# SOLOMON'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 4856 WAYNE ROAD CHAMBERSBURG, PA 17202 (717) 267-2266

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"Solomon's Evangelical Lutheran Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, seeks to live in the confidence and fullness of God's grace; to preach the Good News boldly and truthfully; to support and serve others in faith; to work in harmony with all creation."

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT DECEMBER 22, 2024

## **December 22, 2024**

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

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."

# **CAROLS SING** (ELW #267-300)

#### **GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

ORGAN PRELUDE O Come, Emmanuel - August Maekelberghe

#### LIGHTING OF THE ALTAR CANDLES

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\vdash$  one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

#### Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

## God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

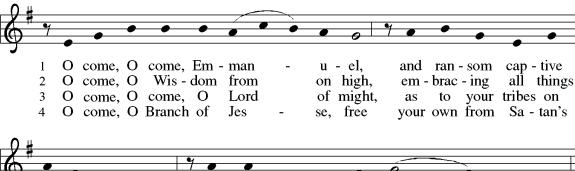
By the power of the Holy Spirit,

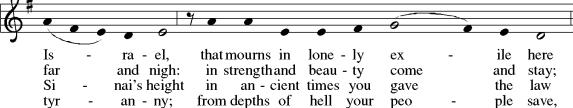
receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through + Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near. Amen.

# \*GATHERING SONG O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257) vs. 1, 3, 4, 5, 8







un - til the Son of God teach us your will and guide in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and give them vic - t'ry o'er ap - pear. our way. and awe. the grave.

Re-joice! Re-joice!



- 5 O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
   O Sun of justice, now draw near.
   Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
   and death's dark shadow put to flight. Refrain
- 7 O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one: refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *Refrain*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

Text: Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent. Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

#### **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.** 

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH "LIGHT OF HOPE"

# **Responsive Litany**

In a world where we often seek personal happiness, Advent beckons us to a deeper expression of our faith in Christ.

# For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.

Advent beckons us to remember God's unconditional love, even when we stumble.

## For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.

Advent beckons us to remember God's invitation to the human heart to be still in the face of strife.

#### For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.

Advent beckons us to remember we always have hope, even when it seems as if our world is caving in around us.

#### For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.

This morning we light four candles. The **first candle** reminds us of the hope that God's light never ceases to shine. The **second candle** reminds us that in a world of discord, we hear again the calming words of our Savior, "Peace, be still." The **third candle** reminds us of the matchless love God has for us. The **fourth candle** reminds us that our joy abides in God who gently whispers to each human heart, "Come follow me, for I have come that you might have life and have it to the fullest measure!"

# Light of Hope

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by JOEL RANEY



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# Let us pray.

Gracious God, in a world where the message is "be happy," we are reminded that only you grant the gift of true joy. This morning let us hear again with joyful hearts and proclaim with elated voices the wondrous refrain of your coming. "The Lord, our God, is with us both now and forevermore." We pray this in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM When Will the Little King Come? Ruth Ealine Schram

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

A reading from Micah.

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.

<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**

- <sup>46b</sup> My soul proclaims the greatness <sup>1</sup> of the Lord, <sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in <sup>1</sup> 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,
- 52 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 prom- | ise of mercy,
- 55 the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his chil-dren forever.

#### **SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10**

A reading from Hebrews.

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

- <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.





Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: "Alleluia 7," Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994, and the Taizé Community
Music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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#### \*GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

The holy gospel according to Luke.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

<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."

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

SERMON Women, Lord, Leaper!

# \*Please stand as you are able for the final verse

## HYMN OF THE DAY My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness (ELW 251)



Text: With One Voice, 1995, based on the Magnificat

Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

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Please join me as we confirm our faith together in the words of the apostles' creed.

#### \*CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.\*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

# \*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH (Please respond.)

P: Lord, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.

## \*PEACE

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

# \*OFFERTORY Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (ELW 254)



peo-ple free; 1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy 2 Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, child, and born a yet a king;





e - ter - nal Spir-it By thine own rule in all our hearts a - lone;



#### \*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.

#### \*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

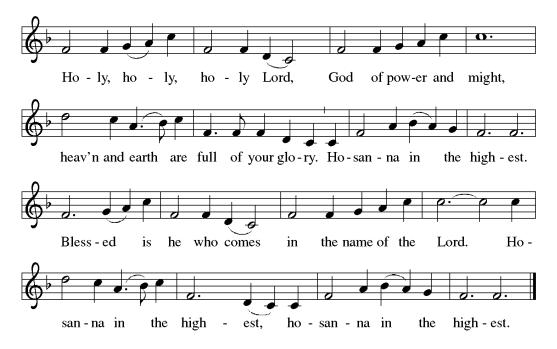
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## \*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 207)



#### \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### \*LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

#### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

#### **COMMUNION**

Continuous - Please continue down center aisle in the direction of the usher. After you receive the bread, you may take a cup of red wine or white grape juice from the tray. Please place your empty communion cup in the basket. Gluten free wafers are available, ask the Pastor when you come forward. Notify the Head Usher if you would appreciate receiving Communion at your seat rather than walking up to the altar, the Pastor and Communion Assistant will be happy to bring Communion to you.

# **COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 481)**



Come to the ta-ble of mer-cy, pre-pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun-gry and thirst-y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re-ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal-va-tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942
Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956
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# COMMUNION HYMN Savior of the Nations, Come (ELW 263)



- 1 Sav ior of the na tions, come; vir gin's son, make here your home.
- 2 Not by hu man flesh and blood, but the mys tic Breath of God,
- 3 Won-drous birth—oh, won-drous child—from his throne, a vir gin mild!
- 4 From God's heart the Say ior speeds, back to God his path-way leads;



O heav'n and Mar - vel now, earth: God has cho-sen such birth. a was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh. Ver - y God, and Mar - y's ea - ger now his son, race to run! van-quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

- 5 Now your manger, shining bright, hallows night with newborn light. Night cannot this light subdue; let our faith shine ever new.
- 6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin's son, incarnate Word!
  To the holy Trinity
  praise we sing eternally!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version Music: Nun комм, der Heiden Heiland, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524 Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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# \*COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.** 

#### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,
we thank you for the gift of life,
for the bread of salvation.
We thank you for coming among us,
for leading us into peace.
We thank you for showering us with mercy,
for sending us into the world.
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us
as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.

#### \*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.



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

#### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

#### EXTINGUISHING THE CANDLES/SILENT PRAYER

# POSTLUDE Joy to the World (from A Nativity Suite) Wilbur Held

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## **SERVING TODAY**

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Aaron Shreiner
Rich McEntire
Janice McEntire & Sam Mull
Jerry & Ilona Laney
Jerry & Ilona Laney
Marjorie Dale
37

## **Glimpses of Vibrancy**

This week we give thanks for the many gifts Solomons Lutheran continues to share into the surrounding community. Today we lift up the gift of *Involving in Lutheran Ridge* (*SpiriTrust*). May this gift continue to be a significant **Glimpse of the Vibrancy** of the love of Jesus Christ!

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The altar flowers this morning are placed to the Glory of God in loving memory of J. Austin and Nellie Hess given by Susie, Sally, Randy and their families.

**Welcome Visitors!** We welcome you to our worship service. We hope your visit with us will be a time of blessing. If you have any concerns, please talk to the Head Usher. We invite you to worship with us again!

**Prayer requests for the following:** *Jim Troutman, Charles Carl, Fran Stouffer, Marty Wenger, Don Wildeson, Nancy Marshall, Betty Amt, our world & country, Debbie Aschmann, Donna, Karen, Chuck Bedsworth, Linda Mumaugh, Katy Klutz, Bonnie Hudson, Malvern Zimmerman, Becky Ensinger, Sam Mull, and all the Homebound. If anyone has a prayer request, please call Janice McEntire, 717-264-3702.* 

Please Be Aware: We wish to be a praying congregation, and especially for those who are sick or experiencing difficult times. We will continue to name person's (first name only) aloud each Sunday, and we will hold each name for a month. In order to keep our list updated we ask that by the final Thursday of the month, but please call Janice McEntire 717 264-3702 to keep the name on for an extra month. Any name can remain for as long as desired, but we need to hear from the person adding the name, or we will presume the name can be removed. Thank you for your understanding.

# **Weekly Calendar Reminders:**

December 24 - Christmas Eve 7:10pm

This Years' Christmas Tree was donated by Wayne and Marge Dale in memory of their Parents and Siblings.

Today is the last Sunday we will be singing Christmas carols prior to worship. The carols can be found in our red hymnal, #267-300. Special thanks to Sam Mull for leading the caroling each Sunday.

Christmas Eve is on Tuesday! We are planning special music prior to and during worship, which will include organ arrangements on familiar carols, two anthems and a benediction by our choir, and a guest soloist. The pre-service music begins at 7:10 PM. Be sure to arrive early to let the music help prepare your hearts and minds to receive the Gift given to us at Christmas, so long ago.

The Service of Lessons and Carols is next Sunday, December 29 at 10:15 AM. This service pairs scripture readings and hymns/carols to tell the Christmas story from prophecy to the birth of Jesus. Join us for a special and meaningful service.

**Communion Cards** – to maintain accurate records, we ask that each member fill out a communion card **only once per calendar year**, at a service when you partake of Holy Communion.

The 2025 Chart for Altar flowers is on the table in the Sunday School room. The cost of the two vases will be \$50.00 per week. You will continue to provide Kimberly with the information for the bulletin prior to the week before the Sunday you choose. Include the cost of \$50.00 with the bulletin information.

The 2025 sign-up charts for Acolyte, Lector etc. are on the table in the Sunday School room. Please sign up for as many as you can.

**SpiriTrust Lutheran Chambersburg Auxiliary has cookbooks for sale, \$15 each**. Lots of great recipes! Great for Christmas gifts! All proceeds go to support programs at Luther Ridge. If interested, see Becky Pecha, Frances Reichard, Margie Dale, or Bonney Coldsmith.

There will be no Bible Study next Sunday morning because of the practice and preparation for the Lessons & Carols worship service. We will resume on January 5.

Copies of today's sermon can be found in the office room at the rear of the worship space. Pick one up before service if this will be helpful in hearing the sermon; or, pick one up to take home if you wish to use it reflect on throughout this upcoming week.

**Power Pack Meals:** The need for nutritious food for New Franklin Elementary School students in need is an on-going project. If you would like to give a monetary donation, please make your check payable to Solomon's Lutheran Church and put Power Pack Meals in the memo of your check.

**If you are not taking your altar flowers home,** please let Kathy Bowen know to whom or to where you would like them donated. Thanks.

**Bulletin Announcement Forms** are in both pamphlet racks. Please submit all bulletin announcements to the office by the Wednesday prior to the Sunday for inclusion in the bulletin.

## **Hymn Notes:**

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" is an ancient Advent hymn that originated in part from the "Great 'O' Antiphons," which were part of the medieval Roman Catholic Advent liturgy. On each day of the week leading up to Christmas, one responsive verse would be chanted, each including a different Old Testament name for the coming Messiah. When we sing each verse of this hymn, we acknowledge Christ as the fulfillment of these Old Testament prophesies. We sing this hymn in an already-but not yet-kingdom of God. Christ's first coming gives us a reason to rejoice again and again, yet we know that all is not well with the world. So along with our rejoicing, we plead using the words of this hymn that Christ would come again to perfectly fulfill the promise that all darkness will be turned to light. Join in as we sing this as our Gathering Hymn this morning. (Hymnary.org)

Our sending hymn this morning, "Joy to the World" is a unique Christmas carol. It was written by Isaac Watts in 1719, as part of a book of his poems. The poem was based on Psalm 98 and Watts never intended it to be a Christmas song, or any other song. "Joy to the World" actually refers not to the first coming of Jesus, but rather to the second coming. It is about Jesus coming again to rule in power, justice, and mercy. Nearly a hundred years later, a Boston music teacher and early American church musician, Lowell Mason, discovered the poem by Watts and set it to music. Releasing the song at Christmas, it quickly became a holiday favorite. It went on to become the most published carol in America. Sadly, Isaac Watts never knew he had written what would become one of his most famous hymns. Besides "Joy to the World," there are nine other hymns whose texts were written by Isaac Watts. Among the most familiar are "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," "Give to Our God Immortal Praise," and "Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed." You can find a complete listing in the back of our hymnal on page 1193. (The Christian Broadcast Network; and Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins, Austin Lovelace).