



Close to Home | Seeking Sanctuary (Love)
Advent Week 4

Service of the Word
Organ/Piano-Led Worship

December 21 & 22, 2024 | 5:00 pm, 8:30 am, 9:45 am

Welcome to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church.

We're glad you are worshipping God with us!

PASTORAL STAFF

Rob Carlson, Interim Senior Pastor
Lindsey Bina
Peter Harrits
Julie Wright

VISITATION PASTOR

Linda Lund

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday, 5:00 pm and
Sunday, 8:30 & 9:45 am—
Organ/Piano-Led Worship with
Communion served on first and
third weekends.
Sunday, 11:00 am—Band-Led
Worship with Communion.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

Deacon Mark Ertl, Director of
Worship & Music

LARGE PRINT & CHILDREN'S BULLETINS

Large print and children's bulletins
are available from the ushers.

OTHER WORSHIP RESOURCES

A shelf with coloring supplies, books,
fidgets, stuffed animals, and other
activities is located outside the
Sanctuary for all worshipers. If you
don't have time to build your own
bin, pre-assembled activity bags are
available to grab and go.

FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO WORSHIP TOGETHER

"Let the little children come to
me" (Matthew 19:14) Families are
welcome in all worship spaces and
are invited to come and go from the
Sanctuary as needed for care and
service participation. A Supported
Family Worship Space is available in
the chapel.

COVER ART

Design by Hannah Garrity | A
Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



Shepherd of the Valley is a member
congregation of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America

Advent 4—December 21 & 22, 2024

Some liturgy adapted from text by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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Gathering

Please silence your cell phone and use this time to quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship.

Prelude

Word of Welcome

Invocation & Call to Worship

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross,
the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.*

We are seeking—
**deeper faith,
a place to belong,
the feeling that God is here in this room.**

We are seeking—
**joy that overflows,
the movement of the Spirit,
a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.**

We are seeking—
**the freedom to be,
the courage to love,
the conviction to act in the face of injustice.**

We are seeking, but here in this space,
We are found.

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.
God is here. We are found. Amen.

***Bold type = All**

Gathering Song

“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” ELW #242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

The assembly is seated.

Lighting the Advent Candles

God's love is like an open door.

God's love is the streetlight that guides us home.

God's love is a warm bed to fall into.

God's love is a table with room for you.

God's love is a crackling fireplace.

God's love is the sun that streams through the windows.

God's love is the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends, for enemies and partners.

God's love is a home for all.

Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.

May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts.

Amen.

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

Let us pray.

O God, you bless the world each day with the rising and setting of the sun, gifts of your good creation. Enliven each of us to extend your love to all we meet, that all might know the joy of your presence, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Anthem (Sun)

Senior Choir, "We Shall Light a Thousand Candles"—David Rasbach

Word

The assembly stands.

Gospel Acclamation

"Keep Your Lamps"—traditional

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning

The time is drawing nigh.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-55

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,

and holy is his name;

indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones

and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things

and sent the rich away empty.

He has come to the aid of his child Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

Good News for Kids (Sun)

Sermon

The assembly stands.

Hymn of the Day

“Canticle of the Turning” ELW #723

Apostles’ Creed

ELW p. 105

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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, on the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayers

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God who makes home with us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence.

See page 11 for a list of prayer concerns.

At the conclusion of each prayer:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Thanksgiving

Offering

Laura Williams, “Gesu Bambino”—Pietro Yan

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

- Visit sotv.org/give or scan the QR code.
- Text: “SOTV” to 73256.
- Place an offering or giving card in the plate during
- worship or in the black kiosk in the Narthex.



The assembly stands.

Canticle of Thanksgiving

“He Came Down” ELW #253

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 7/8 time. It features a treble and bass clef. The melody is primarily in the treble clef, with accompaniment in the bass clef. There are several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above or below a bracket) in both staves. The lyrics are placed between the staves, with some lines of lyrics corresponding to specific notes in the melody.

Thanksgiving for the Word

ELW p. 220

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

Sending

Blessing

As you leave this service, your service begins:

Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary.

Be brave enough to go home by another way.

In the name of God, our foundation—Creator, Spirit, † Son.

Amen.

Sending Song

“People, Look East” ELW #248

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Leading Worship

Preacher

Pastor Julie Wright

Liturgist

Pastor Peter Harrits (Sun)

Organist/Pianist

Deacon Mark Ertl

Director of Worship & Music

Advent Candle Lighting

5:00 White Family

8:30 Kohlweiss Family

9:45 Vechinski Family

Lectors

8:30 Clay Van De Bogart

9:45 Kris Moyer

Senior Choir (Sun)

Mark Ertl, *director*

Soloist

Laura Williams

Good News for Kids (Sun)

Rose Bentley

Youth Ministry Director

Art Offering

All are invited to draw or color a picture as an offering to God during the sermon.

These pictures may be placed in the offering plate or brought up front during the offering time, along with any financial offerings. These pictures will be displayed next weekend to help make our narthex more colorful!

Join a Volunteer Team

Share your time and talents during worship!

Musicians

mark.ertl@sotv.org

Ushers, Lectors & Communion

Assistants

mark.ertl@sotv.org

Greeters

sam.heiting@sotv.org

A/V Production

omar.reyes@sotv.org

Joys & Concerns

We pray for the ill or injured:

Tricia Blake
Lowell Gemsey
Linda Schneekloth
Todd Haugen
Wally Mahlum
Gary Luebke

We extend our deepest sympathies:

Mike Rush on the death of his
mother, Jean Rush
Sue Knudson on the death of her
daughter, Jamie Zehring

If you need pastoral care:

Call 952.432.6351
Email jill.johnson@sotv.org
Submit a prayer request at the
Welcome Center or sotv.org.

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Year-End Giving

SOTV will be closing **at 3:00 PM on** Tuesday, December 31, 2024. All gifts must be received by the church or postmarked **on or before** December 31, 2024. Any gifts received or postmarked **after** December 31, 2024 will be considered a 2025 donation. Online giving is available until midnight, December 31.

Note our office is closed:

Wednesday, December 25, 2024
Wednesday, January 1, 2025

For current giving information:

Contact Dawn Della Paolera at
952.985.7315 or finance@sotv.org.

JOIN US FOR SERVICES THIS CHRISTMAS EVE

FAMILY SERVICE

10:00 AM

CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

1:00 PM+ +2:30 PM

4:00 PM*+ +5:30 PM

7:00 PM 8:30 PM

*LIVESTREAMING WILL BE AVAILABLE AT 4:00 PM AT SOTV.ORG/LIVESTREAM

+ FAMILY SUPPORTED WORSHIP SPACE STAFFED IN THE CHAPEL AT 1:00, 2:30, 4:00, AND 5:30 PM



WORSHIP

SOTV HAS TWO STYLES OF WORSHIP: ORGAN/PIANO-LED AND BAND-LED.

Each includes an inspiring message, prayer, and great music.

- Children's activity bags Family Supported Worship Space available
- Livestream 9:45 am service at sotv.org/livestream

SOTV.ORG/WORSHIP



LEARN

GROWING IN FAITH THROUGH CURIOSITY.

- Classes and events for preschool, elementary, middle school, high school, and adults.
- Bible studies, book discussions, classes, and more.

SOTV.ORG/LEARN



CONNECT

CONNECTING THROUGH FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE AND OUTREACH.

Find meaningful Christian community through a variety of opportunities.

SOTV.ORG/GROUPS
SOTV.ORG/SERVE



CARE

WE CARE FOR YOU.

We support people in all seasons of life through prayer, pastoral visits, and a variety of support groups.

SOTV.ORG/WE-CARE

Main office: 952.432.6351

Children, Youth, & Family office: 952.432.6385

Office hours: Monday - Thursday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
12650 Johnny Cake Ridge Road, Apple Valley, MN 55124

Welcome Home! Gathered. Loved. Sent.

Worship Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 pm Organ/Piano-led

Sunday: 8:30 & 9:45 AM Organ/Piano-led

Sunday: 11:00 am Band-led

Livestreaming is available.

View this weekend & past services at
sotv.org/livestream.

Connect with us!

Visit the Welcome Center to pick up a News for the Flock catalog and Woven Words stories publication. Join us on any of the following platforms to keep informed about the happenings at SOTV.

 www.sotv.org

 Facebook/SOTVorg

 @shepherdofthevalleyav

 Vimeo.com/SOTV

 Soundcloud.com/shepherd-of-the-valley

 onrealm.org/sotv



Available during worship. Ask an usher for assistance.