

**December 17, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday in Advent: Run to the Manger**  
**Lord of Life Lutheran Church**



**WELCOME**

**MUSICAL OFFERING**

Lisa Symonds

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come hear the voices of the Angels

**They have good news to share!**

Come sing the songs of rejoicing!

**We have good news to share!**

Let us run to the manger rejoicing

**We have been waiting for Jesus to be born!**

Let us go celebrate with the Holy Family

**The day we have been waiting for has arrived!**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Today we will hear stories of people who have been told that Jesus is born. They will run to the manger to see for themselves that the messiah has arrived. They cannot wait to see this great gift. The people who are chosen to celebrate are a variety of people. Some are kings, some are everyday workers. All are welcome to come and see Jesus, and then go out proclaiming his birth. But often we don't trust that we are included in that group.

**Holy God forgive us for not trusting in your promise to call us to celebrate you. Turn us away from any excuse that would keep us from running to the manger to stand beside you. Help us to hear the angels sing of your presence so that we can join in the celebration. Amen.**

No matter how many times we let hope slip through our fingers we belong to God and get to join in the celebration. Say this truth with me.

**We are God's beloved.**

**We are forgiven.**

**We are blessed and sent to serve. Amen**

**CHRISTMAS CAROL**

*All Earth is Hopeful*

#266

**ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

How does a weary world rejoice?

**By singing songs of hope even when we are weary.**

After waiting to celebrate the birth of Christ we rejoice today that our waiting is almost over.

**With the shepherds, angels, magi, and parents we are eager to welcome Jesus.**

Together let's prepare our hearts and minds for the hope of Christ.

**Let us join together in hope not only for ourselves but for the whole world.**

We light this candle of hope as a reminder of the hope felt by all that heard the Angels' declaration, everything has changed, Jesus is here. May it spark in our own hearts the hope at the promises that God has made. Everything is being made new again. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:46-55

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,  
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

### REFLECTION

#### CHRISTMAS CAROL

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

vss 1 and 3

#270

### SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:8-16

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup> ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’  
<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

### REFLECTION

#### CHRISTMAS CAROL

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

#289

### SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 2:1-2

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’

### REFLECTION

#### CHRISTMAS CAROL

*We Three Kings*

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe that**

**Angels has declared the good news to the whole world.**

**We believe that God uses ordinary people like Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds to do extraordinary good.**

**We believe that each of these ordinary people can make a difference.**

**We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound.**

**We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope.**

**We choose hope anyway.**

**In the face of hardship, we hope together.**

**We hope with God.**

**We hope for a better world.**

**We know that we can trust in this hope because of the angels have declared the Messiah has been born. We believe that we too are invited to celebrate this amazing news.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

### **OFFERTORY**

*Joy to the World*

#267

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread;**

**forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil;**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BENEDICTION**

### **SENDING HYMN**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

#290

### **SENDING**

Liturgy and Prayers are adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](https://sanctifiedart.org).

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