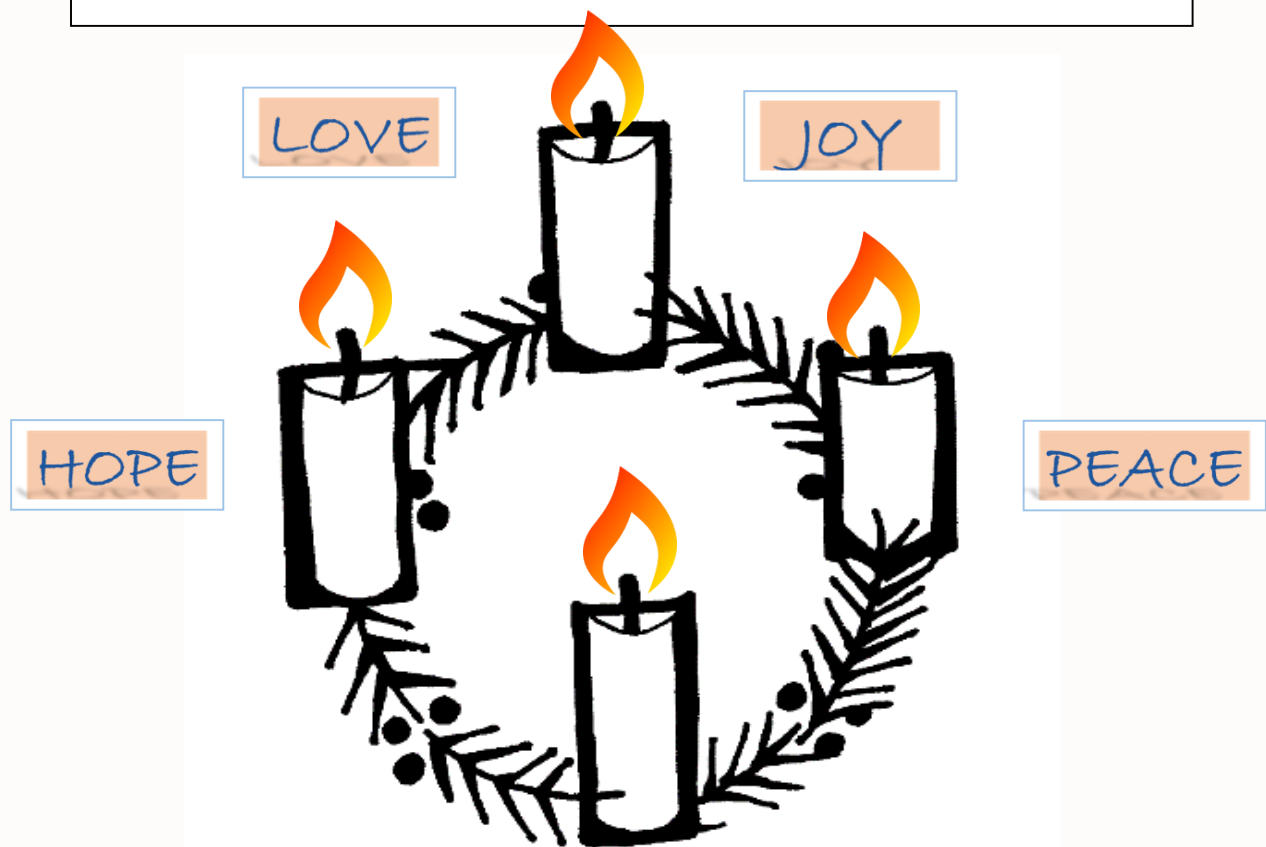


# *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

## Zechariah's Song

The work of building God's kingdom is meant to be shared – and that means that the joy of God's grace is, too.



December 24, 2023 10:00am

*Worshiping and Growing Together in Christ  
Serving and Reaching Out Joyfully to All!*

Welcome! We're glad you're here!

*If you are a guest and are interested in knowing more about this community and the ministries that Holy Shepherd is engaged in, please fill out the **Welcome Card** located in the pew racks. Once filled out, please place the card either in the offering basket as you come forward to receive communion or at the information desk as you enter the narthex. Thank you and we look forward to getting to know you!*

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

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Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

We await the coming of Christ,  
**God keeps God's promises to us.**  
We await the coming of Christ,  
**With peace in our hearts, we wait.**

Confession and Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

Ever-present God, **we come before you in need of grace. Too often our thoughts are judgmental and condemning of others. Too often our words are sarcastic or harsh as harmful as weapons. Too often our actions are motivated by selfishness and we do not recognize the hurt or need in others. Forgive us, O God, and draw us back into right relationship with you, our neighbors, and your creation.**

The promise is sure: Christ's advent is near, and in Christ we are forgiven all our sins. Know that you are a beloved child of God, and be strengthened in all goodness. Amen.

## Song

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

ELW 257 vs. 7

**O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one.  
Refresh the hearts that long for you;  
Restore the broken, make us new.**

*Refrain*

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

## Greeting & Prayer of the Day

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

God of all, **you call us into one Body of Christ for the good of the world. Strengthen us through your word and meal, that we might support and sustain one another in all that you call us to do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

*God promises Elizabeth and Zechariah a child in their old age. But not just any child, one who would prepare the world for the coming of the messiah.*

## Invitation to the Word

Red ELW 528

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
You alone, O Lord, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace.  
Alleluia! Repeat**

## Scripture Reading

Psalms 113

Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

<sup>2</sup>Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

<sup>3</sup>From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the LORD is to be praised.

<sup>4</sup>The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup>Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high,

<sup>6</sup>who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

<sup>7</sup>He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap,  
<sup>8</sup>to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.  
<sup>9</sup>He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.  
Praise the LORD!

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel

**Luke 1:5-13, (not printed) 67-80**

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you. O Lord.**

<sup>67</sup>Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy: <sup>68</sup>"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. <sup>69</sup>He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup>as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup>that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. <sup>72</sup>Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup>the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup>that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup>in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup>And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup>to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins. <sup>78</sup>By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, <sup>79</sup>to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." <sup>80</sup>The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

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

+ Children's Time +



## Lighting of the Advent Candle

ELW 240 vs. 4

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

# Message

## Song

### *All Earth is Hopeful*

ELW 266 vs. 1,2,3

**All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.**

**People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";  
she conceived him, "God with us,"  
our brother, whose birth  
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**

**Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
new highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear ev'ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**

## Proclamation of Faith

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**God – who created the light and separated it from the darkness  
- I Believe**

**Jesus – who is the light and shines in the darkness  
Yet is not overcome by it  
- I Believe**

**Spirit – who spreads the light into the darkness of our world  
- I Believe**

## Prayers of the People

In anticipation of the coming messiah, we pray for the church,  
the world, and all in need.

*Prayer response:*

God of Promise, **in mercy, hear our prayer.**

We lift all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, into your loving arms, trusting in your love and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

## Sharing God's Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*



## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

## Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

# Lord's Prayer

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

As promised, God raised up for us a savior, Jesus Christ, by whose death and resurrection we have been freed and united with him and one another. Come share in Christ's body and blood in remembrance of him.

*All are Welcome at the Table*

### Options on how to receive Holy Communion

You may come forward and stand, starting at the center and filling in along the step. After you have received communion please exit by the side aisles and those waiting will then fill in the empty space. Bread (gluten-free) and wine or grape juice (center of the tray) will be given to you with the words spoken:

*"The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you."*

If you would like communion served in the pew, please signal to a pastor.

You are invited...

To bring an **offering** forward before or after worship or during Holy Communion.

The offering is gathered in front of the communion table where we are reminded of God's gifts given to us in Christ and our response to these gifts.

## Communion Songs

*Wait for the Lord*

ELW 262

**Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.  
Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!  
(repeated numerous times)**

My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;  
I sing my Savior's praise!  
You looked upon my lowliness,  
and I am full of grace.  
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age  
this blessing shall proclaim—  
great wonders you have done for me,  
and holy is your name.

To all who live in holy fear  
your mercy ever flows.  
With mighty arm you dash the proud,  
their scheming hearts expose.  
The ruthless you have cast aside,  
the lowly throned instead;  
the hungry filled with all good things,  
the rich sent off unfed.

To Israel, your servant blest,  
your help is ever sure;  
the promise to our parents made  
their children will secure.  
Sing glory to the Holy One,  
give honor to the Word,  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,  
one God, by all adored.

## Post-Communion Blessing & Prayer

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

God we rejoice in you no matter our circumstances. With generous hearts we offer what we can for the life of the world, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**



## Blessing

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## Sending Song

### *Joy to the World*

ELW 267 vs. 1,2,4

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

## Sending

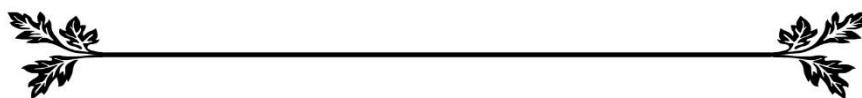
Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude



Your Advent journey continues as you leave worship today!  
Pause on your way out to engage hunger more deeply:

- Learn about serving in your community and beyond
- Spend time with God in the library/ prayer room



## Advent Prayer Room

During the season of Advent, you are invited to learn & experience praying silently with our whole selves and as a community as we grow in our relationship with God. The library will be transformed into a prayer room where we you can rest in body, mind & spirit.

*Come . . . be still.*

*The Prayer Room is available before & after each service.  
Location: Library, west of the Information Center.*

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## + WORSHIP SERVICE NOTES +

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- **THANK YOU** for being considerate of disabled worshippers and their families. Please leave the pew cuts and several adjoining seats available for those with walkers, wheelchairs, or electric carts and their families.
- **HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES (4 devices available)** are located at the sound booth located in the back of the sanctuary on the east side.
- **PRAYER STATION** is available **in the library** before and after worship for candle-lighting. Please be mindful of personal space around one another.
- **FELLOWSHIP:** Once service has concluded, if you would like to greet one another, the narthex, fellowship hall, library and columbarium are available for fellowship.

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### OFFERING

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If you would like to make a donation to the mission of Holy Shepherd, which will be used to serve the community, neighborhood and the world, there is an offering plate located at the front of the sanctuary. Please make checks payable to:  
Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church or use the Paypal link below. *Thank you.*

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### NURSERY

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The nursery (un- staffed) will be available to use for your family, if you need to leave the service.  
The library and Fellowship Hall are also available.



## Participants

- Pastors: Julie Brooks & Kim Gonia
- Organist/Pianist: Jordan Ortman
- Reader: Joan Meister-Bridges
- Communion Assistants: Denise Rosko, Barb Stannard
- Greeters: Kurt & Darlene Mader
- Usher: Bob Mohrbacher
- Altar Guild: Joan Meister-Bridges
- Children's Church: No *Children's Church* today
- Teen Faith Talk: No *Teen Faith Talk* today
- Technology: Judy Ekberg, Mark Lee
- Fellowship Hosts: Pat & John Szkrumelak, Betty Moody

### **Song Resource Key**

**ELW:** *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal*

**ACS:** *All Creation Sings*

**HSSB:** *Holy Shepherd Songbook*

**WOV:** *With One Voice*

## **Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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[www.holyshepherd.com](http://www.holyshepherd.com)