



Salem Lutheran Church  
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 22, 2024 – 9:00am

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**OUR MISSION:** We are God forgiven and mission driven.

**OUR VISION:** To be that Lake Mills Place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

**Sunday—9:00am Worship Service**

**Preaching: Pastor Steve Smith**

**Organist:** Ruth Sheldon

**Reader:** Bruce Adams

**Special Music:** Brady Kurtz

**Sound:** Al Skellenger

**Live Stream:** Brad Evenson

**Acolytes:** Tori Holtan, Mya Anderson

**Liturgical Choir:**

**Communion Servers:**

**Worship Coordinator:** Shannon Bruhns

**Ushers:** Lyle & Orloue Thomson, Al Sterrenberg

**Altar Guild for December:** All Members

**The live stream broadcast is given in Loving Memory of  
Michael Gardner's Birthday from His Family**

**The Purple Poinsettia in front of the Pulpit is in Loving Memory of  
Michael Gardner's Birthday from His Family**

**Salem Contact Information:**

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# INTRODUCTION

*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."*

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## GATHERING

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### PRELUDE

### BELLS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(\*\*\*Please stand as you are able)

### GATHERING HYMN

*People, Look East*

ELW #248



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

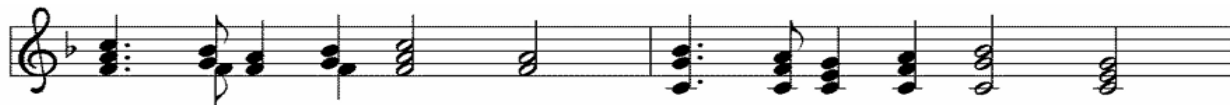


east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**--It is now time for you to wake from sleep;  
the night is far spent; the light draws near.

**KYRIE**

ELW 155



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.  
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.  
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
Chris - te e - le - i - son.  
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

**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.**

**WREATH LIGHTING** *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* ELW #240

*During the singing of the song a new candle is lit each successive Sunday in Advent.*



1 Light one can - dle to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.  
3 Light three can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.  
4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

**WREATH BLESSING**--We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first four candles on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*(\*\*\*Please be seated.)*

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

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### **WORD**

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#### **FIRST READING**

Micah 5:2-5a

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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;<sup>5a</sup> and he shall be the one of peace. Word of God, Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **PSALM**

Luke 1:46b-55

*We will speak today's psalm responsively beginning with the lector.*

<sup>46b</sup> My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, <sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup> you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup> **You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup> You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,<sup>52</sup> **casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup> You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,** <sup>55</sup> **the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.**

## SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup> 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), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> 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.**

(*\*\*\*Please stand as you are able.*)

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Wait for the Lord*

ELW #262



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

## GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

The Holy Gospel according to Luke

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

<sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry,

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

<sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

[<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <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 forever.”]

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(*\*\*\*Please be seated.*)

**SERMON**

(*\*\*\*Please stand as you are able.*)

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* ELW #265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,  
 2 “For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;  
 “To me be as it pleas - eth God,” she said.  
 in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



“All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,  
 thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 “My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God’s ho - ly name.”  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."  
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."      Glo - ri - a!  
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy,  
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

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## RESPONSE TO THE WORD

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### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from The Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*(\*\*\*Please be seated.)*

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of



your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities (*local preserves, parks, or sanctuaries may be named*). Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died (*especially*), we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. 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 the Lord be with you always  
**And also with you.**

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## MEAL

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**OFFERING**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*“Mary, Did You Know”*

Brady Kurtz

## OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and 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**

## 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**

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## SENDING

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### 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**

*(\*\*\*Please stand as you are able.)*

### SENDING HYMN

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

ELW #239



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing, Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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