

Blessed Savior Lutheran Church

1205 North Lincoln Ave
O'Fallon, IL
(618) 632-0126
www.mybslc.org
Worship –9:30 am.

Pastor Tony Troup (618-340-8375), Vacancy Pastor
Pastor Perry Schefelker (618-322-7498), Vacancy Pastor
Brett Arrasmith, Field Worker, Preacher & Liturgist
Cheryl Vohlken, Organist
Sunday School & Bible Class: 10:45am

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**



HYMN No. 361 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vss. 1, 2)

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light. The hopes and fears
Of all the years Are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, The angels keep Their watch of wond’ring love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, And peace to all the earth!**

OPENING SENTENCES Luke 1:49–51, 54, adapt.

P: The mighty Lord has done great things and holy is His name.

C: **We thank You, O Lord!**

P: The Lord’s mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

C: **We adore You, O Lord!**

P: The Lord has shown the strength of His arm.

C: **We praise You, O Lord!**

P: The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy.

C: **We worship You, O Lord!**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(All four Advent candles are lit.)

P: Let us pray. O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION: Psalm 25:6–7

P: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

(A time of silence is observed.)

P: We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not always been instruments of Your peace. Our homes have at times been places of strife and turmoil by our own fault. Even in the church sometimes we have chosen to fight rather than to make peace.

C: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

P: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

C: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

ABSOLUTION

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

HYMN OF PRAISE No. 365 "Away in a Manger"

**Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, And love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Into this world of turmoil, O Lord, You bring peace.

C: Let the peace that calmed the troubled heart of Mary so rule in our hearts and minds

P: that by Your power we may all become peacemakers

C: in our homes, in our community, and in our church;

P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Micah 5:2–5a (Out of little Bethlehem will be born a ruler for God's people, a Good Shepherd, who will bring peace.)

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN No. 361 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vss. 3 & 4)

**How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts To human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, And enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, Abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!**

EPISTLE Hebrews 10:5–10 (Because of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we live.)

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
"Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body have you prepared for me;
in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God,
as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

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, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S TALK

Ed Brandmeyer

VERSE Matthew 1:23a

P: Alleluia! Alleluia! Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

C: and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia! Alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:39–45 (Even while in Mary's womb, the presence of Jesus caused Elizabeth and the baby in her womb to rejoice!) *(Please rise for the Gospel Reading.)*

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ. *(Please be seated.)*

DUET

"The First Noel"

by Ashton and Grayson Gorney

SERMON

"Mary Something,"

Luke 1:39-45

Brett Arrasmith

SONG: Video "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

CONFESSION OF FAITH: THE APOSTLE'S CREED *(Please stand for the creed and then be seated.)*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

P: Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

BLESSING OF THE LORD Luke 1:54–55; Numbers 6:24–26

P: The Lord has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever. The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord upon you with favor and X give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN No. 375 "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising" (1,2,5,6) *(Please rise for the closing hymn.)*

**Come, your hearts and voices raising,
Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing his love amazing,
Worthy folk of Christendom.**

**Christ, from heaven to us descending
And in love our race befriending;
In our need his help extending,
Saved us from the wily foe.**

Oh, the joy beyond expressing
When by faith we grasp this blessing
And to you we come confessing
Your great love has set us free.

Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.

SENDING

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God!

