

Sunday, December 23, Advent 4 – Lessons and Carols

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence is kept for reflection

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

In Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

Gathering Carol275 **Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Canticle of Praise289 **Angles We Have Heard on High**

Lighting of the Advent Candle 240, v 4

Prayer of the Day

WORD

Psalm 8 printed on back of worship guide

Psalm Prayer

"For unto you is born a **Savior**, who is Christ, the Lord"

Lesson Isaiah 12:2-6

Response **283 O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain only)**

Lesson Matthew 1:18-21

Carol**293 That Boy-Child of Mary**

"For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord"

Lesson Isaiah 61:1-3, 11

Response **283 O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain only)**

Lesson John 1:19-23, 29-34

Carol**294 In the Bleak Midwinter**

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Leader: "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance."

(Luke 15:7)

All: There is everlasting joy in our hearts because of the birth of our Savior.

The fourth Advent candle is lit.

All: This fourth candle represents joy. Because of Christ we can truthfully sing, "Joy to the World," joy to you and me.

Leader: The Prince of Joy be with you.

All: And also with you.

Sing Hymn #240, verse 4



"Joy is a fruit of the spiritual life. We have no more right to pray for joy, if we are not doing the things that Jesus said would bring it, than we would have to ask interest in a savings bank in which we had never deposited money. Joy does not happen. It is a flower that springs from roots. . . . The Christian life that is joyless is a discredit to God, and a disgrace to itself." – Maltie Babcock

Psalm 8

Valerie Shields

Refrain



Your maj - es - ty is praised a - bove the heav - ens.

¹O LORD our Lord,*

how exalted is your name in all the world!

²Out of the mouths of infants and children*
your majesty is praised above the heavens. R

³You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,*
to quell the enemy and the avenger.

⁴When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,*
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,

⁵what is man that you should be mindful of him,*
the son of man that you should seek him out?

⁶You have made him but little lower than the angels;*
you adorn him with glory and honor; R

⁷you give him mastery over the works of your hands;*
you put all things under his feet:

⁸all sheep and oxen,*
even the wild beasts of the field,

⁹the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,*
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

¹⁰O LORD our Lord,*

how exalted is your name in all the world! R

This Week at St. Matthew's

MONDAY 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve candlelight service

TUESDAY 9:00 a.m. – Christmas Day service at Holy Trinity or

10:00 a.m. – Christmas Day service at St. David's

Please join us on Monday at 7:00 p.m. for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

St. Matthew's is not having a Christmas Day service this year, however Holy Trinity invites anyone to join them at 9:00 a.m., or St. David's at 10:00 a.m.

The church office will be closed until January 2, 2019.

Your financial support of St. Matthew's is greatly appreciated! To receive a 2018 income tax receipt from the church, all donations must be received, or post marked, by December 31, 2018.

Beat the rush! All Annual Report submissions are due by January 6, however you may submit reports to the church office anytime before then.

No. 3444L

"For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord"

Lesson Isaiah 61:1-8

Response 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain only)

Lesson Luke 1:26-35

Carol 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Nicene Creed..... Page 104

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer response "Your mercy is great."

MEAL

Offering and **Offertory Hymn288, v 1**

Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving..... Page 206

Form III Page 110

The Lord's Prayer Page 208

Communion

Lamb of GodPage 208

Communion Hymn276, 272

Post-Communion Canticle291 Let Our Gladness Have No End, v 1

Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING

Blessing

Sending Carol290 Go, Tell It On the Mountain

Dismissal Go in peace. Serve our saviour, Christ, and Lord.

"Thanks be to God."

Assisting Today

December 23

Assisting MinisterMikayla Leger

Readers Dianne Yungblut, Renée Jasinskas, Jennifer Allcorn

Usher/Welcomer Bob Hansen

Acolyte Renée Jasinskas

Counters Bob Hansen and Frank Bowen

Hospital Visitor Pastor Jukka