

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> week of Advent!



# Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

*Sharing God's Love with All!*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

December 18, 2016, 9:15 am

*Sunday School Christmas Program*

Welcome

Gathering Hymn.....*Prepare The Royal Highway* .....#264

**Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near! Let ev'ry hill and Valley a level road appear! Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:**

**Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's word!**

**God's people, see him coming: your own eternal king! Palm branches strew before him! Spread garments! Shout and sing! God's promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain**

**Then fling the gates wide open to greet your promised king! Your king, yet ev'ry nation its tribute too may bring. All lands will bow before him; their voices join your singing: Refrain**

**His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above. His rule is peace and freedom and justice, truth, and love. So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding: Refrain**

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.**

## **Advent Candle: The Candle of Joy**

**P:** The previous three Sundays we have lit the candles of Hope, Peace, and Love to remember that Jesus, born in Bethlehem will come again to fulfill all of God's promises. Today, we light the Fourth Candle, Candle of Joy. When angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her, she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words: "My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Just as the birth of Jesus gave great joy to his mother, so his presence in the world gave joy to those who had none before. He healed them and gave them hope and peace when they believed in him. From hope, peace, and love grows joy...let joy light all the dark places through God's gift, Jesus.

**C:** **Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us, in us. Help us today, and every day to worship you, to hear your word and to do your will by sharing your joy with each other. We ask in him who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.**

Hymn.....*Joy To The World*.....#267

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

***Welcome to the Children's Program: The Christmas Story - Jesus Christ is the same Yesterday, Today, and Forever.***

**Musicians: Maddy Frank, Kelly Herness, Maggie Lindberg, Macy Sylla, McKenna Pientok and Alicia Schmitt.**

Children enter: Is this another rerun of those stories of the Past?

Hymn.....*O Little Town of Bethlehem*.....#279

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming; but, in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!**

The Nativity Family gathers.

The Angel Shares the Story.....Luke 2:1-14

Special Hymn.....*Away in the Manger*.....Sunday School Students  
(Special Accompanist Kelly Herness)

The Angels Call the Shepherds.....Luke 2:15-16

Hymn.....*It Came Upon The Midnight Clear (vs 1)*.....#282

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious king." The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

Modern Day Shepherds: Who are these characters in the current year?

Hymn.....*It Came Upon The Midnight Clear (vs 4)*.....#282

**For lo! The days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

The Angel Reflects on how the Wisemen Came.....Matthew 2:1-11

Special Hymn.....*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star. Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

Are There Still Wisemen?

Hymn.....*The First Noel*.....#300

**The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**This star drew near to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**Then entered in those wise men three, full rev'rently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**Happy Birthday Jesus.....Sunday School Students**

**Hymn.....*Love Has Come*.....#292**

**Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus,**

Immanuel.

**Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

Consider This and More.....Luke 3:3-11

Confession (Let us pray together)

**C: Dear God, you are a great and awesome God. Today we come to you in a prayer of confession. We are sorry for the many things that we have done that are wrong in your eyes. We are also sorry for all the things we should have done but we didn't do. Please forgive us for all these things, and for other things that we have done wrong and don't even know about. In your name alone we pray, Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

P: Reminder: Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that Christ only wants the best for you and gives you peace.

**C: Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession (Each petition will end with "Lord in your mercy"; please respond "**Hear our prayers**".)

Offering

Special Hymn.....*What Child Is This*.....High School Choir Members

## Offering Prayer

P: Generous God, as we move through this Advent season we are reminded of those days of your promised coming. Instead of hearing other voices in our ears that claimed to have the means to save us: money, possessions, power, and status; let us lift up the one promise that provides us peace: your love. As we share in this offering to you, may we hear in our hearts the only voice that can truly save, and hear the words of hope. We look again for the coming of Christ, our Savior, in whose name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving.....Page 144

## Words of Institution

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Lord's Prayer.....Page 145

## Holy Communion

Communion Hymn 1.....*Come, Let Us Eat*.....#491

**(Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,) come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread. (Our Lord's body let us take together,) our Lord's body let us take together.**

**(Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,) come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured. (Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,) Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.**

**(In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest,) in Jesus' presence now we**

meet and rest. (In the presence of our Lord we gather,) in the presence of our Lord we gather.

(Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word,) rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word. (Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom,) Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.

Communion Hymn 2.....*Eat This Bread*.....#472

**"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry. Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."**

Communion Prayer

P: God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Enable us to live out this gift of life, the gift of love for all the world to see how you have come and will come again through Jesus Christ our Lord, to bring peace into the world.

**C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn.....*Angels We Have Heard On High*.....#289

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

**Refrain: *Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.***

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? Refrain**

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king. Refrain**

Blessing

P: Go now and prepare the way of the Lord. Wait patiently. Do not grumble against one another, but encourage one another. Be strong

and do not fear. And may God come quickly to save you; may Christ Jesus give you everlasting joy and gladness; and may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts and lead you on God's holy way.

**C: Amen.**

P: Go in peace, love and serve the Lord, and one another!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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## **Announcements**

**Bulletin Sponsor:** Rita Hegge and Family in memory of Tom, who would have been 90 years old on December 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Meat and Cheese Boxes:** Our Saviour's Youth will have extra boxes of meat and cheese to be sold today until they are gone, so if you haven't ordered one pick one up today! The gift boxes are \$35 each.

**Quilting:** No quilting on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> due to the holidays. We will see you back in January!

**Christmas Services:** Christmas Services at Our Saviour's will take place at 4:00pm and 10:00pm on Christmas Eve. We will also have a Christmas Day service at 9:00am so mark your calendars and join us in celebrating Jesus' birth! If you are unable to attend one of these services, Grace Lutheran will be holding worship on Christmas Eve at 6:30pm.

**Donations:** There will be donation boxes TCHCC and Pajama Grandma located in the Narthex. The Mission Tree is also up in the Narthex to decorate with hats and mittens for the Whitehall Elementary students and ornaments for the Global Mission Animals project. Let's give generously to those who are often forgotten during the Christmas season.

**Office Closure:** The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>. Sorry for any inconveniences!

**Happy Birthday:** Wishing a happy birthday this upcoming week to:  
**Mark Windjue, James Hughes Jr., Marnalee Anderson, Celina Kopp, Randall Lindberg, and Randy Berg.**

**Please pray for the following:** Barb Harms, Karl Fernholz, Roy Arneson, George Przybilla, Goodwin Anderson, Vicki Windjue, Steven Hanvold, Ralph Johnson, Lara Schansberg, Charlie Bratz, Fern Moe, Bob Guinn, Jeff Betthausen, Mary Eid Everson, Jerry Betthausen, Elaine Foss, Linda Schroeder and the Family of Zachary Lambright.

**Coming Up This Week:**

**Wednesday** - Bible Study 9:30am  
Pigeon Fall Nursing Home Worship 10:30am  
Wednesday Worship 5:30pm  
Confirmation 6:00pm  
JCrew 6:30pm  
Senior Choir Practice 7:00pm

**Thursday** - Tri-County Nursing Home Worship 10:00am

**Saturday** - Worship 4:00pm and 10:00pm

**Sunday** - Worship 9:15am

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**Pastor:** Dorothy Sandahl

**Email:** [pastoroslcwh@gmail.com](mailto:pastoroslcwh@gmail.com)

**Office Phone:** 715-538-4334

**Church Website:** [oslcwhitehall.org](http://oslcwhitehall.org)

**Church Email:**

[osluthwh@gmail.com](mailto:osluthwh@gmail.com)

**Office Hours:** Mon-Wed-Fri.  
10am-1pm; Tues-Thurs. 7am-2pm

**Assisting in Worship Today:**

**Accompanist:** Nancy Martinovici

**Ushers:** Claire and Shirley Hanson

**Communion Servers:** Andy and  
Mary Johnson

**Videographer:** Blake Herman