*\*\*\*\*\*\** ***Candle Lighting, Lights Off***  *\*\*\*\*\*\**

***Hymn: Silent Night*** *LBW #**65*

*V1* **Si-lent Night, Ho-ly Night,**

**All is Calm, all is Bright.**

**Round Yon Vir-gin Moth-er and Child,**

**Ho-ly In-fant so Ten-der and Mild,**

**Sleep in Heav-en-ly Peace.**

**Sleep in Heav-en-ly Peace.**

*V2* **Si-lent Night, Ho-ly Night.**

**Shep-herds Quake at the Sight.**

**Glo-ries Stream from Heav-en A-far,**

**Heav’n-ly Hosts Sing Al-le-lu-ia.**

**Christ, the Sav-ior Is Born.**

**Christ, the Sav-ior Is Born.**

*V3* **Si-lent Night, Ho-ly Night.**

**Son of God, Love's Pure Light**

**Ra-diant Beams From Your Ho-ly Face.**

**With the Dawn of Re-deem-ing Grace.**

**Je-sus, Lord, at Your Birth,**

**Je-sus, Lord, at Your Birth.**

***Dismissal***

*P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.* **C: Thanks** **be to God.**

***Discipleship Covenant for 2024***

***Emmanuel uses annual Discipleship Covenants which are renewable each year as a means of membership. We cordially invite each of you to become a voting member of our church family in 2024. Applications are available in the church foyer. Return your signed covenant to the offering basket or to a council member. C’mon in, the “water” is fine.***

***2024 Emmanuel Annual Meeting***

***Our Annual Meeting Will Be Here in the Oasis Sanctuary Immediately Following Our Sat, Jan 27th Worship Service.***

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**Worship - Eve of Advent 4 Sat, Dec 23rd, 2023 - 4pm**

**Pastor: John Saethre Lutheran Book of Worship**

**Pianist: MarJean Damerval - Setting II**

**Reader: Deb Vomhof \* indicates stand if able**

***Prelude***

***Announcements***

***Advent 4 Prayer***

*Blessed are you, God of our salvation; you promised that the One of peace would come from Bethlehem to feed your flock and make us live securely. As we light these candles, kindle in us the fire of your love, infuse in us the gift of hope and the fruit of your Word, and empower us to lift up the lowly and to fill the hungry with good things; let your face shine on us and bless us that we may be saved.* **C: Amen.**

***Lighting of the Advent Candle*** *– WOV #630*

*V4:***Light Four Can-dles to Watch for Mes-si-ah.**

**Let the Light Ban-ish Dark-ness.**

**He is Com-ing, Tell the Glad Tid-ings,**

**Let Your Lights be Shin-ing.**

*(Repeat One Time)*

***Page 1 of 12***

***Brief Order of Confession & Forgiveness*** *– Pg 77*

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

*P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of you Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.* **C: Amen.**

*P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*Most merciful God,* **We confess that we are in bondage 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:*  *Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.* **C: Amen**.

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***\*Greeting*** *– Pg 78*

*P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God*

 *& the Communion of the Holy Spirit Be with you all.*

**C: And also with you.**

***Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel*** *- LBW #34 (V.1,2)*

*V1* **O Come, O Come Em-man-u-el,**

**And Ran-som Cap-tive Is-ra-el,**

**That Mourns in Lone-ly Ex-ile Here,**

**Un-til the Son of God Ap-pear.**

**Re-joice, Re-joice, Em-man-u-el**

**Shall Come to You, O Is-ra-el.**

*V2* **Oh, Come, oh, Come, Great Lord of Might,**

**Who To Your Tribes on Si-nai's Height**

**In An-cient Times Once Gave the Law**

**In Cloud, and Ma-jes-ty and Awe.**

**Re-joice, Re-joice, Em-man-u-el**

**Shall Come to You, O Is-ra-el.**

 ***\* Salutation*** *– Pg 82*

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

***Prayer of the Day*** *– Pg 82*

*P: Let us pray:*

*Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C: Amen.**

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***1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16***

**1***When the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies,* **2***the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.”* **3***And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.”* **4***But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan,* **5***“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in?* **6***I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling.* **7***In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”* **8***Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel.* **9***And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth.* **10***And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly,* **11***from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.* **16***“And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”*

*The Word of the Lord.* **C: Thanks be to God.**

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***Psalm 89:1-5, 19-29 (Read Responsively)***

1  *I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever;*
     **With my mouth I will make known our faithfulness**

**To all generations.**

2 *For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever;*
     **In the heavens you will establish our faithfulness.”**

3 *You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one;*
     **I have sworn to David my servant:**

***4*** *‘I will establish your offspring forever,*
     **And build your throne for all generations.’”**

5 *Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord,*
     **Your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!**

**19**  *Of old you spoke in a vision to your godly one, and said:
    “I have granted help to one who is mighty;*
     **I have exalted one chosen from the people.**

20 *I have found David, my servant;*
     **With my holy oil I have anointed him,**

21 *So that my hand shall be established with him;*
     **My arm also shall strengthen him.**

22 *The enemy shall not outwit him;*
     **The wicked shall not humble him.**

23 *I will crush his foes before him*
     **And strike down those who hate him.**

24 *My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him,*     **And in my name shall his horn be exalted.**

25 *I will set his hand on the sea*
     **And his right hand on the rivers.**

26 *He shall cry to me, ‘You are my Father,*
     **My God, and the Rock of my salvation.’**

27 *And I will make him the firstborn,*
     **The highest of the kings of the earth.**

28 *My steadfast love I will keep for him forever,*
     **And my covenant will stand firm for him.**
29  *I will establish his offspring forever*
     **And his throne as the days of the heavens****.**

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***2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27***

**25***Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages* **26***but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith —* **27***to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.*

*The Word of the Lord.* **C: Thanks be to God.**

***\*\*\*\* Childrens Nativity Presentation \*\*\*\****

***Hymn: I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve*** *- LBW #69*

*Verse 1* **I Am So Glad Each Christ-mas Eve,**

**The Night of Je-sus’ Birth.**

**Then Like the Sun the Star Shone Forth,**

**And An-gels Sang on Earth.**

*Verse 2* **The Lit-tle Child in Beth-le-hem,**

**He Was a King In-deed.**

**For He Came Down from Heav’n A-bove**

**To Help a World in Need.**

*Verse 3* **He Dwells A-gain in Heav-en’s Realm,**

**The Son of God To-day.**

**And Still He Loves His Lit-tle Ones**

**And Hears Them When They Pray.**

*Verse 4* **I Am So Glad on Christ-mas Eve.**

**His Praises Then I Sing.**

**He O-pens Then for Ev-‘ry Child**

**The Pal-ace of the King.**

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*Verse 5* **When Mo-ther Trims the Christ-mas Tree**

**Which Fills the Room with Light,**

**She Tells Me of the Won-drous Star**

**That Made the Dark World Bright.**

*Verse 6* **And So I Love Each Christ-mas Eve**

**And I Love Je-sus, Too.**

**And That He Loves Me Ev-‘ry Day**

**I Know So Well is True.**

***\*Gospel Verse: “Al-le-lu-ia”***

**Al-le-lu-ia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?**

**You Have the Words of E-ter-nal Life, Al-le-lu-ia.**

***\*Gospel: Luke 1:26-38***

*The Holy Gospel According to St Luke, the 1st Chapter.*

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

**26***In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,* **27***to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary.* **28***And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”* **29***But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.* **30***And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.* **31***And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.* **32***He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,* **33***and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”* **34***And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”* **35***And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God.* **36***And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.* **37***For nothing will be impossible with God.”* **38***And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her. The Gospel of the Lord.* **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

***\*\*\*\*\*\* Sermon: Rev John Saethre \*\*\*\*\*\****

***Hymn: Joy to the World*** *- LBW #* *39 (V.1,2)*

*Verse 1*

**Joy to the World, The Lord is Come.**

**Let Earth Re-ceive its King.**

**Let Ev’ry Heart Pre-pare Him Room,**

**And Heav’n and Na-ture Sing,**

**And Heav’n and Na-ture Sing,**

**And Heav’n, and Heav’n, And Na-ture Sing.**

*Verse 2*

**Joy to the World, The Sav-ior Reigns.**

**Let All Their Songs Em-ploy,**

**While Fields and Floods, Rocks, Hills, & Plains**

**Re-peat the Sound-ing Joy,**

**Re-peat the Sound-ing Joy,**

**Re-peat, Re-peat, The Sound-ing Joy.**

|  |
| --- |
| ***Calendar Items***Wed, Dec 27 Men’s Bible Study - 11am at OasisSat, Dec 30 Eve of Christmas 1 Bell Ringing Service - 4pmWed, Jan 3 Men’s Bible Study - 11am at OasisSat, Jan 6 Epiphany Feast Service w/Communion - 4pm Mon, Jan 8 Council Meeting at Julie’s - 4pmWed, Jan 10 Men’s Bible Study - 11am at Oasis -and- Women’s Bible Study – 1pm at Oasis Sat, Jan 13 Eve of Epiphany 2 Worship Service - 4pm Wed, Jan 17 Men’s Bible Study - 11am at OasisSat, Jan 20 Eve of Epiphany 3 Service w/Communion 4pm Wed, Jan 24 Men’s Bible Study - 11am at Oasis -and- Women’s Bible Study – 1pm at Oasis Sat, Jan 27 Eve of Epiphany 4 Worship Service - 4pm  -and- Followed by Annual Congregational Meeting Wed, Jan 31 Men’s Bible Study - 11am at OasisSat, Feb 3 Eve of Epiphany 5 Worship Service - 4pm |

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***\*Confession of Faith - Nicene Creed*** *– Pg 84*

**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,**

**By the Power of the Holy Spirit,**

**He Became Incarnate from the Virgin Mary and was Made Man**

**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 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.**

**With the Father and the Son, He is Worshiped and Glorified.**

**He 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.**

***Sharing the Peace*** *– Pg 96*

*P: The peace of the Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

*\*\*\** ***Offerings Gathered & Presented*** *\*\*\**

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***Offertory Hymn*** *– Pg 96*

**Cre-ate in Me a Clean Heart, O God**

**And Re-new a Right Spir-it With-in Me.**

**Cast Me Not A-way from Your Pres-ence**

**And Take Not Your Ho-ly Spir-it from Me**

**Re-store to Me the Joy of Your Sal-va-tion,**

**And Up-hold Me with Your Free Spir-it.**

***The Prayers of the Church*** *– Pg 97*

*A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs. (A brief silence)*

***For Faithful Witness***

*Emmanuel, God with us, through your Word you beckon all people to the light of your love. May your Spirit kindle in your church and particularly this congregation a desire and ability to carry the torch of faithful witness to a world in need of your message of hope and salvation.*

*Lord, in your mercy,*  **C: Hear our prayer.**

***For Safe Travel***

*Protecting God, grant safe journeys to those who will be traveling in the days ahead. May they be blessed with joyful homecomings. Bring us all to peaceful rest as we find ourselves at home in your presence. Grant that as we celebrate the nativity of our Lord, that we would be filled with a renewed hope for the world you love. Let Christ’s love shine through us and illuminate a world in darkness and need.*

*Lord, in your mercy,* **C: Hear our prayer.**

***For Leaders***

*Holy Lord, give your wisdom and compassion to all who rule and guide the nations of this world. Through their wise leadership may your saving justice be made known. Put an end to violence and destruction in the world and let your peace reign in every corner of the creation.*

*Lord, in your mercy,* **C: Hear our prayer.**

***Page 10 of 12***

***For Those in Affliction***

*God of healing and wholeness, grant the light of your healing presence to all who are suffering illness, loss, grief, or anxiety this season. Give to all in any kind of need the assurance of your life-giving presence during trials, especially those we name silently in our hearts or aloud: [NAMES]*

*Remind all who are facing troubles that you are Emmanuel, God-with-us and that your promises of new life, here and now and in eternity, are trustworthy and true.*

*Lord, in your mercy,* **C: Hear our prayer.**

*P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through you Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*

**C: Amen.**

***\*Lord’s Prayer:*** *Traditional Version – Pg 97*

**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.**

***\*Benediction*** *– Pg 97*

*P: As you go, may God go with you;*

*May He go before you to show you the way;*

*May He go behind you encourage you;*

*May He go beside you to befriend you;*

*Above you to watch over you;*

*And within you to grant you His eternal peace.*

*In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,*

*And of the Holy Spirit.* **C: Amen.**

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