

5:30 p.m. – Service of the Word and Sacrament

Order of Service Saint Michael Lutheran Church

3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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The 4th Saturday in Advent

December 21, 2024

Prelude

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*arr. by Gary Lanier
Jacob Schwan, trumpet
Ben Ball, organ*

Welcome and Greetings

Opening Carol

*"Angels from the Realms of Glory"
(verses 1-4)*

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Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Pastor: Today, we light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath as we rejoice in Jesus our Savior, the Light of the World. To a world lost in the darkness of sin, Jesus brought the light of love and salvation, a light that we see shining out of the manger in Bethlehem.

People: Shine in our hearts, Lord Jesus, with the light of Your love.

Pastor: Jesus tells us, "You are the light of the world. ...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 5:14, 16).

People: Lord Jesus, help us to reflect the light of Your love to everyone we meet. Amen.

The fourth Advent candle is lit.

Response

*"Angels from the Realms of Glory"
(verse 5)*

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Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God and ask His forgiveness.

People: Almighty God, even though we should shine with Jesus' light, we often become lost in the shadows of sin. We turn away from Your Word and Your will to listen to the temptations of the world around us. Instead of seeking to help and serve others, we pay more attention to our own sinful desires. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins.

Pastor: God loved the world and sent His Son to be our Savior. Jesus died and rose from death for us, and our sins are washed away in His blood. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 13:21-22 (NIV)

²¹ By day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. ²² Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 4:5-7 (NIV)

⁵ For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. ⁷ But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5th chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Lector: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Carol of the Day

"In the Fullness of Time"

see insert



Sermon

The Word Made Flesh: The Light of the World

Pastor Dave Bass

To watch and listen to last week's sermon, visit tinyurl.com/smlcslive.

Sermon Outline:

Sermon Point 1: The intimacy that was once reserved for _____ is now available to _____ of us. All people may turn to the Lord with _____ faces and behold this _____, and in so doing, we are _____ and made radiant by Him.

Sermon Point 2: Followers of Jesus have their eyes _____ upon Him. Their focus isn't on the opinions of the _____ or _____, as can and does happen all too often.

Sermon Point 3: Christmas lights can serve to remind us of Christ – the true and everlasting light that has come to _____ and disintegrate the _____ of sin by His _____, humiliation, _____ and the ultimate reunification of all believers on the _____ when He returns in glory.

Creedal Hymn

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

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Announcements

Offering

A special stewardship note to our guests: the ministries and work of Saint Michael Lutheran Church are supported by the generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends as they steward God's gifts. You are our GUEST today. Please do not feel compelled or pressured to make a contribution.

Online contributions and donations can be made by clicking this link: tinyurl.com/SMLGiving.
You may also mail your offerings to the church office: 3595 Broadway, Ft. Myers, FL 33901.

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

Distribution Hymns

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

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"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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Blessing

Closing Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

see insert

Postlude

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

arr. by John Barr

