



St Michael's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 19, 2021—8:45 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome Statement

St. Michael's Lutheran Church lives out God's grace and love for all people. Faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we welcome those who have been part of church communities, those who have no previous church experience, and those who have felt excluded by the Church because of their race or ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental capabilities, financial resources, or family circumstances. In this witness we seek reconciliation, healing, and wholeness. As a diverse people we are then empowered by the Holy Spirit to live and work together for God's promised day of justice, peace, and mercy.

In Christ's love, we welcome you!



St. Michael's Lutheran Church is a Reconciling In Christ Congregation.



St. Michael's Lutheran Church is a member of the ELCA.

Worship Activity bags are located at the back of the Sanctuary to keep little fingers and minds busy with worship-themed activities.

The nursery is open! However, it is currently unstaffed. Parents/Guardians are welcome to accompany their child(ren) in the nursery. We ask that you help us provide a safe space for the littles by following the sanitizing instructions in the room after its use.

We continue to use protocols in worship and in the building to protect children, youth and those who have not yet completed COVID-19 vaccinations. As our sanctuary seating opens up, **we remind you to space yourselves out so there is no one directly in front of you or directly behind you.**

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Advent

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

On this Fourth Sunday of Advent we hear the holy interaction between family members Elizabeth and Mary who both witness miracles at work in and through them. Elizabeth, pregnant with the one who would later be called John the Baptist and Mary, pregnant with Jesus, God enfleshed. These women embody God's proclamation of liberation and hope for all generations.

+GATHERING+

PRELUDE

Celestia
Katherine Larson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

O Antiphons

CANTOR: O Key of David, what you open no one can close, and what you close no one can open: come and free the prisoners who dwell in darkness.

CONGREGATION:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
ELW 257, st. 5

**O come, O Key of David come,
and open wide our heavenly home,
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.**

REJOICE, REJOICE!

Emmanuel shall come to you O Israel.

In the Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) hymnal, "hymn" numbers are found at the top of the page; "page" numbers are found at the bottom of the page.

St. Michael's Lutheran Church gathers for worship on the ancestral homeland of the Dakota people. We recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

O Antiphons
The O Antiphons originated as a part of the vespers service in the ancient church.
*see Worship Notes

All are invited to make the sign of the cross † as the presiding minister begins. This sign given to us in our baptism reminds us of our identity as followers of Christ, of God's own.

INVOCATION

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

We come this day, O God, trusting in your tender mercy.

O Come, Emmanuel, the whole world waits for you.

We await your promised future of peace, where the mighty are brought down and the lowly are uplifted.

Prepare a way within our hearts and our lives for your compassion and peace to take root.

We await your day of justice, where the hungry will be filled with good things.

Prepare a way within our hearts and our lives for your righteousness and truth to take root.

As we await your presence and power in our lives we confess the ways that we have not aligned ourselves with your will:

We have neglected the cries of the poor, we have been complicit in oppression and violence, we have participated in systems of dominance and greed.

In you, O God, we find liberation from such evil powers that dominate the world and hold us captive.

In you we find healing and hope.

silence is held

God in Christ looks upon you with love. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, + your sins are forgiven; your lives are renewed. May God strengthen you to walk in the way of Christ.

Amen!

OPENING CANTICLE

Listen to the Voice of Gladness
from Emmanuel Comes!

verse 2 on the following page

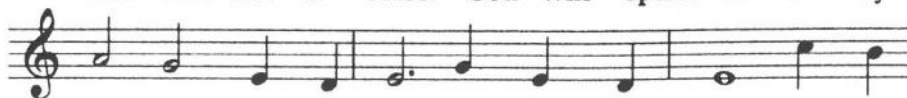
Marilyn and James Biery



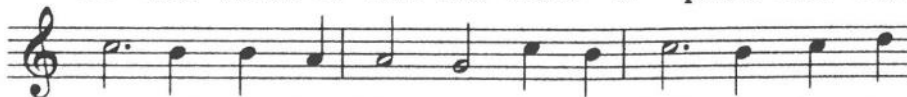
1. Lis - ten to the voice of glad - ness God is
3. God will give to us the peo - ple Com - fort



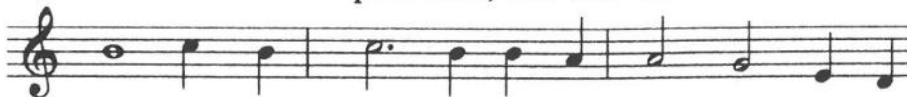
call - ing us to hear; Cast a - way all pain and
that will nev - er cease. God will speak to ev - 'ry



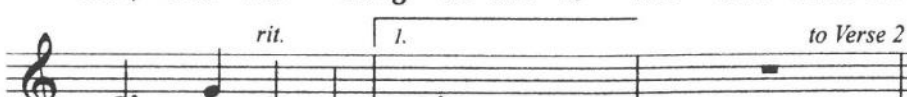
sad - ness, God is with us, al - ways near. Sing of
na - tion Words of love and words of peace. God will



peace and lov - ing kind - ness, Sing of God's un - chang - ing
turn the sword to plow - share, God will trans - form hate to



love; Sing of strength a - mid our weak - ness, Trust in
love; God will bring an end to war - fare: Trust in



God's e - ter - nal love.



love, trust in God's e - ter - nal love.

→ page 6

2. Lis-ten to the voice of pow - er, Feel the might-y strength of
 God. If we tru-ly knew God's pow - er,
 We would trem - ble, ov - er - awed. Yet this
 strength, so great and force - ful, Speaks of love and gen - tle
 peace. God will give to us, the peo - ple, Com - fort
rit. that will nev - er cease. *to Verse 3*

Worship begins with a prayer of mutuality - the presider and the congregation seeking the presence of God with and for one another.

THE GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God,

you are the voice of truth who speaks from the margins. You work mighty deeds from fragile possibilities, and bring hope where despair dominates. Speak to us now a word of promise, that we might see you working in our lives and magnify your love in the world. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

ELW 240, 4



4 Light four can - dles to watch for Mes - si - ah: let the light ban - ish dark - ness.



He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VEI, DFE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

God of Joy, we come before you with eager hearts. We still wait in hope, and yet we are filled with your song of love. We light candles trusting that the smallest flame can drive out our greatest fears. We anticipate your coming among us with peace and thankfulness. As we await your coming, light a flame within us: **May we shine with the brightness of your joy.**

God of Joy, as we light this fourth candle, we remember with gratitude the song you placed in Mary's heart. May we know the joy of your presence. Open our hearts to meet friends and neighbors with the same welcome Elizabeth gave Mary. May our joy be multiplied. Light a flame within us: **May we shine with the brightness of your joy.**

God of Joy, we remember today our brothers and sisters throughout Guatemala and beyond who work and steward the land to provide for their families. Incline our hearts to listen to their prayers. Teach us to sing a song of hope, and to join our voices as one. Let us share our abundance so that others may not only survive, but thrive. Light a flame within us: **May we shine with the brightness of your joy.**

This season as part of our lighting of the Advent wreath we are using prayers from Lutheran World Relief, as we look to the ways God is made known to us and the needs of others around the world.

God of Joy, keep our spirits rejoicing and proclaiming the holiness of Your name.

Guide us in these Advent days until our Savior is born among us.

Turn our attention to you, the One who is our song, our hope and our joy. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the light that has no end. **Amen.**

God speaks to us through scripture, preaching, silence, and song.

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

+WORD+

FIRST READING

Micah 5:2-5a

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.

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.

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;
and he shall be the one of peace.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 10:5-9

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings

you have taken no pleasure.

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)."

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), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second.

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Wait for the Lord

ELW 242

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The second system also has a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp and a common time signature. The melody is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:39-55

Spark Story Bible
pg. 202

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant. Surely, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed; for you the Almighty have done great things for me, and holy is your Name. Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you. You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit. You have brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; you have filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. You have helped your servant Israel, in remembrance of your mercy, according to the promise you made to our ancestors, to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you O Christ!

SERMON

The Rev. Ali C. Ferin

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Earth is Hopeful
ELW 266: 1-3

God feeds us with the presence of Christ in the Sacrament of Communion.

+MEAL+

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all
And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

*Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy."
The congregation responds, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

God of new life, receive these prayers and the ones that remain on our hearts in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This is Christ's table where all are welcome!

The body of Christ is given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Communion will be distributed in the pews. If you did not receive elements upon entering the sanctuary an usher can provide them to you.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of hope,
we have been nourished at your table, filled with your presence. May we be beacons of hope as we actively wait for the day when the world will be changed. Grant that this taste of your banquet would give us a hunger for peace and justice in our community and around the world. Amen.

*God blesses us and
sends us into the world.*

+SENDING+

BENEDICTION

May the God of joy fill you with hope and peace.
May Christ our brother grant you grace and courage,
and the Spirit of life draw near to you this day and always.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

People Look East
ELW 248: 1, 4

Our worship is over,
our service begins.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Greensleeves
arr. Ricky Lombardo

WORSHIP NOTES

O Antiphons

The O Antiphons originated as a part of the vespers service in the ancient church. There is mention of them in the writings of Boethius (c. 480-524). By the 8th c. they were a ritual part of the advent liturgical practice of the Roman church. Each of the antiphons highlights a title for the Messiah: O Wisdom, O Adonai, O flower of Jesse, O key of David, O Radiant dawn, O King of the nations, O Emmanuel. The Benedictine monks arranged these antiphons with a purpose. If one starts with the last title and takes the first letter of each one Emmanuel, **R**ex, **O**riens, **C**lavis, **R**adix, **A**donai, **S**apientia - the Latin words **ero cras** are formed, meaning, **Tomorrow, I will come**. These antiphons became the basis for our great advent hymn, "*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*"

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- ◇ Songs with the abbreviation ELW are found in the ELCA hymnal titled, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.
- ◇ Songs with the abbreviation ACS are found in the new ELCA hymnal supplement titled, *All Creation Sings*.
- ◇ Songs with the abbreviation GC are found in the GIA hymnal titled, *Gather Comprehensive*.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Pastors: *The Rev. Brad Froslee, The Rev. Ali Ferin*

Musicians: *Jill Schendel, pianist*
Chapel Ringers, Charlie Preis, director,
Karen Toebe, cantor
Carol Bergquist, flute

Lector: *Dolores Rivard*

Usher: *Mike Gregory*

Worship Flowers: *Frank Busta: In memory of Beverly Busta.*



Bake Sale

to benefit the Summer
Youth Service Trip

December 19, 8:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.



Holiday Gift Drive

Gifts are due by December 19th.

Gifts can be placed under the tree in the Sanctuary -
attach the tag to the gift, please do not wrap them.

We will be providing holiday gifts for two families
within our community.

Thank you for helping make the holidays brighter for
a family in need!



Winter Boot Collection Drive

Winter weather is here! Boots are a high need for families in the Roseville Area Schools, and we want to help.

- The collection drive will run through the end of December.
- We ask that you bring gently used or new boots.
- Boots of all sizes are needed; toddlers through adults!
- Boot reminder-tags will be available , or you can purchase them through a charity Target Registry at <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/smlc-boots>



- Donations can be placed in the green box in the narthex.

Let's make sure that everyone in our community has warm, dry feet this winter!

~Thank you for your generosity.



Announcements

Sunday School

Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

Confirmation

No Confirmation this week!

Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m.

Youth Music Rehearsals

No Youth Music this week!

Wednesdays

Youth Bells 5:30 p.m.

Celebration Singers 6:30 p.m.

Spirit Choir 7:30 p.m.

Chapel Ringers

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.

Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays, 6:30 p.m.

Fall Yoga Devotion

Session ends December 20

Mondays, 6:30 p.m.

In the coming weeks a number of staff will be taking vacation days.

Please contact the church office to schedule an appointment or to make sure the church is open if you plan to stop by.



This Week at St. Michael's

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:45 a.m. Worship

10:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bake Sale & Pageant Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Worship & Children's Christmas Program

4:00 p.m. DEI Matters

Monday, December 20

12:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

6:30 p.m. Yoga Devotion

Tuesday, December 21

1:00 p.m. Messenger Assembly

7:00 p.m. The Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 22

6:30 p.m. Chapel Ringers Rehearsal

Thursday, December 23

6:30 p.m. St. Michael's Singers Rehearsal

Friday, December 24

Church office closed in the morning

4:30 p.m. Christmas Ever worship service

10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service

Sunday, December 26

10:00 a.m. A Service of Lessons and Carols



Longest Night Service

December 21, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services

December 24, 4:30 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

Sunday December 26

10:00 a.m. service only

A service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, January 2

10:00 a.m. service only