

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 21, 2025

The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor

WELCOME

PRELUDE “Gabriel’s Message” (“The Angel Gabriel”, Basque carol),
arr. Robert Lau. Bud Esper, organ. ©2009 Lorenz.

Congregation stands

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our
sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P ...Most merciful God,

C **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.**

P ...of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”,
#843

APOSTOLIC 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.**

KYRIE S-203 (*Front of hymnal, page S-203*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WA Let us pray.

C **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your
abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders
our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for
you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever. Amen.**

Congregation sits

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Congregation remains seated throughout Lessons & Carols

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Anthem: “In the Bleak Midwinter”, Gustav Holst, arr. Cathy Moglebust. St. Luke Handbell Choir, Kim Hawkins, conductor. ©2009 Choristers Guild.

THE FIRST LESSON ~ Isaiah 9: 6—7

Unto Us a Child is Born

Read by The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor

HYMN: “All My Heart Again Rejoices”, #273

(Hymn on next page)

THE SECOND LESSON ~ Isaiah 11: 1—3, 4a, 6—9

Root of Jesse

Read by Rod Meadows

HYMN: “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”, #246

(Hymn on next page)

THE THIRD LESSON ~ Luke 1: 26—35, 38

Gabriel & Mary

Read by The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor

CHORAL SONG: “Mary’s Song”, James Marriott.

St. Luke Voice Choir. @2016 Concordia Pub.

THE FOURTH LESSON ~ Luke 2: 1—7

Read by Rod Meadows

HYMN: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #279

(Hymn on next page)

THE FIFTH LESSON ~ Luke 2: 8—16


Shepherds

Read by The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor

CHORAL SONG: “To Thee My Heart I Offer”, Elaine Hagenberg. St.

Luke Voice Choir. @2020 Beckenhorst Press.

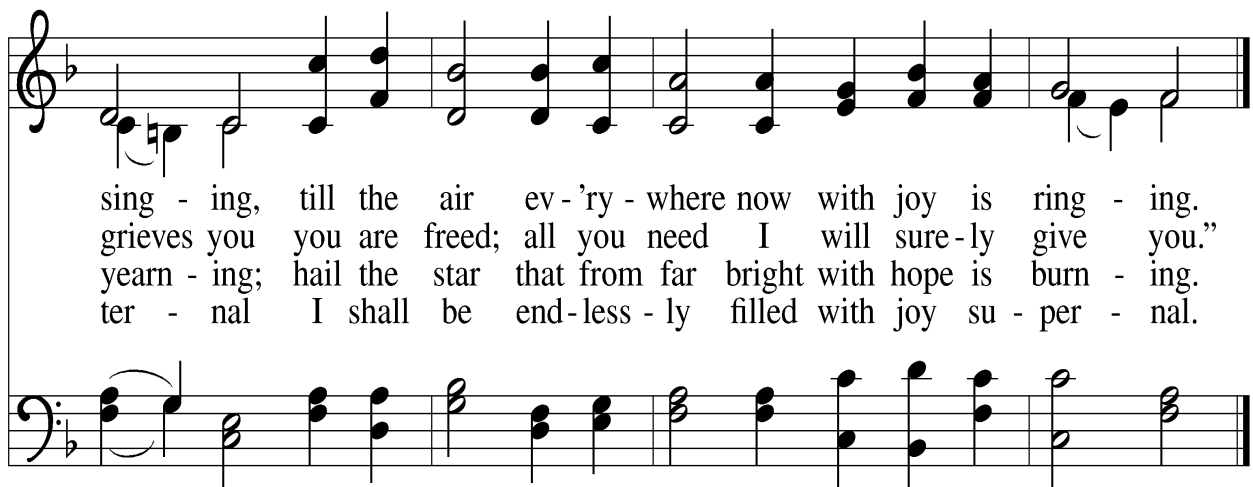
All My Heart Again Rejoices



1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and
 2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to
 3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and
 4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in



near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are
 us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that
 small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is
 death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -



sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
 grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
 yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.
 ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding!

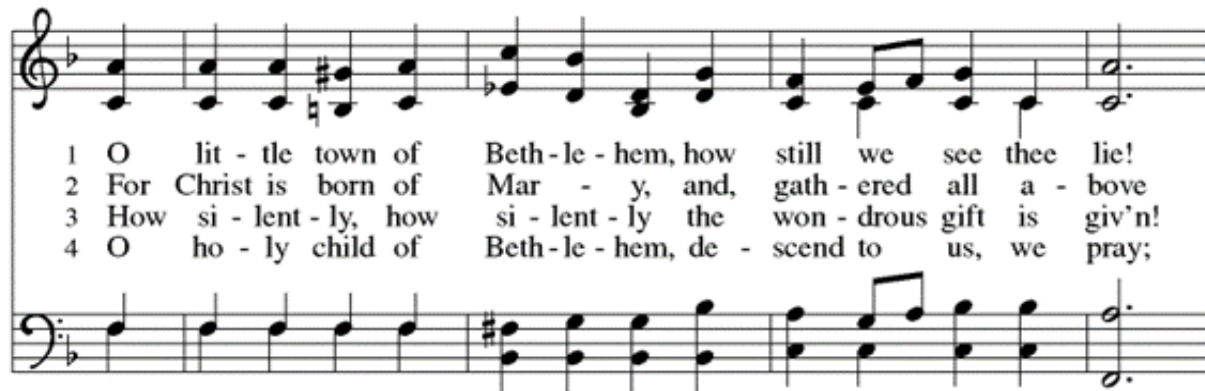
1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son

The first system of music features a treble and bass staff in B-flat major (two flats). The melody is primarily in the treble staff, with the bass staff providing harmonic support through chords and occasional moving lines. The lyrics are numbered 1 through 5, corresponding to the measures of the melody.

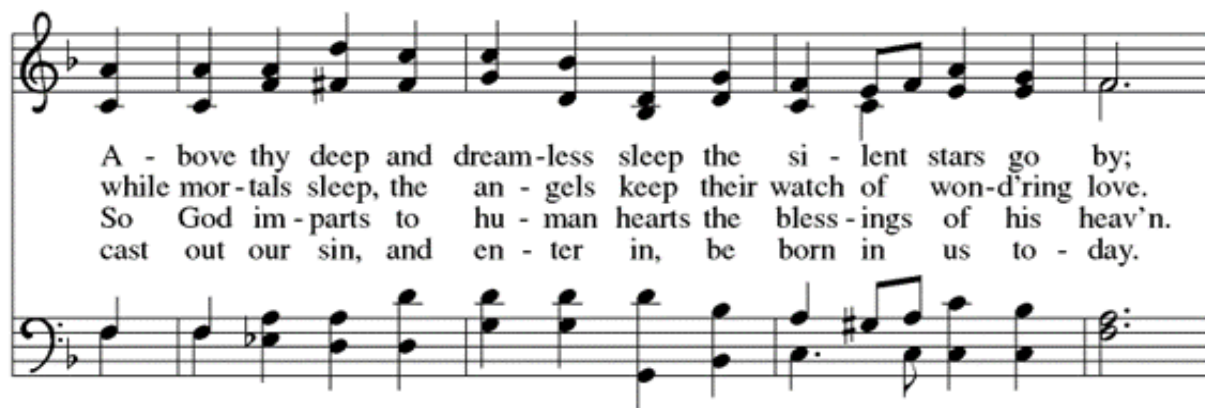
"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment. It includes a double bar line at the end of the system. The lyrics continue from the previous system, with the melody line in the treble staff and the accompaniment in the bass staff.

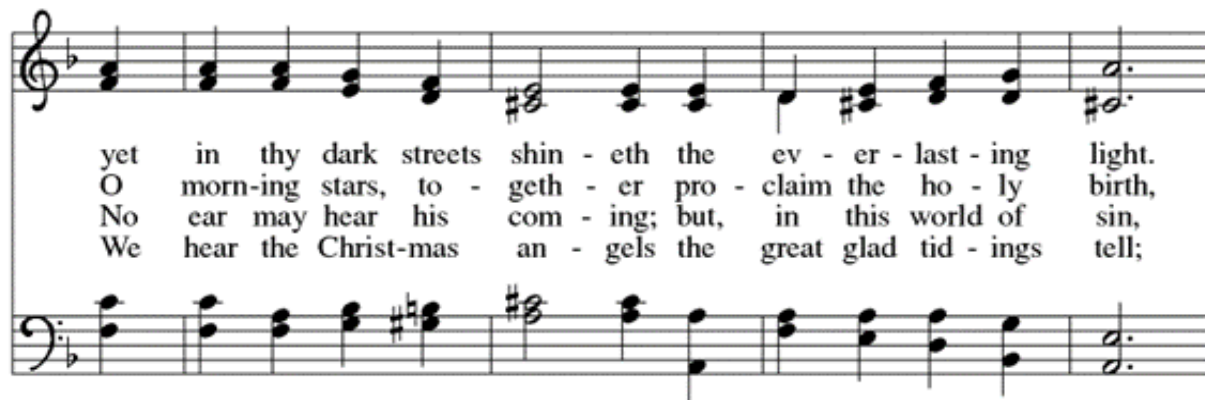
O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

THE SIXTH LESSON ~ Matthew 2: 1—13

King Herod and Wisemen

Read by Rod Meadows

HYMN: “We Three Kings”, WOV #646

(Hymn on next page)

THE SEVENTH LESSON ~ John 1: 1—14

In the beginning was the Word...

HYMN: “Love Has Come”, #292

(Hymn on next page)

“THE NICENE CREED” S-104 *(Front of hymnal, page #104)*

WA Let us confess the faith of the church.

C 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 he 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 worshipped 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.

WE THREE KINGS

LOVE HAS COME



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
 gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

WA ...God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

C **Amen.**

PEACE & SHARE THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Congregation sits

OFFERTORY “Lo, How a Rose/The Rose”, arr. Craig Johnson.

St. Luke Voice Choir. Alice Christiansen, Lori Pollard, Joan Eccard, soloists @2007 Warner-Tamerlane Pub.

Congregation stands

OFFERING HYMN “Let the Vinyards Be Fruitful”, #184

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. Nourishing God,

C **Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.**

“THE GREAT THANKSGIVING” S-206 (*Front of hymnal, page #206*)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious

resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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” S-207 (*Front of hymnal, page #207*)

P ...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P ...in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P ...our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P ...until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

C **Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

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

C **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

P Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation sits

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND WINE Our communion is open to all who are baptized.

“LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei)” S-208 (*Front of hymnal, page #208*)

COMMUNION HYMNS

“The King Shall Come”, #260

“The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came”, #265

Congregation stands

TABLE BLESSING

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

C **Amen.**

“POST COMMUNION CANTICLE”, S-113 (*Front of hymnal, page 113*)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and
gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the
stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P May God who comes among us, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good
news to share today and always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”, #244

DISMISSAL

WA **Go in peace. Keep awake.**

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

--Thank you for worshiping with us today--

The following members assisted with today’s worship service with live streaming:
Altar Guild: Joyce Charity, Sharon Tulio | AV Team: Ron & Karen Clark
Bulletin: Dawn Plyler ~ Cover Art: Lori Schneider | Cantor: Joan Eccard
Music: Bud Esper, Director of Church Music; Kim Hawkins, conductor, St. Luke
Handbell Choir; St. Luke Voice Choir and St. Luke Handbell Choir | Communion
Assistants: Beverly Werner, Pam Eichorn | Crucifer: Emil Gnam | Eucharistic Minister:
Joyce Rivenburgh | Greeters: Kenn & Jeanne Nelson | Lector: Rod Meadows | Ushers:
Karen Reynolds, Doug Snively, Beverly Werner, Richard Wood
Worship Assistant: Kristen Killoran

NEW MEMBERS

Are you looking for a new church family? We’d love to help you connect with others in
the church and grow in our Faith Community together. If you are thinking about
joining St. Luke, please contact Pastor Eichorn at 610.393.7622 or
pastoreichorn@stlukeoib.org or the Church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please contact the church office to sponsor Sunday altar flowers.
Upcoming availability: January 4,11,18,25, 2026

PRAYER LIST DECEMBER 21, 2025

Steve and Dianne Jewell, Amy Golden, Mary Margaret Saffos, Ron Spangler,
Ed Tanzman, Pastor Pam Cook, the family of Dale Berkheimer, the family of Joan
Martin, Brown University community, the Jewish community at
Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

WELCOME VISITORS ~ We are delighted you visited St. Luke today. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship services for light refreshments and to say hello. We can't wait to meet you!

SUPPORTING ST. LUKE MINISTRIES

- ❖ New Hymnals ... The cost is \$35/each.
- ❖ *"I'm loving it!"* ~ Well, you guessed it! The LMM will bring back their scrumptious and delicious breakfast meal on Sunday, January 11, 8am-9:15am. The cost is \$10/per person. Menu consists of waffles and sausage, coffee, OJ, assortment of condiments, i.e. strawberry jam, etc. Make your plans to attend.
- ❖ Morning Prayer Meeting is cancelled on Wednesday, December 24, and Wednesday, December 31. Morning Prayer will resume Wednesday, January 7.
- ❖ Poinsettias ~ for those who purchased a poinsettia(s), you may take them with you after the Christmas Eve service.
- ❖ Adult Sunday School is cancelled on Sunday, December 28, and Sunday, January 4. Adult Sunday School will resume Sunday, January 11.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ~ Join us for a candlelight and communion service Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at 5pm. Friendly reminder, Christmas Eve music will begin at 4:40 pm before the service starts at 5pm. Come and enjoy some festive music!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED ~ Thursday, December 25, 2025, and Thursday, January 1, 2026.

SEASONAL MUSIC REHEARSALS

Handbell Choir, Monday, December 22 at 6pm.

Voice Choir, Monday, December 22 at 7pm.

Rehearse with soloist (Al Pittman), Sunday, December 21 at 4pm.

No Voice or Handbell rehearsals on Wednesday, December 31.

SAINT LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

5869 Ocean Highway West, Ocean Isle Beach NC 28469

main: 910.579.0107 | email: stlukeelca@stlukeoib.org | website: stlukeoib.org

office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm

The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor | cell/text: 610.393.7622 | email: pastoreichorn@stlukeoib.org

Kristen Killoran, Worship Assistant | **Pam Eichorn, Worship Assistant**

Bud Esper, M.A., Director of Music | stlukemusic@stlukeoib.org

Dawn Plyler, Parish Administrator | main: 910.579.0107 | email: stlukeelca@stlukeoib.org

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