

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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December 20, 2020

Open our eyes to see your presence.

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

## **Gathering**

### **GATHERING MUSIC**

### **WELCOME**

### **OPENING**

L To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ,  
C **be glory forever and ever.**

### **Lighting the Advent Wreath: Advent 4**

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Light four candles.*

### **ADVENT SONG**

### **Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah**

Light four candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.  
Let your lights be shining!

### **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Loving and forgiving God,

C **we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

P People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

## **GATHERING SONG**

## **Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord**

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up  
Shinin' in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy, I want to see you

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You I want to see You

Open our eyes, Lord  
we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch Him  
and say that we love Him

Open our ears, Lord  
and help us to listen,  
Open our eyes, Lord  
we want to see Jesus

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You  
Open they eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open our eyes, Lord

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Let us pray.

**C** **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## **Word**

### **CHILDREN'S TIME**

#### **FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." <sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55**

<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 forbears, to Abraham and his children forever.

**SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27**

*Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.*

<sup>25</sup>Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

**Life.**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**He Came Down**

**ELW 253**

He came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have joy;

hallelujah forevermore.

Text: Cameroon traditional

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38**

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## MESSAGE

### SPECIAL MUSIC

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

**Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**ELW 254**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (see end of bulletin)

## PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

## Meal

## OFFERING

### OFFERING PRAYER

P Generous God,

**C you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray. Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## **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.**

## **SENDING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

**P** The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, † now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG**

### **Hark, the Glad Sound**

**ELW 239**

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.
- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

### **DISMISSAL**

**A** Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. (A brief silence.)

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths (*Nearby churches, mosques, temples, and synagogues may be named*). Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **“CALLED TO WORSHIP, SENT FORTH TO SERVE”**

<b>Pastor</b>	Pastor Carol Braun	<a href="mailto:osl@cheqnet.net">osl@cheqnet.net</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Evelyn Pamer	<a href="mailto:oslsec@cheqnet.net">oslsec@cheqnet.net</a>
<b>Musicians</b>	Linda Hultman/Patty Lehman/Kathy Rewalt	
<b>Lector</b>	Karl Williams	
<b>Recording Technician</b>	Dick Rewalt	

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**STAFF**

Pastor Carol Braun  
Linda Hultman, Keyboard  
Patty Lehman, Keyboard  
Evelyn Pamer, Secretary

# December '20

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
<p><b>20</b> Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.</p>	<p><b>21</b>  Newsletter Deadline  7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p><b>22</b> Office Closed  9:00 TOPS</p>	<p><b>23</b>  9:30 Bible Study  Produce Day</p>	<p><b>24</b>  <b>Christmas Eve</b></p>	<p><b>25</b>  <b>Christmas</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b> Worship Services available via YouTube Check your email for a link to our YouTube service.</p>	<p><b>28</b>  7:00 Al-Anon</p>	<p><b>29</b> Office Closed  9:00 TOPS</p>	<p><b>30</b>  No Bible Study</p>	<p><b><u>Pastor Carol's Days</u></b> Sundays, Mondays, and Wednesdays</p> <p><b><u>Secretary's Hours</u></b> Mon, Wed, Thur. &amp; Fri. 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.</p>		

**Next Week's Readings: Isa 61:10-62:3, Ps 148, Gal 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40**

We will continue to stay in touch electronically by Email, Facebook and our website (ironriverlutherans.org) We are posting worship services on YouTube and are sending out regular mail for those who do not have electronic connections. Let us continue to keep in touch with one another by phone, text, and emails and continue to lift in prayer all who are being affected by this virus.



Ellen Wagner, Willard Ogren, Guyann Lundeen, Ray Kangas, Lorin Wicklund, Rodney Lahti, Jane Jensen, Ken & Linda Watters, Jim DeRosia, Nancy Anderson, Gregg Levine, Darren Forsythe, Todd VanTil, Mark Hokkanen. *Remember those in nursing homes and assisted living who cannot have family, friends or volunteers visit them during this sad time.*

**I will be in Fellowship Hall for the noisy offering and dropping off your vote for the budget (if you haven't already) on Monday, Dec. 28 from 10:00 a.m.-Noon. Grace will be assisting me again, just in case you need a pup pet for your holidays! We hope to see you to say hello!**

**Pastor Carol and Grace**

Check your email and your mailboxes. The 2021 proposed budget letter and information has been sent out. Please return your vote by Monday, December 28, 2020. If you did not receive the information, please let Evelyn know.

## December Mission of the month

**\* Hurricane Eta relief for Honduras.**



**The boxes of cards that WELCA has for sale has been replenished. If you would like to stop by the church and purchase boxes or single cards, they are available.**

## Connections with Creation

Two weeks ago we heard Isaiah prophesy that the Lord's coming would entail a hefty landscaping project: the mountain and hills would be brought low and the valleys lifted up. This week we look to the hills to find Mary walking on foot, her belly not yet grown large with the miraculous baby inside. The great equalizing we thought would be achieved with tractors and dynamite instead arrives into creation by the quiet work of the Holy Spirit and the gracious agency of a young woman. By Christ's coming all creation can equally rejoice in the reconciling, saving activity of God. God is come! The very one who made the hills and mountains now brings restoration to all geographies by being born in the backcountry. As Mary walked with haste to bring the news, did the land rejoice with her?

## Advent begins Sunday, November 29-Happy New Church Year!

On Sunday Nov. 29, we begin the new year in the church calendar. Advent brings us the season of waiting as we go from darkness to light. We celebrate this Advent season over the next four weeks and in our worship service on those Sundays that come before Christmas Eve when we celebrate the Light of the World with the birth of the Christ Child.

Pastor Carol will be sharing these themes over these four weeks:

- Nov. 29- Jesus calls on us to be awake and ready.
- Dec. 6- We ask God to kindle us with the Holy Spirit to be light shining in the darkness.
- Dec. 13- We ask to be shown God's grace so that we may serve our neighbors in need.
- Dec. 20- We ask that our eyes may be open so that we may see God's presence.

We will celebrate with the Lighting of the Advent wreath each week with prayer and anticipation for the one who is to come.

**Are you leaving for warmer climates?** Please make sure to Evelyn know if you are heading to your winter homes for the season. Evelyn and Pastor Carol cannot stress enough how important it is to have your correct contact information! Please keep us updated.

Thank you!!