**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidence Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**December 22, 2024, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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.”

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING HYMN O Come, O Come Emmanuel ELW 257**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

alive in the world,

reviving creation,

arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God

and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**

**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have turned away from our neighbors.**

**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We plead: come to us.**

**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through ☩ Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**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.**

**CHILDREN’S MUSIC Away in a Manager (v. 1) ELW 277**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a**

2 But 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.  
 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
  when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
 then the rest of his kindred shall return  
  to the people of Israel.  
 4 And 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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7**

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,**  
 **stir up your strength and come to help us.**  
3 Restore us, O God;  
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.  
4 **O Lord God of hosts,**  
 **how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**  
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.  
6 **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,**  
 **and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**  
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;  
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10**

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

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW pg.171**

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

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, 40 where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit 42 and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. 43 And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? 44 For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”  
  46 And Mary said,  
 “My soul magnifies the Lord,  
  47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
 48 for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.  
  Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,  
 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
  and holy is his name;  
 50 indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
  from generation to generation.  
 51 He has shown strength with his arm;  
  he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
  and lifted up the lowly;  
 53 he has filled the hungry with good things  
  and sent the rich away empty.  
 54 He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
  in remembrance of his mercy,  
 55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
  to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness ELW 251**

**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 power of 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 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**

…Lord, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in December*** *(collected in a special*

*envelope) will be the* ***ELCA Good Gifts Program****. This is being done in conjunction with the Sunday School.*

**OFFERING SONG**  **He Came Down ELW 253**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Creator God,

you made the whole world,

even the farthest stars,

A candle flame in the dark

Description automatically generatedand you draw near to feed us.

We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.

Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation

for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy ELW pg. 173**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets’ hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary’s openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup

we remember your Word dwelling among us,

full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**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** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

God feeds us with tender mercy.

Come to the table.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,

we thank you for the gift of life,

for the bread of salvation.

We thank you for coming among us,

for leading us into peace.

We thank you for showering us with mercy,

for sending us into the world.

Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us

as we feed the hungry in your name.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings,

God in the darkness and the light,

God, our hope for the journey,

☩ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN O Little Town of Bethlehem ELW 279**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

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| **Coming up at GSLC** | | |
| Sunday, December 22 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Fourth Sunday of Advent * Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]; Blessed are you among women/My soul magnifies the Lord |
| Tuesday, December 24 |  | Church Office closed for Christmas |
|  | 4:00 pm | Christmas Eve Worship |
|  | 7:00 pm | Christmas Eve Worship |
| Wednesday, December 25 |  | Church Office closed for Christmas |
| Sunday, December 29 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * First Sunday of Christmas * Luke 2:41-52; The boy Jesus increased in wisdom, and in divine and human favor |

**Pastor Katie’s Office Hours**: Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm. Tuesday mornings at Uptown Coffee. Afternoons available by appointment. You are welcome to stop in any time for conversation or concerns.

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** | | | | | | |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | | **Deep Clean** |
| December 22 | Susan Schoolman | Tammy Neumann | Bruce & Nancy Tibbett | Pam Mundt | May Hill | December:  Dave & Sue Schraeder  Andrea Hovick |
| December 24  (4:00pm) | Volunteer | Volunteer | Volunteer |  |  |
| December 24  (7:00pm) | Volunteer | Volunteer | Volunteer |  |  |
| December 29 | Volunteer | Volunteer | Volunteer | Dan Mundt | Jon Hill |

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SOS is experiencing record high numbers. The shelves are the lowest they've been in a long time. The Winter Wonderland donations will help but are a month away. The food list: Mac’n Cheese, Boxed Rice Meals, Canned Pasta Meals, Tuna, Canned Chicken. **Supplies of nearly everything are low but especially needed are broth, brownie/muffin Mix, canned carrots, canned tomato products, mayo, and canned stew.**

Pastor Katie will be on vacation from Dec 25th to Jan 1st.

Office will be closed Dec 25th to 27th and Dec 31st, Jan 1st and Jan 3rd.