

**Scripture Reading** Luke 1:39-55

*Liturgist*

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. 42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished! 46 And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, 48 for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, 49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. 50 His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. 51 He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. 52 He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. 53 He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. 54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful 55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message** Real Joy: Learning to Love What God Has Done

*Pastor Steve*

**Musical Reflection**

*Charlie Postas*

**Time of Prayer: Requests, Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

*In Jesus' name. Hear our prayer, O Lord.*

**\*Hymn 188** Angels We Have Heard on High

**\*Benediction**

**\*Parting Music** *Join us for a time of refreshment and fellowship in the narthex!*



**Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Fritz, Pastor**



**4th Sunday of Advent**

*From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name. Luke 1:48b-49*

**December 22, 2024**

**8:55 am**

*Staffed Nursery, Wheelchair, Hearing Assist System & Large Print Bibles available. See the A/V booth for assistance.*

**CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*"Walking with Jesus, sharing Christ along the way"*

*Welcome to Wayside! We're glad you joined us today when our Advent focus takes a turn toward Christmas. Stay with us through the holidays if you are seeking a church home. Let us get to know each other as we continue our journeys of life and faith into the New Year. There's something at Wayside for everyone.*

***\*Please stand as able in body, mind, or spirit.***

**Greeting / Passing the Peace of Christ / Ways to Connect** *Pastor Steve*

**Prelude** *Charlie Postas, Accompanist*

**Lighting of the Worship & Peace Candles - Acolyte**

**Presentation of the Chrismon ANGEL & Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*Chrismon: The Uryc Family* *Readings: Dean & Beth Zerbe*

**Reading:** "CHRISMON" is a combination of parts of two words: CHRIST and MONogram. Wayside Church made Chrismon ornaments to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Book of Luke, chapter 2, vividly tells the visitation of the Angels to the shepherds announcing and praising God for the birth of Jesus, "Glad tidings of great joy." The excitement and wonder can be felt by us today. It is a moment when heaven and earth connect. After delivering this awesome news, the sky filled with Angels singing praise.

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath** (from Micah 5:2-5a)

**Reading:** We light the 4<sup>th</sup> candle of the Advent Wreath for LOVE. "For God so loved the world, he sent his only begotten Son" as announced by Angels and prophesied in the Hebrew scriptures: 2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. " 3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. 4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. 5 And he will be their peace.

**\*Hymn 192** Mary, Did You Know?

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

*Sue Powell, Liturgist*

Be merciful to us, O God, for in the management of our lives and your Church we have often forgotten to consult you in prayer and Scripture. We get anxious over details and fail to remember your bigger plan. When you do wake us up with a dream, a vision, a conviction, we go back to sleep or run from what it is you are calling us to be and do. Hear us in the silence of our hearts as we confess our sins of failing to listen and trust you in this journey of life and faith. We pray in Jesus' name. *(continue in silent personal confession)*

**Assurance of Pardon** Hebrews 10:5-10 *(The Message)*

*Liturgist*

The plain fact is that bull and goat blood can't get rid of sin. That is what is meant by this prophecy, put in the mouth of Christ:

You don't want sacrifices and offerings year after year;

you've prepared a body for me for a sacrifice.

It's not fragrance and smoke from the altar

that whet your appetite.

So I said, "I'm here to do it your way, O God,

the way it's described in your Book."

When he said, "You don't want sacrifices and offerings," he was referring to practices according to the old plan. When he added, "I'm here to do it your way," he set aside the first in order to enact the new plan—God's way—by which we are made fit for God by the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus.

Liturgist: Friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel.

**People: In Jesus Christ we are, I am, forgiven.**

**\*Hymn 240** Gloria, Gloria (1X unison, 1X round in 3-parts)

**Chancel Choir Anthem** *Go, Tell it on the Mountain / Larson*

*Janelle Pabon (Music Director)*



**Prayer Table for Giving & Lighting Candles / Offertory**

**Christmas Joy Offering**

*Digital donors may touch the offering plate with a cell phone or hand.*

**\*Hymn 34** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow / Doxology

**\*Prayer of Dedication**