



## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Forest City, Iowa

Pastors: Rod Hopp, Zech Anderson

[www.immanuelfamily.com](http://www.immanuelfamily.com)

in person | live stream | on the radio

December 22, 2024 9:15am

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*Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.*

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*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

With the assurance of God's grace, 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. In the waiting room of life, too often we trust in earthly power and authority rather than in your divine authority and power. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts. We turn away from the needs of our neighbor, seeking only self-gratification. God of might, we confess that our focus is on earthly things rather than on your heavenly, divine reign of goodness, grace, and love. Forgive us, help us, turn us, and guide us in our waiting to live lives that bring glory to your name. Amen.**

Children of God, waiting is hard. People throughout history have rebelled, have lost their way, have raised up and worshipped false idols in times of waiting. A righteous branch springs forth; it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, who never gives us, who never holds a grudge, who never rejects, but in love, mercy and grace forgives you all your sins, restores you into right relationship with God, and preserves you in eternal life. In Jesus † your sins are forgiven. Through the Holy Spirit, walk in the newness of life.

**Amen.**

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Arentson family

**"O Come All Ye Faithful"** #283 (vs. 4) during lighting of four candles

### GATHERING SONG: "Here I am to Worship"

Verse 1

Light of the world You stepped down into darkness, Opened my eyes let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You, Hope of a life spent with You

*Chorus*

*So here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down, Here I am to say that You're my God  
And You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy, Altogether wonderful to me*

Verse 2

King of all days, Oh so highly exalted, Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came, To the earth You created, All for love's sake became poor

*Bridge*

*And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross*

*And I'll never know how much it cost to see my sin upon that cross*

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GREETING: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

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: Macah 5:2-5a *From Bethlehem comes a ruler*

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55 **“My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness”** #251 ELW

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10 *I have come to do your will*

GOSPEL: Luke 1:30-45 [46-55] *Blessed are you among women / My soul magnifies the Lord*

Announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.** Conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON / *NOISY OFFERING FOR FOREST CITY LUNCH ACCOUNTS*

SERMON Pastor Zech

HYMN OF THE DAY: **“Love Has Come”** #292

APOSTLES’ CREED pg. 105

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH: *L: We wait upon you Lord!* **C: (sing #262 “Wait for the Lord)**

**Liam** Bartleson

**Karen** Kofron

**Tim** Schmidt

**Hayden** Despenas

**family of John** Monson

**Lucky** Truong

**Michaela** Farus

**Kris** Monson

**Rogene** Westerberg

**John** Holland

**Mercedes**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes**

**Doris** Johnson

**Jill** (Lewison) Nedved

**Missionary Karen** Anderson

SHARING OF THE PEACE: *L: The peace of Christ be with you always.* **C: And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERTORY: **“Hark! The Harald Angels Sing”** #270 (vs. 1&3)

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.**

