Sunday, December 23, Advent 4 – Lessons and Carols

Prelude and Announcements

GATHERING

Confession and Forgiveness

Amid the troubles and fears of this world, let us confess our sin and welcome God's forgiveness, grace, and love.

Silence is kept for reflection

Mary accepted your call to be the mother of Jesus.

Forgive our lack of faith and trust.

Your Son was born in the poverty of a stable.

Forgive our neglect of the poor.

The shepherds left their flocks and went to Bethlehem.

Forgive our selfishness and complacency.

With great joy the angels proclaimed, "Do not fear. For I bring you good news of great joy. Today is born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

In Jesus, who is Savior, Christ, and Lord, our sins are forgiven. May you know the peace which the angels sang from the heavens. Indeed, God's forgiveness is good news of great joy!

Gathering Carol275 Angels, from the Realms of Glory Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who is Savior and Lord, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Canticle of Praise	289 Angles We Have Heard on High
Lighting of the Advent Candle	240, v 4
Prayer of the Day	

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WORD

PSaim 8	printed on back of worship guide
Psalm Prayer	
"For unto you is born a Savior, who	o is Christ, the Lord"
Lesson	Isaiah 12:2-6
Response	283 O Come, All Ye Faithful (refrain only)
Lesson	Matthew 1:18-21
Carol	293 That Boy-Child of Mary

"For unto you is born a Savior, who is **Christ**, the Lord"

Lessonlsaiah 61:1-3, 11

Carol294 In the Bleak Midwinter

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Leader: "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." (Luke 15:7)

All: There is everlasting joy in our hearts because of the birth of our Savior.

The fourth Advent candle is lit.

All: This fourth candle represents joy. Because of Christ we can truthfully sing, "Joy to the World," joy to you and me.

Leader: The Prince of Joy be with you.

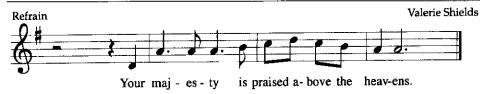
All: And also with you.

Sing Hymn #240, verse 4



"Joy is a fruit of the spiritual life. We have no more right to pray for joy, if we are not doing the things that Jesus said would bring it, than we would have to ask interest in a savings bank in which we had never deposited money. Joy does not happen. It is a flower that springs from roots. . . . The Christian life that is joyless is a discredit to God, and a disgrace to itself." – Maltie Babcock

Psalm 8



1O LORD our Lord,*

how exalted is your name in all the world!

²Out of the mouths of infants and children* your majesty is praised above the heavens. R

³You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,*

to quell the enemy and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,*

the moon and the stars you have set in their courses, 5what is man that you should be mindful of him,*

the son of man that you should seek him out?

6 You have made him but little lower than the angels;*

you adorn him with glory and honor; R

⁷you give him mastery over the works of your hands;* you put all things under his feet:

8all sheep and oxen,*

even the wild beasts of the field,

9the birds of the air, the fish of the sea,*

and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.

¹⁰O LORD our Lord,*

how exalted is your name in all the world! R

This Week at St. Matthew's

MONDAY

7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve candlelight service

TUESDAY 9:00 a.m. – Christmas Day service at Holy Trinity or

10:00 a.m. - Christmas Day service at St. David's

Please join us on Monday at 7:00 p.m. for our Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

St. Matthew's is not having a Christmas Day service this year, however Holy Trinity invites anyone t join them at 9:00 a.m., or St. David's at 10:00 a.m.

The church office will be closed until January 2, 2019.

Your financial support of St. Matthew's is greatly appreciated! To receive a 2018 income tax receipt from the church, all donations must be received, or post marked, by December 31, 2018.

Beat the rush! All Annual Report submissions are due by January 6, however you may submit your reports to the church office anytime before then.

No. 3444L

"For unto you is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord" Lesson	Isaiah 61:1 9
Response 283 O Come, All Ye Faith	ful (refrain only)
Lesson	
Nicene Creed Prayers of Intercession	Page 104
Prayer response"Your	mercy is great."
MEAL	
Offering and Offertory Hymn	288, v 1
Great Thanksgiving	Page 206
Form III	_
The Lord's Prayer Communion	Page 208
Lamb of God	Page 208
Communion Hymn	276 272
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Post-Communion Canticle291 Let Our Gladness H	
Post-Communion Canticle291 Let Our Gladness H Post-Communion Prayer SENDING Blessing	Have No End, v 1
Post-Communion Canticle291 Let Our Gladness & Post-Communion Prayer SENDING Blessing Sending Carol290 Go, Tell In	Have No End, v 1
Post-Communion Canticle291 Let Our Gladness & Post-Communion Prayer SENDING Blessing Sending Carol	Have No End, v 1
Post-Communion Canticle291 Let Our Gladness & Post-Communion Prayer SENDING Blessing Sending Carol290 Go, Tell In	Have No End, v 1
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