



St. LUKE'S LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Vassar, Michigan 48768
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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Pastor Matthew R. Arnold

Principal Michael S. Chappell

First Sunday After Christmas: December 29 & 30, 2024

Welcome! We are happy to share God's peace with everyone. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have any questions, the ushers are ready to help. Feel free to visit after the service.

- Aids to assist with hearing (Williams Sound System) are available from the ushers.
- Large Print Hymnal Binders are available on the tract desk for those with vision difficulties.

Please note: the Sunday service is being recorded and streamed on YouTube.

www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar

Setting 1, pg. 154

329 All My Heart Again Rejoices

CW 329

1 All my heart again rejoices
as I hear
far and near
sweetest angel voices.
“Christ is born!” their choirs are singing
till the air
ev’rywhere
now with joy is ringing.

2 Hear! The conqueror has spoken:

“Now the foe,
sin and woe,
death and hell are broken!”
God is man, man to deliver,
and the Son
now is one
with our blood forever.

3 Should we fear our God’s displeasure,
who, to save,

freely gave
his most precious treasure?
To redeem us he has given
his own Son
from the throne
of his might in heaven.

4 See the Lamb, our sin once taking
to the cross,
suffring loss,
full atonement making.

For our life his own he tenders,
and his grace
all our race
fit for glory renders.

5 Softly from his lowly manger
Jesus calls

one and all,
“You are safe from danger.
Children, from the sins that grieve you
you are freed;
all you need
I will surely give you.”

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!
One and all,
great and small,
come with songs of gladness;
we shall live with him forever
there on high
in that joy
which will vanish never.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr., adapt.

Text: Public domain

(Stand)

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and
the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts,
words, and actions.**

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

**I deserve your punishment both now and
forever.**

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a
sinner.**

(Silence for meditation and reflection)

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us.

He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as
the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his
authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the
Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great
glory,

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy
on us.

For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day
Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son
to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious
coming, deliver us from the corruption of our sin, and
transform us into the likeness of his glory; through your
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

(Be seated)

First Reading

Isaiah 50:4–9

⁴The LORD God gave me a tongue like the learned,
an instructed tongue,

so I know how to sustain the weary with a word.
He wakes me up morning by morning.
He wakes up my ears so that I listen like the
learned.

⁵The LORD God opened my ear,
and I myself was not rebellious.
I did not turn back.

⁶I submitted my back to those who beat me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard.
I did not hide my face from disgrace and from spit.

⁷The LORD God will help me,
so I will not be disgraced.

Therefore I have made my face hard like flint.
I know that I will not be put to shame.

⁸The one who will acquit me is near!

Who can accuse me?

Let us take our stand.

Who can pass judgment on me?

Let him approach me.

⁹Look, the LORD God will help me.

Who then can declare me guilty?

Look, all of them will wear out like a garment.

A moth will consume them.

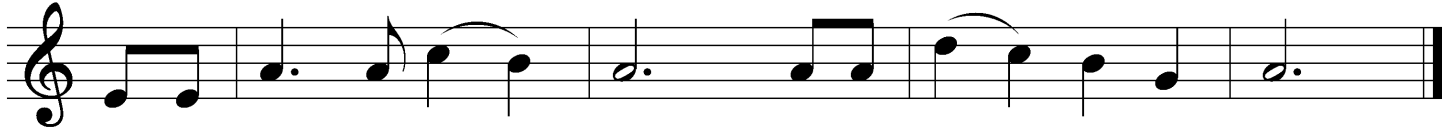
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

84 Let Us Go Rejoicing

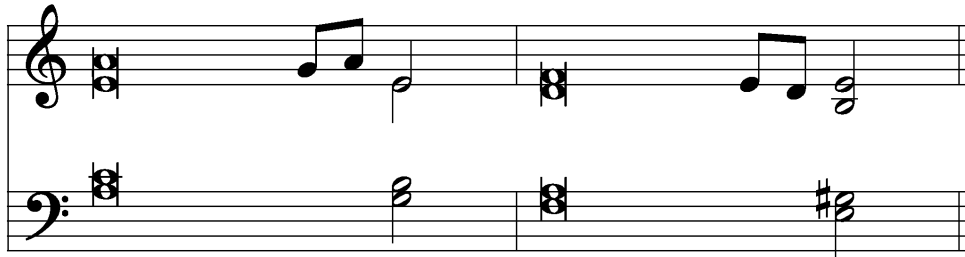
Psalm 84

Refrain



Let us go re - joic - ing to the house of the LORD.

Tone



How lovely is your / dwelling place,

LORD Al- / mighty!

My soul yearns, even faints,

for the courts / of the LORD;

my heart and my flesh cry out

for the / living God.

Blessed are those who dwell / in your house;

they are ever / praising you. *Refrain*

Better is one day / in your courts

than a thousand / elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house / of my God

than dwell in the tents of the / wicked.

LORD Al- / mighty,

blessed is the one who / trusts in you.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

**and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

Tune: David Clark Isele

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Second Reading

Hebrews 2:10–18

¹⁰Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. ¹¹For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers.

¹²He says:

I will declare your name to my brothers.

Within the congregation I will sing your praise.

¹³And again:

I will trust in him.

And again:

Here I am and the children God has given me.

¹⁴Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood, he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil) ¹⁵and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. ¹⁶For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with

helping Abraham's offspring. ¹⁷For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.
(Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

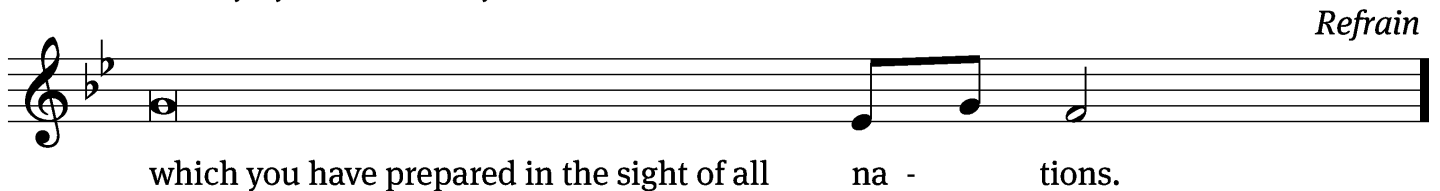
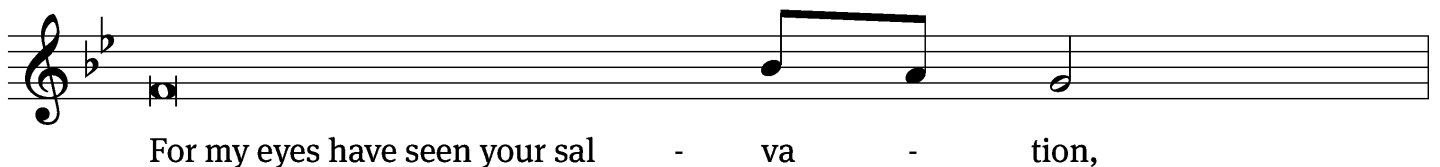
Luke 2:30,31



Refrain



Tone



Gospel

Luke 2:41–52

⁴¹Every year his parents traveled to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up according to the custom of the Festival. ⁴³When the days had ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Since they thought he was in their group, they went a day's journey. Then they began to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us this way? See, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you.”

⁴⁹He said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be taking care of my Father's business?” ⁵⁰They did not understand what he was telling them.

⁵¹He went down with them and came to Nazareth. He was always obedient to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

(Be seated)

355 Let All Together Praise Our God

CW 355

1 Let all together praise our God
before his highest throne;
today he opens heav'n again
and gives us his own Son,
and gives us his own Son.

2 He leaves his heav'nly Father's throne,
is born an infant small,
and in a manger, poor and lone,
lies in a humble stall,
lies in a humble stall.

3 He veils in flesh his pow'r divine
a servant's form to take,
in want and lowliness must pine
who heav'n and earth did make,
who heav'n and earth did make.

4 He undertakes a great exchange,
puts on our human frame,
and in return gives us his realm,
his glory, and his name,
his glory, and his name.

5 He serves that I a lord may be—
a great exchange indeed!

Could Jesus' love do more for me
to help me in my need,
to help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door
of paradise today.

The angel guards the gate no more;
to God our thanks we pay,
to God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480-1561, abr.; (sts. 1-3, 5-6): tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, sts. 1-3,5,6, alt.; (st. 4): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001, st. 4

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Sermon

Luke 2:41-52

The Young Jesus Is Our Savior

I. He obeyed his Father's will (41, 42, 51, 52)

II. He carried out his Father's business (43-50)

(Stand)

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and
the dead.

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

(Be seated)

Prayer of the Church

Offering

330 Peace Came to Earth

CW 330

1 Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
when angels clove the sky with song and light

and God embodied love and sheathed his might—

Who could but gasp: Immanuel!

Who could but sing: Immanuel!

2 And who could be the same for having held
the infant in their arms and later felt
the wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled—

Who could but sigh: Immanuel!

Who could but shout: Immanuel!

3 You show the Father none has ever seen,
in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,
in bread and wine you visit us again—

Who could but see: Immanuel!

Who could but thrill: Immanuel!

4 How else could I have known you, O my God!
How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God!

Who could but pray: Immanuel!

Who could but praise: Immanuel!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

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(Stand)

Lord's Prayer

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.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen.

336 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night CW 336

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2 “Fear not,” said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;

“glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3 “To you, in David’s town, this day
is born of David’s line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4 “The heav’nly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all humbly wrapped in swaddling clothes
and in a manger laid.”

5 Then suddenly in heav’n’s bright sky
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

6 “All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
to those on whom his favor rests
goodwill shall never cease.”

Text: Nahum Tate, 1652–1715, alt.

Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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MESSAGE BOARD

Befriend Our Missionary Friends: December is St. Luke's turn to focus on our assigned missions/missionaries through personal correspondence and prayer. Below the bulletin board near the church office is a list of overseas missionary children attending school in the USA. Please take a copy and send a Christmas greeting and words of encouragement to these young men and woman who are so far from their immediate families. Perhaps you might also consider a gift card along with your good wishes. **It's the Simple Gestures!**

Open Applications for MLS: It's already time to think about applying for the 2025-26 school year! If you have an 8th grader who wants to come to MLS next year, applications are now open! Be sure to apply as soon as you can so that you are eligible for the tuition discount drawings. If you apply before November 30th, you'll be entered for a chance to win a \$500 tuition discount; and if you apply before December 31st, you'll be entered for a chance to win a \$250 tuition discount! For any questions, contact us at admissions@mlsem.org or call (989) 793-1010 ext. 421. To apply, go to www.mlsem.org/apply.

Saginaw Valley Lutheran Chorale (SVLC) begins 1/5/25:
The *Saginaw Valley Lutheran Chorale* welcomes all confirmed WELS/ELS members to join in preparing a concert of sacred music to be presented on March 22 & 23, 2025. Weekly rehearsals will begin under the direction of Prof. em. Leonard Proeber on Sunday, January 5th, 6:30-8:00 PM in the Michigan Lutheran Seminary band room. New voices are always welcome! For further information, please contact Prof. Proeber or the Chorale's president, Prof. Allen Ash.

Euchre Game Night: Just putting it out here...is anyone interested in an evening of euchre and fellowship. Contact Pat Mecham if interested and dates and times will be arranged.

STEWARDSHIP AT ST. LUKE'S

For 2024, the planned giving needed is \$7,910.00 per week to meet our ministry goals.

Budgetary Offerings Dec. 22nd: \$4,532.75

Children's Service Attendance: 175

Christmas Eve Service: 175

Christmas Day Service: 55, Communed: 54

HAPPENING SOON

Sunday 12/29	9:00 AM Worship Service
Monday 12/30	7:00 PM Worship Service
Sunday 01/05	9:00 AM Communion
Worship Service	
Monday 01/06	7:00 PM Communion
Worship Service	
Tuesday 01/07	6:30 PM Mega Meeting
Thursday 01/09	Sunday School Teacher's
Meet	