

# Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church

✘ Fourth Sunday of Advent ✘  
December 23, 2018

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Today we hear a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and the blessed virgin Mary's announcement of a child to come. It is this kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in the holy communion –with high delight- "We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."*



*Inspired by Christ,  
living and growing in faith,  
we are a loving and open community  
of worship, witness, and service in God's world.*



## Prelude

## Welcome

## Penitential Rite

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Confession

## Word of Absolution

## Gathering Hymn

## Apostolic Greeting

### ✠ Gathering ✠

*Following the call of God's Spirit, the community of faith gathers, welcoming one another and praying for God's mercy to fill the church and the world.*

*We invite you to use the prelude time to prepare your heart and mind for worship.*

### *Improvisation*

*K. Vigne*

### ✠ Confession and Forgiveness ✠

P: Throughout the season of Advent we prepare ourselves to receive the King of glory anew. Therefore, let us come before God with open hearts.

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 your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are captive 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.**

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 the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*ELW #257, vs All, vs 2 Women, vs 3, Men, vs 4 All*

*All voices sing the Refrain*

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

C: **And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day**

*Please be seated.*

P: Stir up your power, Lord Jesus, and come. **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**✠ Word ✠**

The Word of God comes alive for the gathered community  
As God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung and preached.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Today we light again the first three candles of the Advent wreath, the candles of Hope, Peace and Joy. Now we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love. Advent is a time for kindness, thinking of others, and sharing with others. It is a time to love as God loved us by giving us his most precious gift. As God is love, let us be love also. In the St. John’s gospel, we find these words:

**“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”—  
John 13:34-35**

Let us pray:

Teach us to love, O Lord. **May we always remember to put you first as we follow Christ’s footsteps, that we may know your love and show it in our lives. As we prepare for our celebration of Jesus’ birth, also fill our hearts with love for the world, that all may know your love and the one whom you have sent, your son, our Savior. Amen.**

**Dismissal Song**

*Dear Jesus lead us to your bed, In Bethlehem we pray.  
A candle we shall light, O Lord, To Guide us on our way.*

*O Father, you have sent your son From your unbounded grace.  
A second candle we now light To honor you with praise.*

*O Holy Spirit, you appeared As fire and heavenly dove,  
Your prophet calls us to the light. Come fill us with your love.*

*O Mary, favored one of God, For the Child you bore.  
A candle we now light to your Bless’d mother of our Lord.*

*Micah 5:2-5a  
The prophet  
Micah, having  
pronounced  
judgment upon  
Judah, speaks of a  
future shepherd-  
king who, like*

**Reading**

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; <sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

David, will come  
from Bethlehem.



**Luke 1:39-47**  
*In Elizabeth's  
inspired greeting  
and Mary's song  
of praise we hear  
of a saving God  
who remembers,  
scatters, lifts up,  
and fulfills all  
things.*

*Please be seated.*

**Hymn of the  
Day**  
*Please stand as  
you are able.*

R: Word of God, Word of Life.  
C: **Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia



### Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.  
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." <sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.  
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon

*Unexpected and Mysterious*  
*ELW #258*

### Prayers of the Church

P: Emmanuel has come, is here, and is coming soon. Let us join in prayer for the church, the earth, and those who are in need, that all receive what God promises to give.

*A brief silence.*

L: Emmanuel, God with us,  
C: **Hear our prayer**

God of peace, help us to live in peace with another and show patience and understanding during times of conflict. Help us find solutions to problems by listening to each other and finding a compromise rather than fighting.

L: Emmanuel, God with us,  
C: **Hear our prayer**

God of joy, help us to be thankful with what we have. Help us to help others who do not have a place to live, food to eat, or clothes to wear. **Amen.**



*Please be seated*

L: Emmanuel, God with us,

C: **Hear our prayer**

God of love, you sent Jesus to us because you love us, help your church to spread your love everywhere.

L: Emmanuel, God with us,

C: **Hear our prayer**

God of hope, we pray for all of these things, knowing that you hear us.

In the name of Jesus, we pray.

C: Amen.

### **Greeting of Peace**

L: Glory to God in the highest!

C: **And peace to God's people on earth!**

L: Please share the peace that Jesus brings with your neighbor and all the world.

*After the greeting, please **share a word** of peace with your neighbors.*

### **✠ Offering ✠**

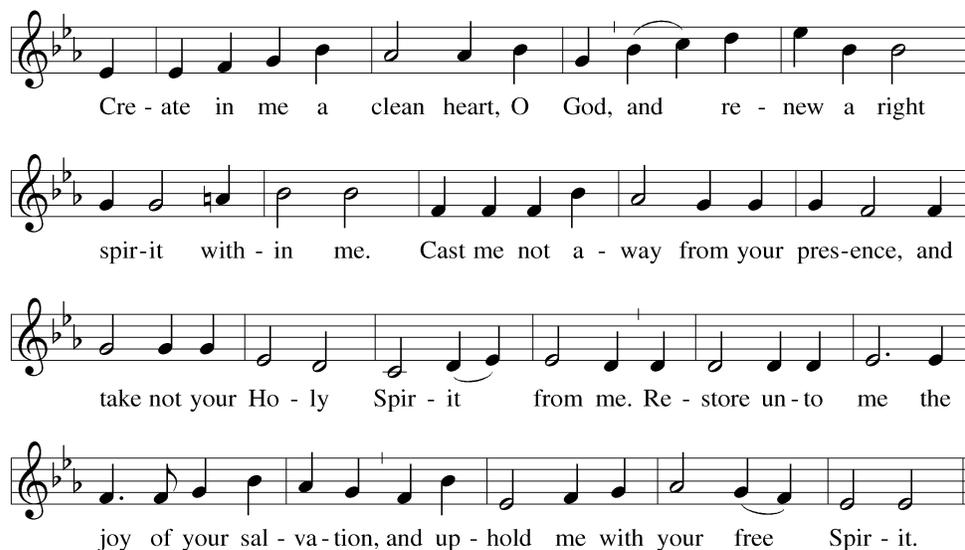
*Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church is supported through the generous gifts of time, talent and treasure of our friends and members. In order to fulfill our mission and ministry, we need to receive approximately \$6,000 in offerings each week. We thank you for your support and partnership in the proclamation of the good news.*

### **Offering**

#### ***How Far is it to Bethlehem?***

*Frances Chesterton, Alice Parker & Robert Shaw*

*How far is it to Bethlehem? Not very far.  
Shall we find the stable-room Lit by a star?  
Can we see the little Child? Is He within?  
If we lift the wooden latch, May we go in?  
May we stroke the creatures there Ox, ass, or sheep?  
May we peep like them and see Jesus asleep?  
If we touch His tiny hand, Will He awake?  
Will He know we've come so far Just for His sake?  
Great kings have precious gifts, And we have naught;  
Little smiles and little tears Are all we brought.  
For all weary children Mary must weep;  
Here, on His bed of straw, Sleep, children, sleep.  
God, in His mother's arms, Babes in the byre,  
Sleep, as they sleep who find Their heart's desire.*



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 un - to me the  
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12  
Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

- A: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.
- C: **Amen.**

### ✠ Meal ✠

*We lift our hearts with praise and thanksgiving as the table is set, and we receive the bread and wine—the humble meal through which we are fed by the presence of Jesus the Christ and united as the body of Christ in the world.*

### Great Thanksgiving

- 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 our thanks and praise.**
- P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...

**Offertory**  
*Please stand as you are able.*

**Offertory  
Prayer**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Per Harling, b. 1948  
 Music © 2004 Augsburg Fortress

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## Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

**C: 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.**

*(During the season of Advent and Christmas, we will use the traditional words for the Lord's Prayer.)*

### Invitation to Communion

**P: Come to me all who are tired and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. The table is ready. All are welcome.**

*Please be seated*

## Lamb of God

O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,  
have mer - cy up-on us! O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak -  
est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up-on us!  
O Christ, thou Lamb of God that tak - est a-way the sin of the world,  
grant us thy peace! A - - - men

Text: German, 1528, based on the Agnus Dei; tr. unknown  
Music: CHRISTE, DU LAMM GOTTES, *Kirchenordnung*, Braunschweig, 1528

## Meditation

### Distribution

*Communion is by common cup or intinction: For the common cup, receive a piece of the bread, and drink from the white chalice. For intinction dip the bread into the brown cup with the wine (dark) or grape juice (light) as you prefer, then eat. At Lake of the Isles, we practice open communion. All who hunger for the presence of Christ in their life are welcome at this table. Gluten free wafers are available in the silver cup.*

### Post-Communion Blessing

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

**C:** Amen.

### Post-Communion Prayer

**A:** We thank you, O God, that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** Amen.

## Communion Music

*Please stand as you are able.*



✠ **SENDING** ✠

*We receive the blessing of God and leave in peace,  
Sent out to live the way of Jesus for the sake of the world God loves.*

***Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming***

*ELW #272*

**Sending  
Hymn**

**Benediction**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

***Toccata on Veni Emmanuel***

*You are invited to remain for the Postlude to enjoy this musical offering of thanksgiving and  
praise or leave quietly.*

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**WELCOME**

We thank you for celebrating the love of Jesus Christ with us this week, and we invite you back again—for prayer and worship and to any of the events our congregation has scheduled. We hope the message of God's grace will guide and strengthen you as you grow in love and faith in your daily life.

**YOUR WORSHIP  
LEADERS TODAY**

Pastor	Rev. Arden D. Haug
Organist	Kenneth Vigne
Choir Director	Dawn Allan
Worship Assistant	Mary Sabatke
Advent Wreath Candle Lighters	Amy, Emelia & Elyssa Gustafson and Liliana Mary
Ushers	Linda Nelson and Mark Duff
Altar Servers	Dave and Mary Goplen
Reader	Patricia Nortwen
Communion Assistants	Denise Wilkens, Pauline Haug and Carolyn Hagford
Coffee Host	Don Holzschuh

**CHURCH OFFICERS**

President	Marty Carlson
Vice President	Ross Formell
Treasurer	Ross Bartels
Secretary	Jon Sprain

**STAFF**

Children’s Ministry Director  
Custodian  
Office Manager  
Nursery Attendant

Diane LaMere  
Dane Peterson  
Linda Nelson  
Sheridan Swee

**CALENDAR**

<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Worship with Holy Communion</b>	
		<b>No Sunday School</b>	Sanctuary
	10:40 am	Coffee Hour	Fellowship Hall
<b>MONDAY, DECEMBER 24</b>	4:30 pm	Christmas Eve Family Service	Sanctuary
	10:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary
<b>TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25</b>		<b>CHRISTMAS DAY – CHURCH CLOSED</b>	
<b>WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26</b>	10:00 am	Bible Study	Christy Room
	12:00 pm	Staff Meeting	Christy Room
	7:30 pm	Choir Practice	Fellowship Hall
<b>THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27</b>	12:00 pm	Al-Anon	Fellowship Hall
<b>SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Worship with Holy Communion</b>	Sanctuary
		<b>No. Sunday School</b>	

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER LIST**



Please keep the following friends & members of our community of faith in your prayers of

thanksgiving or for comfort, peace, and healing:

**Shirley Carlson, Peyton Berkland, Molly Boylan, Kathy Hering, Mary DeVries, Emily Vigne** and family on the death of her grandmother; LOTI members;; **Debbie Dahl**, daughter-in-law of Phyllis Dahl; **Jim Peterson**, brother-in-law of Rick Pepin; **Sam Pederson**, nephew of Jenny Cook; **Charles Sabatke**, brother of Bruce Sabatke; **Lynn Williamson**, family of Bruce and Carol Kuehn; **Heluza Ramos**, grandmother of Rebecca Morell; **Jan Palmer**, friend of Pauline Haug.

**Happy Birthday**

Mary Flynn 12/28      Lauren Huffman 12/28  
Jorgen Olson 12;28      John Zachman 12/29

**NURSERY AVAILABLE**

Children are always welcome in worship. The nursery will not be staffed this Sunday or December 30 so if you need to take your child out, the Christy Room is available. The Christy Room is located to the left of the sanctuary through the side door at the front of the church and across from the church office. If you need assistance, please ask one of the ushers to help you. There is a baby changing table available in the unisex restroom between the pastor’s office and the sacristy.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

The **Family Service** at 4:30 pm is designed for families with younger children. The service will feature a “living nativity scene” at the manger. Guest trumpeter Jamie Gorski will perform at this worship service. A staffed nursery will be available.

The **Candle Light Service** is at 10:00 pm The LOTI Church Choir and guest ensemble will perform a Christmas cantata attributed to J.S. Bach, “For Us a Child is Born.” Our organist Kenny Vigne has also

**Loved Ones In The Military**  
Please keep all the members and families of the military in your prayers of thanksgiving and protection.



written his own arrangement for a small chamber ensemble based on the commemoration of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the singing of "Silent Night."



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**SCAN TO GIVE**



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**WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB**

Women's Book Club will meet on Friday, January 11 at 5:00 p.m. at Deb Gilroy's home. We are reading "Pilgrim's Progress" by John Bunyan.

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**OUR SAVIOUR'S HOUSING  
MEALS IN 2019**

Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church has provided a meal for 40 the first Friday of every month for many years. This is a wonderful opportunity for families or a group of friends. Check your calendars and pick a month now for 2019. You can reserve your month by calling or emailing Cheri Moe (952-431-5226, [moeclana@aol.com](mailto:moeclana@aol.com)). She can provide you with recipes for a crowd. If you are a Thrivent member, you can apply for a Thrivent Action grant that will cover the cost of the meal as well as some left over to purchase the supplies that Our Saviour's is always in need of.

The following dates have been spoken for:

January 4	Pastor Arden, Janna, Pauline
February 1	Cheri Moe & Family
March 1	Julie & Scott Gallop
April 5	Confirmation Class
May 3	Mary Flynn & Family
June 7	
July 5	
August 2	
September 6	
October 4	
November 1	
December 6	Cheri Moe & Family

If you have never served the meal before or feel the cost is more than you can comfortably afford or you just don't want to do it alone but don't know who to

ask, please contact either Cheri or Linda Nelson in the church office. They can contact others who have served and try to find someone who would be interested in serving with you. It's more fun doing it with others and the cost is shared.

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**"WORKING" SERIES**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 13 AT 11:00 A.M.**

"Working" is the theme of an ongoing speaker series in which people associated with our congregation talk about what they do all day and how they feel about the work they do.

The next session will be Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and the guest speaker will be new LOTI member Mary Flynn. Mary works in the Medical Services Unit (MSU) at Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation in Plymouth - a treatment center for adolescents and young adults ages 14 to 24. Her co-worker, Courtney Wilkins, R.N., will also be present to explain direct medical care given to clients while on the MSU and throughout their stay at the facility.

Mary and Courtney's talk will take place after a brief coffee break following the Sunday morning service. Those who are interested will be invited to take their coffee/tea into the Christy Room for about 45 minutes. The first 15-20 minutes will be an informal talk by Mary and Courtney, leaving the time remaining for questions from those in attendance.

If anyone in the congregation is interested in sharing their own "Working" story, please send an email to [jannahaug@yahoo.com](mailto:jannahaug@yahoo.com)

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**THE GIFT OF GENEROSITY**

This holiday season, we thank everyone who has supported LOTI this past year with their time, talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead. End of the year gifts to LOTI must be postmarked December 31<sup>st</sup> or delivered to the office by December 31st.

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**EXTENDED CALENDAR OF LOTI  
CHURCH SERVICES & EVENTS**



**December 24**  
Christmas Eve

Family Service at 4:30 p.m.  
Candlelight Service at 10:00 p.m.

**December 25**  
Church Closed

**December 30**  
Sunday Worship Service/No Sunday School  
9:30 a.m.

**January 1**  
Church Closed

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*God's Help, Our Hands*  
*2020 W. Lake of the Isles Parkway*

*Minneapolis, MN 55405*

☒ 612 377-5095 ☒

*Office Hours:*

*M-F 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

*[churchoffice@loti.org](mailto:churchoffice@loti.org) ☒ [pastor@loti.org](mailto:pastor@loti.org)*

*Visit our website at: [www.lotl.org](http://www.lotl.org)*

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