

Welcome to Worship
St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church

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December 22, 2024

CHURCH: 419-293-3445

SJLCMcComb@gmail.com

PASTOR:

4th Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Welcome: Thank you to those who join us for Worship. We hope you will be blessed as we pray and sing together, as we hear God's Word read and proclaimed. We gather as equals in the sight of God, who loves us, forgives us, and is WITH US. Peace be with you.

Serving at Worship Today:

READER: Linda Ross

ACCOMPANIST: Linda Ross

Your Servant Leaders:

Worship Leader: SAM Bob Fett

COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Dave Sharninghouse, 419-293-2322 Hm.

419-429-2391 Cell

NWOS BISHOP: The Rev. Daniel Beaudoin

ELCA BISHOP: The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton

St. John's email address: SJLCMcComb@gmail.com

St. John's Facebook page: <https://facebook.com/SJLCMcComb>

Attendance Sunday: 9

Offering Last Sunday: \$715.00

Direct Deposit: \$320.00

Christmas Eve: \$25.00

Mile of Pennies: \$

Prayers for the people affected by Hurricane Helene: We need to continually pray for these people, that they will receive the help they need. There are a lot of volunteers there helping them, and they will be there for a longtime. The weather is cold and a lot of them are still in tents, and Christmas is upon them. God, please bless the families and the vounteers that are there helping them. Amen

Worship Assistants

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2024

God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.

**please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Loving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to love like Jesus."

THE GREETING

Leader: the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **ALL: and also with you.**

*ADVENT PROCLAMATION

Leader: These are the days of expectation, the days of watching and waiting. God has promised us a Savior who will change our lives and make us new. *"My faithfulness and My steadfast love shall be with Him, and in My name shall His horn be exalted. I will set His hand in the sea and His right hand on the rivers."* Let us light the candle of LOVE, for as scripture says nothing will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Psalm 89:24-25)

*GATHERING HYMN #251 MY SOUL PROCLAIMS YOUR GREATNESS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **ALL: Amen.**

Leader: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desire known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the

inspiration of you Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **ALL: Amen.**

Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

Please take a moment for personal reflection.

Leader: Gracious God,

ALL: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Leader: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **ALL: Amen.**

***KYRIE**

Leader: In Peace let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise. **ALL: Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **ALL: Amen.**

*GLORY TO GOD



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us join our hearts and voices together in the Prayer of the Day.

ALL: 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.

FIRST READING

MICAH 5:2-5A

Reader: 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. ³Therefore 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. ⁴And 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; ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM READING

(responsively)

LUKE 1:46B-55

Reader: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

**ALL: for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

Reader: you, the Almighty, have done great things for me and holy is your name.

ALL: You have mercy on those who fear you, from generation to generation.

Reader: You have shown strength with your arm and scattered the proud in their conceit,

ALL: casting down the mighty from their thrones and lifting up the lowly.

Reader: You have filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.

ALL: You have come to the aid of your servant Israel, to remember the promise of mercy,

Reader: the promise made to our forebears, to Abraham and his children forever.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

HEBREWS 10:5-10

Reader: Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸When 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), ⁹then

he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION #253

HE CAME DOWN

(verse 1)

*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 1:39-55

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.

Leader: There is good news for us today and it comes from the gospel according to Luke chapter 1. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his

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

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

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #277

AWAY IN A MANGER

***THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Leader: God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill. Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God our hope, help us notice the places where your people are hurting or sick. Trusting that you hear our prayers, we lift up to you now John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene Eva, Eric, Lise, Chris, Arlene, Bob, Don, Ashley, Pat, Kelli, Gordon, Tracey, Becky, JoLynn, Rick, Emily, Carl, Jim, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Eli, Riley, Mr. Doherty, Kristen, Jennifer, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, and Cindy. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love.

Show your compassion and remember your people in love. Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray saying,

***THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US**

**All: 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**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

ALL: and also with you.

Please feel free to shake hands as you share God's peace.

Leader: Let the peace of Christ reign among us.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: As we present our tithes and offerings today, let us open our eyes, ears, and hearts to the mission of God's church in this community and

worldwide. May we be empowered with the knowledge that our giving is an act of trust in God's unfailing promises.

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186**

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

***OFFERING PRAYER**

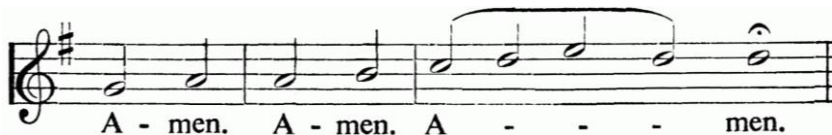
Leader: Let us pray together.

ALL: Holy God, we remember with gratitude the many ways you touch and bless our lives, to make us more holy and more loving. We offer these gifts and our whole lives, in thankfulness for all you have done, are doing, and will do in our lives. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***BLESSING**

Leader: The God of love fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit.

***THE AMEN**



***SENDING HYMN #267**

JOY TO THE WORLD

***DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go in peace and share the good news of God's love.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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Christmas Eve *December 24,*
Worship *2024*

Set every peak and valley.

Humming with the Word

the Lord is coming!
(ELW248)

St. John's Lutheran Church in McComb
7:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Lutheran in North Baltimore
9:30 p.m.

50 years 

Sermon Notes

Write 3 teachings or ideas you heard in today's sermon:

1.

2.

3.

Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.

Calendar of Events:

Tue. Dec. 24 – 7:00 P.M. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wed. Dec. 25 – Christmas Blessing to Everyone

Thur. Dec. 27 – Newsletter Deadline

Sun. Dec. 29 - 8:00 A.M. Worship

Sun. Dec. 29 - 9:30 A.M. Sunday School

Tue. Dec. 31 – Happy New Year! “Stay Safe”

Readers for December & January

Dec. 24 – David Sharninghouse

Dec. 29 – Carol Cary

Jan. 5 – David Sharninghouse

Jan. 12 – Lori McDaniel

Jan. 19 – Carol Cary

Jan. 26 – Linda Ross

In Our Prayers: John Sharninghouse, Gary Kern, Paul & Sue Maki, Betty Hornbeck, David Cary, LuAnn Beverly, Colene Shoop, Eva George, Eric & Lisa Kreh, Bob, Don Edler, Ashley Edler, Pat Newell, & Kelli Sterling, Gordon Myers, Stephanie Smith. Pray also for the victims of natural disasters, our shut-ins, others absent from our worship this morning, all who grieve, and all others with special needs.

The Giving Tree: Thank you to everyone that donated to the Giving Tree. We took the items off it on Wednesday. We were again surprised by what we received. The following items were divided and shared with Mc Comb Local School, Mohawk School, Chopin Hall and City Mission.

We collected 14-Scarves, 61-Hats, 39-Pairs of Gloves, 12-pair of Underwear, 41-Pair of Socks, 10-Deodorants, 3-Men’s Shampoo, 3-Men’s Moisturizers, 3- Body Washes, 2-Ladies Shampoos, 3-Axe Gift Sets, 1-Dove Gift Set. 1-Toothpaste and 21-Tee Shirts.

FYI - December: The school has found 4 Christmas Families families for us this year we are giving \$200.00 to these families this year. Thank you to all that donated.

Being Recognized, Encountering Christ

Often called the visitation, the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth is full of joy, recognition, gratitude, and blessing. Luke immediately follows the annunciation with Mary's journey to visit Elizabeth, who gives this unmarried pregnant girl not only a safe haven but also the first glimpse of what it means to be the mother of the Savior. The encounter is full of mystery and grace: the mystery of new life forming but still invisible, and the grace of recognizing each other as the Spirit-filled mothers they are becoming.



The story is also full of theological gravity: as the women encounter each other, so do Jesus and John the Baptist. Yet the theological meaning is almost overshadowed by the sheer physicality of the encounter. Imagine the hasty travel, demonstrative greeting, joyful exclamation, the unborn John leaping for joy, and robust singing. As the celebration of Christ's birth approaches, the four active and responsive bodies in this text remind us that this is, after all, the incarnation itself unfolding.

God becomes a body in Jesus, and that body will be offered up for the sake of the world. This body, recognized already by John in the womb, will eventually undergo the suffering and shame of death on a cross. Without losing sight of that big picture, today we enter into the up-close picture of Mary and Elizabeth's encounter and share in the joy and gratitude they have in common with all who recognize Christ in their neighbor.

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