helen & Steve Warchocki

Mom & Dad Michael Sonnen Bryan, Nicole, & Jamie

Dad

Bill & Ruth Stange, Rich & Nancy Musall,

and Colleen Syruws

Grandpa Gordie

June Werth, Bob & Jean Sutherland

Bryan & Nicole Argo Fred & Janet Mumm

Ron Harder, John Watt, Philip & Emma Moll,

and Norman & Mabel Harder

Given by Herb Meissner Barb & Jeff Manning

Marvin Werth

Dave & Wendy Warchocki

Don Schroeder Linda Sonnen Dad, Mom, & Rita Greg & Sherri Martin

The Drenko Family

Gregory, Jamie, & Alyssa Martin Bruce, Doreen, & Luke Sutherland Grandpa & Grandma Atkinson Heidi Sue Mumm-McCormick

The Harder Family

In Honor of

Our Parents by Cathy & Dan Schultz
Doreen Sutherland by The Handbell Choir
My Kindergartners by Heidi Sue McCormick

All the teachers, Pastor Mike, Sara, and staff by Frank & Kathy Wendt

For Blessings Received

Bob & Jeanne Borgstede The Scive Family The Weir Family Frank & Kathy Wendt

Flowers may be picked up after the Christmas Day service.

