

10:00 a.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 Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

Prelude

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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

Welcome and Greetings

Opening Carol

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

see music sheet

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

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

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

see music sheet

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

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NIV)

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Anthem

"The First Noel"

*arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram
offered by the Grace Notes Handbell Choir*

Epistle Reading

Galatians 4:4-7 (NIV)

⁴But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

Carol

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"
(vs. 1 & 2)

380

Holy Gospel – Part One

Luke 2:1-7 (NIV)

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Carol

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram
led by the Grace Notes Handbell Choir*

Holy Gospel – Part Two

Luke 2:8-14 (NIV)

⁸And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Carol

"Angels We Have Heard on High"
(vs. 1 & 3)

368

Holy Gospel – Part Three

Luke 2:15-20 (NIV)

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Anthem

“Gentle Jesus, Meek and Mild”

*by Ben Ball
offered by the Sanctuary Choir*

Children’s Message

Carol of the Day

“In the Fullness of Time”

see music sheet

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.

Announcements

Offering

“How Quietly”

*by Joel Raney
offered by the Sanctuary Choir*

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 Songs

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

352

“Noel”

see music sheet

“Away in a Manger”

365

Blessing

Closing Song

*“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
(vs. 1 & 3)*

379

Postlude

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

*arr. by Jack Schrader
Dr. Bryan Edgett, trumpet
Ben Ball, organ*