

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*Fourth Sunday in Advent*  
Pastor Christian Magnell  
December 22, 2024, 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND GREETING

HYMN *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – Peace – Micah 5:4-5

*“4 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 to the ends of the earth. 5 And he shall be their peace.”*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Father, in a world of turmoil, we gather in your peace to worship

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

Lord, we give into anxiety, fear, and doubt. Despite our best efforts, our imperfections threaten to overtake us. Help us to lay it all before you. *(time for reflection)*

**Father, we stand before you as both sinners and saints. Sinners because we turn away from your will and your ways every day. There are things we’ve done for which we are ashamed. We’ve failed to live up to what you created us to be. Yet, we hope for forgiveness and a new start each day. We ask for forgiveness and for the strength to live into the label saint!**

In Jesus Christ, we stand forgiven. We are called saints not because of our holiness but because Jesus has set us apart as His people.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

CHILDREN’S SERMON – Youth on Fire

HYMN *“O Holy Night”*

READING: Micah 5:2-5a

*The Old Testament promised this One would come... the Messiah. He was to come from the little village of Bethlehem.*

2 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. 3 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. 4

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 to the ends of the earth. 5 And he shall be their peace.

READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

*Maybe it's time to quit the striving. God doesn't want out "burnt offerings" or other kinds of ways of earning His love. He loves us first. From that love, we are sent forth to do His will, confident in our standing with Him.*

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 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.'" 8 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), 9 then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION      God is good.      **All the time.**

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

*The coming of Christ brought peace to Zechariah and Elizabeth. She exclaimed with joy when visited by Mary. Through the Holy Spirit, she knew she was in the presence of the Messiah.*

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and

blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby 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 from the Lord."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION      All the time.      **God is good!**

HYMN      *"What Child Is This"*

SERMON – "Come to the Table for Peace"

PRAYER AT RECEIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS  
WORDS OF INSTITUTION  
THE LORD'S PRAYER  
PRAYER & BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

## BENEDICTION

And now may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace!

**Amen!**

## CLOSING SONG

*“What a Glorious Night”*

## DISMISSAL

Let's go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Advent 4 – December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**

**“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 to the ends of the earth.”- Micah 5:4-5**

Our dog, Åse, is a Shepadoodle, meaning she is ¼ German Shepherd and ¾ Standard Poodle. While she is a majority poodle, she retains one habit that I believe comes from the German Shepherd side of her: she loves to run the perimeter of the parsonage yard first thing in the morning.

She doesn't just do it in the morning either. Some part of her instinctually knows where the “yard” of the parsonage ends and the church begins (not that there is an actual boundary or difference). She doesn't run off to the church or go wandering in the fields. She has a shepherd mind set which knows the area and checks to see that it's secure.

Jesus is our great Shepherd. He knows his flock: it's us! He knows the parameters and perimeters of our lives and makes sure we are protected and cared for. Unlike a human or animal guarding the flock, Christ never tires, never lets down, and never lets you go.