

Salem Lutheran Church

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DECEMBER 19th, 2021 ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Angels from the realm of glory light to the fourth Advent candle. Angels, messengers from God, announce the Lord's coming to Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph, even lowly shepherds. Their message is jubliance and joy as they shout, "Glory! Glory to God in the highest!"

GATHERING & WELCOME

ADVENT WREATH

Light One Candle for Messiah

ELW 240 vs 4

The Angel

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

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: Yiddish folk tune

Tune Name: Tif in veldele

Reported to OneLicense Song # 85955

P In darkness enshrouded, the world waits for light
To shatter the shadowy darkness of night.
To greenery circled, the faithful draw near
And longingly listen, God's message to hear.

L *God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, shine in your hearts,*

C to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

L *The angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them.*

C We beheld the glory of the Word made flesh, the glory of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

L *And with the angel, a multitude of the heavenly host praising God.*

**C As wick touches wick now four flames burn so bright
As angels in glory shone forth on that night.
May we shine the precious good news of this birth
To ev'ry dark, shadowy corner of earth.**

P The Grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you.

C And also with you.

THE ANGELS' CANDLE

P *Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne.*

**C Oh, keep us, Lord Jesus, in your mighty care
As for your arrival your people prepare.
The flames for the faithful, Lord, let them burn bright,
That hearts of all people in faith may ignite.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, and all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 6:1-8

The high praise of the heavenly seraphim

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: “Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

⁶Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: “Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” ⁸Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 91

Congregation reads the bolded print

L *Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your habitation, no evil shall befall you, no plague come near your dwelling.*

C You will tread on the lion and adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

L *I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.*

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1:1-5, 13-14

The Son of God, higher than the angels

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³ He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son;
today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-56

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the second chapter

Glory to you, O Lord

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

The Holy Gospel given to you. **Praise to you, O Christ**

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

Angels from the Realm of Glory

ELW 275 verses 1 & 4

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3;

Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st. 4

Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

Tune Name: Regent Square Public Domain

APOSTLES' 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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

PEACE

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

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL BLESSING

Let us pray,

Jesus, we believe you are present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We love You above all things and we desire to receive You into our souls. Since we cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace You as You are already there, and because of You we are united with You in death and in life. Never permit us to be separated from You. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

O Come, O Come Immanuel

ELW 257 vs 1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Text: Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

Music: French processional, 15th cent.

Tune Name: Veni, Emmanuel

DISMISSAL

Let your lamps be lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return. **Thanks be to God.**

*****ANNOUNCEMENTS*****

We give thanks to Salem Choir and Cathy Hoefler for leading us in music!

Today's Altar Flowers are given in memory of our grandparents, the Lukens, Gross, O'Connor, and Finney families by Sharon and Dennis Lukens.

Our Daily Bread ~ Thank you for caring for the less fortunate and for your generosity. Next casserole pick up is Monday, January 10, 2021.

Christmas Poinsettias for Christmas Eve are ready for purchased. Each plant is \$7.50. Please see Mike Whitacre.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services with Holy Communion

2:00pm, 7:00pm & 10:00pm

Christmas Day Service – 9:00am

Coffee Hour Desserts Sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Thank you for blessing the fellowship table with your special treats!

Please note: The congregation voted to trial a later worship start time and we will revisit this and discern our next steps at a later congregation meeting. **As of January 2, 2022 Sunday, services begin at 10:00am thru end of May. Beginning June 5th, the service time will return to 9:00am.**

Mason Dixon Food Pantry ~ Thank you for donating non-perishable food items for folks Sarah Keller takes the items to Mason Dixon at least once a month. The collection bin is located under the coat rack in the Narthex. Thank you, Sarah, for delivering the food items!

Interested in online giving to Salem and her ministries? Check out Salem's website

Want to spread encouragement? Let's send notes / cards of care to:

Sterling Care Riverside
C/O Charles Phoebus
1123 Belcamp Garth ~ Room 219A
Belcamp, MD 21017

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: Brenda Jimenez, Family and friends of Larry Phillips, Kathryn Christy, April Moyer, Cari Herrera, David Roche, Layne Bortmes, Tom Ritten, Dominic Cardone, David Storf, Carter's family, The family and friends of Nancy Roschli, Richard Newsome, The family and friends of Raymond McCue, Caitlin Taylor, Darla Lynch, Alcoe Durastanti, Robert Vazquez, Erika Weldon, Paul Foutz, Daisy Lukens, Steve Awalt, Tony Garner, Ed Insel, Jumela Beecher, Lauren, Cathy Preston, Elfriede Kiesling, Lance Graham, Debbie Connor, Judy Newsome, baby Diana, Brent Przychoda, Cathy Marowski, Georgia Coleman, Charlie Phoebus, Austin Phoebus (military), Deana Vanhart, Faith LeBrun, Howard Kramer, James Rickman, Brenda Baker, Donna Glorioso, John Bragg, Pr. Dick Kiesling, Donna Miller, Lisa Barwick, Walt Karoll, Marianna Putnam, Joan Burleigh, Donald Rembert, Betty Burnet, Bailey Law, Pr. Myers, Maurice Grove, Margaret Shank, Jim McNicholas, Joan & John Kusick, Robin Sealoover, Kaidyn Jamison, Margret Krebbal, Frank Gailitz, Dolly Suiratt, Talu Elvove Arikan, Joyce Craig, Kattie Hale, Ray Morrison, Nicole Phelps, Kim Scott, Natalie Szparza, Pat Ward, Curtis Waters, Jason Whitney, Karen Wiley, Will & Bernadine Boyce, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl.

Contact Lynn Cox or Pastor with updates to prayer list.

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