

A photograph of a nativity scene set in a dark, stone-walled stable. A wooden manger filled with straw sits on a bed of hay. Inside the manger, a baby Jesus lies wrapped in white swaddling clothes, with Mary and Joseph resting beside him. Above the manger, a small arched window in the stone wall looks out onto a night sky with a bright star and a crescent moon. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the window and highlighting the manger and the figures within.

# Hope is Born

A Choir Led Worship Service



## Welcome to worship at Spirit of Christ!

We are a member congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. We gather here as the living body of Jesus Christ to be nourished and empowered by the Holy Spirit in what we call the “Means of Grace” — God’s gifts of Word and Sacrament. Through these Means of Grace, we receive the promise of the Gospel: that in the Spirit of Christ God forgives us, remakes us, and reigns in us. May the Lord bless your worship today!

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December 18, 2024

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

### *“Hope is Born”*

## Welcome

### “Advent Hope”

*Video*

### First Reading

*Isaiah 11:1-6*

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup>The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

<sup>3</sup>and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

<sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup>Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf will live with the lamb,  
the leopard will lie down with the goat,  
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;  
and a little child will lead them.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### *When in The Hour of Deepest Need*

*Tune of LSB 357*

**1** When in the hour of deepest need  
We know not where to look for aid;  
When days and nights of anxious thought  
No help or counsel yet have brought.

*Refrain:*

*And so we come, O God to you this day  
And all our woes before You lay.*

**5** O from our sins, Lord, turn your face;  
Absolve us through your boundless grace.  
Be with us in our anguish still;  
Free us at last from ev'ry ill.

## Absolution

### *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

*LSB 357 v 2,3*

O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go.

*Refrain:*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

O come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid thou our sad divisions cease,  
And be thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

So we with all our hearts each day

**To you our glad thanksgiving pay,  
Then walk obedient to your Word,  
And now and ever praise you, Lord. Refrain**

**Second Reading**

*Isaiah 9:2,6-7a, 40:1,11,31*

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty  
will accomplish this.

<sup>40</sup> Comfort, comfort my people,  
says your God.

<sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

<sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the Lord  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Reading from *The Jesus Storybook Bible* John Peterson

*Celtic Christmas*

*Choir*

“Hope in God Alone”

*Video*

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:1-7 (The Message)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David’s town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Somewhere in Your Silent Night*

*Choir*

## Homily

## Creedal Statement

## Presentation of the Offering

*Please sign the Friendship Register located on each pew and pass it to others seated with you so that we may have a record of all those who are worshipping and receiving communion with us today.*

## Preface

**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 him thanks and praise.

## Sanctus

*Tune of 374*

- C** Holy, Holy, Holy LORD  
We sing Alleluia!  
God of Sabaoth adored  
We sing Alleluia!  
Heaven and Earth with full acclaim  
Singing Alleluia!  
Sing Hosanna to the King,  
Singing Alleluia!

## Lord's Prayer

## The Words of Our Lord

## Agnus Dei

*Tune of 370*

- C** What feast of love is offered here,  
What banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life,  
What gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
The bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
How sweet the manna given!

- What light of truth is offered here,  
What covenant from heaven?  
What hope of everlasting life,  
What wondrous word is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
The sun come down from heaven.  
Oh, see and hear and sing!  
The Word of God is given!

- What wine of love is offered here,  
What crimson drink from heaven?

What stream of everlasting life,  
What precious blood is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
The sweetest wine of heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
The Son of God is given!

## **Distribution**

*We believe that as we partake of the bread and wine in Holy Communion, Jesus the Messiah is feeding us with his own true body and blood. In eating his body and drinking his blood we receive the promise that our sins are forgiven, and that we will therefore live eternally with God. We also believe that this eating and drinking is a confession of our faith.*

*If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and if you share our understanding of Christ's Real Presence in this meal, you are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood for your benefit.*

*What a Beautiful Name It Is*

*Choir*

**“Radiant Hope”**

*Video*

**Candle Lighting Ceremony**

*Peace, Peace, Peace on Earth*

*Choir*

**“Hope is Here”**

*Video*

**Holy Gospel**

*Luke 2:8-12 (The Message)*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**G** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God’s angel stood among them and God’s glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid. I’m here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David’s town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you’re to look for: a baby

wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger.”

**P** This is the Gospel of our Lord

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Hope is Born*

*Choir*

“Christmas Scale”

*Video*

*Joy! He Shall Reign*

*Choir*

**Fifth Reading**

*Isaiah 60:1-3*

“Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

<sup>2</sup> See, darkness covers the earth  
and thick darkness is over the peoples,  
but the Lord rises upon you  
and his glory appears over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations will come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

*Joy to the World*

*LSB 387*

**1 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.

**2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!**

Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

**3 No more let sins and sorrows grow**

Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,

Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

- 4 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.

*Joy! He Shall Reign (Reprise)*

*Choir*

### **Benediction**

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

### **Announcements**

### **Sending**

- P** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

# Serving in worship today

December 22, 2024

## Pastor

Jason Neel

## Acolyte

Eli Neel

## Usher

Art Hayden

## Nursery

Kassidy Bryan

## Elders

Phil Marquardt

Carl Schwanbeck

## Reader

Peggy Peterson

## In our prayers

**Celebrating Birthdays:** Linda McCarty 12/23 and Jonathan Weinhold 12/26.

**Prayers for healing:** Terry Elhardt, Julie Endorf, and Randy and Cheryl Herschman.

## This Week at a Glance

Today	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
	4:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Program
Tuesday	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
	9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship
Thursday	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	11:00 a.m.	Funeral Service
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Bible Study
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	10:30 a.m.	Education Hour
	7:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study

# Spirit of Christ Music Ensemble

Trumpet - Blake Peterson

Horn – Emily Borra

Arranger & Bass - Graydon Peterson

Keyboard – Ethan Ostrow

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## **Choir**

Natalie Hofman

Sue Anderson

Sarah Skogerboe

Jody Rose

Toni Peterson

Karen Callies

Karen Olson

Steve Johnson

Wayne Chambard

Monica Lux

Robert Pajak

Phil Marquardt

Eric Skogerboe

Curt Olson

Kevin Zimmerman

## **Bells**

Nancy Anderson

Jonelle Welle

Diane Wienhold

Deb Walden

Arlene Martti

Pam Birkholz

Beth Degler

## **Technical**

Nathaniel

Marquardt

Dave Martti

## **Staff**

Pastor Jason Neel

Office Manager Laura Marquardt

Music Director John Peterson

## Notes of Information

**Children's Program:** Please join the children of the congregation this afternoon at 4pm for their annual Christmas Program.

**Stewardship Note:** “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” *2 Corinthians 9:7*

**LWML Mission Byte:** Lutherans for Life (LFL) received a LWML mission grant for its life connection events and kits project to invite young adults to events that will build relationships, offer education connection the Gospel to sanctity of life issues, and do life affirming community service. With information gained from these events LFL will make “event-in-a-box” kits to be used by congregations, Life chapters and Life teams to involve the youth as witnesses for the sanctity of life. This grant will aid in the carrying out of the mission of Lutherans for Life, to renew hearts with the Word of the Lord and to receive every human being as not just a neighbor but as a sister or brother with whom we may share God’s everlasting blessings. The mite box is available in the narthex TODAY!

**NACE:** North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf is currently in need of boxed sides, including stuffing, pasta and potatoes. They are no longer taking summer clothing items but are looking for new socks and underwear in all sizes and gently used fall/winter children’s clothing. Thank you for your donations. For more information, reach out to Toni Peterson.

Average Weekly Offering	\$6689
<i>Average offering needed per week to fulfill work plan</i>	\$6973



## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

Early Candlelight Service – 4 PM

Late Candlelight Service- 9PM

## **Christmas Day Service**

Worship Service 9 AM







**SPIRIT of CHRIST**  
Lutheran Church

2749 NE Bunker Lake Blvd  
Ham Lake, MN 55304  
[www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org](http://www.Spiritofchristhamlake.org)

Our Mission: To live in love for God and one another, reaching out to all people,  
proclaiming and sharing the love of Christ.

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