

# Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

***Preaching and presiding this day: Pastor Sheryl Kester Beyer***

Church Website: [smlcestes.org](http://smlcestes.org)

Office Email: [secretary@smlcestes.org](mailto:secretary@smlcestes.org) 970-586-3900

***Pastoral Care: Pastor Sheryl Kester Beyer, 402-694-9182***

Mission Statement:

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is a community of faith grounded in love for God and love for our neighbors.



**December 22, 2024**

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*

***Julie Varilek, Accompanist***

**Prelude: "Traditions of Christmas" *Chip Davis***

***Take the time to center heart and mind on God's presence in worship.***

## **Welcome, Friends in Christ,**

*To assist in worship, this bulletin includes all portions of our service; prayers, readings, hymns, congregational responses in bold, as well as upcoming events. We also provide activity bags for children. You may request these from an usher.*

*Please know that **everyone** is invited to receive communion, where we are all guests at God's table.*

*Meeting you during the Sharing of the Peace, or after the service, would be our joy. Many of us come from other places before calling Estes Park home, and you never know when you'll find common threads.*

*Whether you are first time visitors or long time friends returning to share in worship with us, we are grateful for your presence today.*

## **Welcome and Introduction: Pastor Sheryl Kester Beyer**

### **Call to Worship**

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle: Ann Knipping & Nancy Matson**



### **Advent Reading**

Last Sunday we lit the candle of *JOY*. We light it and the candles of *HOPE* and *PEACE* again as we remember that Christ, who was born in Bethlehem, will come again to fulfil all of God's promises and bring us everlasting peace and joy. We also light the candle of *LOVE*.

*As four candles are lit, we sing:*

## Advent Hymn: "Light One Candle to Watch For Messiah" Hymn 240



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.  
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## Advent Prayer

Let us pray: Thank you God for the love you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to come true, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us today, and everyday to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your love with each other. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.

*(Please stand, whether in body or spirit)*

## Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the † cross, the sign marked at baptism, as we begin.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have turned away from our neighbors.**  
**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We plead: come to us.**  
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:  
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through † Christ Jesus,  
whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

## **Greeting**

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

**And also with you.**

*(Please be seated)*

# Kyrie

## Refrain - Congregation



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

## Leader



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for



u - ni - ty of all; for  
friends and fam - i - ly; for



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,

## Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.



## Canticle of Praise

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



*Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the  
 Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Prayer of the Day

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

<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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55**

<sup>46b</sup> My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup> you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.

<sup>50</sup> **You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup> You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

<sup>52</sup> **casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup> You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup> **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup> the promise made to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.



## Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

<sup>5</sup> Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,  
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,

but a body you have prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup> in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

<sup>7</sup> Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’  
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

<sup>8</sup> When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in  
sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are  
offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup> then he added, “See, I have come to do  
your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup> And it  
is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the  
body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand, whether in body or spirit)*

### Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

The holy gospel according to Luke Chapter 1.

### 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*(Please be seated)*

### Sermon: "Mary and Elizabeth: Soul Friends"



### Sermon Hymn: "Savior of the Nations, Come" Hymn 263



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.  
3 Won - drous birth—oh, won - drous child—from his throne, a vir - gin mild!



Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.  
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!

Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340–397; Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. hymnal version  
Music: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Intercessory Prayers**

Each petition ends: "Lord, in your mercy,"  
Response is "**Receive our prayer.**"

## **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## Choir Selection: "Joy to the World" *arr by John Carter*

*The congregation is invited to join the choir in singing the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> verses.*

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
sing, found, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing,  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## Receiving of Gifts

*(Please stand, whether in body or spirit)*

## Offering Prayer

**Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## 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 our thanks and praise.**

## Preface

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.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## “Holy, Holy, Holy”



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

## Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and  
resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May  
your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from  
the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

*We commune by 'Intinction', by dipping the wafer in wine or grape juice.*

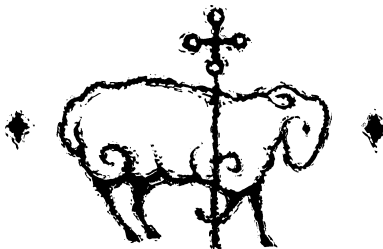
*We are all guests at God's table. **Everyone** is invited to receive communion.*

*(Please be seated)*

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.





## Communion Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Hymn 257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
 and open wide our heav'nly home;  
 make safe the way that leads on high,  
 and close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- 6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
 O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
 and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*
- 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*
- 8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
 and ransom captive Israel,  
 that mourns in lonely exile here  
 until the Son of God appear. *Refrain*

## **Post Communion Blessing**

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

## **Post Communion Prayer**

**Generous God,  
we thank you for the gift of life,  
for the bread of salvation.  
We thank you for coming among us,  
for leading us into peace.  
We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we feed the hungry in your name.**

**Amen.**

## **Ministry Highlights**

*(Please stand, whether in body or spirit)*

## **Blessing**

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
† bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: "Soon and Very Soon" Hymn 434



1 Soon and ver - y soon  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,



soon and ver - y soon  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude: "Soon And Very Soon" *Andrae Crouch*

## *Thank you for assisting this day!*

	<i>December 22</i>	<i>December 24</i>
<b>Leading Worship:</b>	Pastor Sheryl Kester Beyer	Pastor Sheryl Kester Beyer
<b>Accompanist:</b>	Julie Varilek	Julie Varilek
<b>Choir Director:</b>	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
<b>Greeter:</b>	_____ OPEN	_____ OPEN
<b>Lector:</b>	Linda Schlitt	_____ OPEN
<b>Ushers:</b>	Gary Wallace Mike Wold	Gary Wallace Mike Wold
<b>Tellers:</b>	Ralie Deffenbaugh Josh Young	_____ OPEN _____ OPEN
<b>Altar Care:</b>	Nancy Matson	No Communion
<b>Communion Asst:</b>	Roxy Hause Jill Johnson _____ OPEN	No Communion
<b>AV Engineer:</b>	Robbi Telfer	Bruce Adams
<b>Fellowship Host:</b>	_____ OPEN	Merry Christmas
<b>Flower Sponsor:</b>	Jane Gardner	Poinsettias
<b>Flower Arranger:</b>	Brackman/Thorn	Brackman/Thorn

## *Calendar*

<b>Monday, Dec 23</b>	Pastor Sheryl, office hours—all day All Day—Total Fire replacing antifreeze in the sprinkler system
<b>Tuesday, Dec 24</b>	Pastor Sheryl, office hours—all day <b>Christmas Eve!</b> 4:00 p.m.: Choir meet for a short rehearsal 4:30 p.m.: Music selections from Ann, Julie and Chuck 5:00 p.m.: Christmas Eve Service
	No Choir Rehearsal on Wednesday No Quilting on Thursday