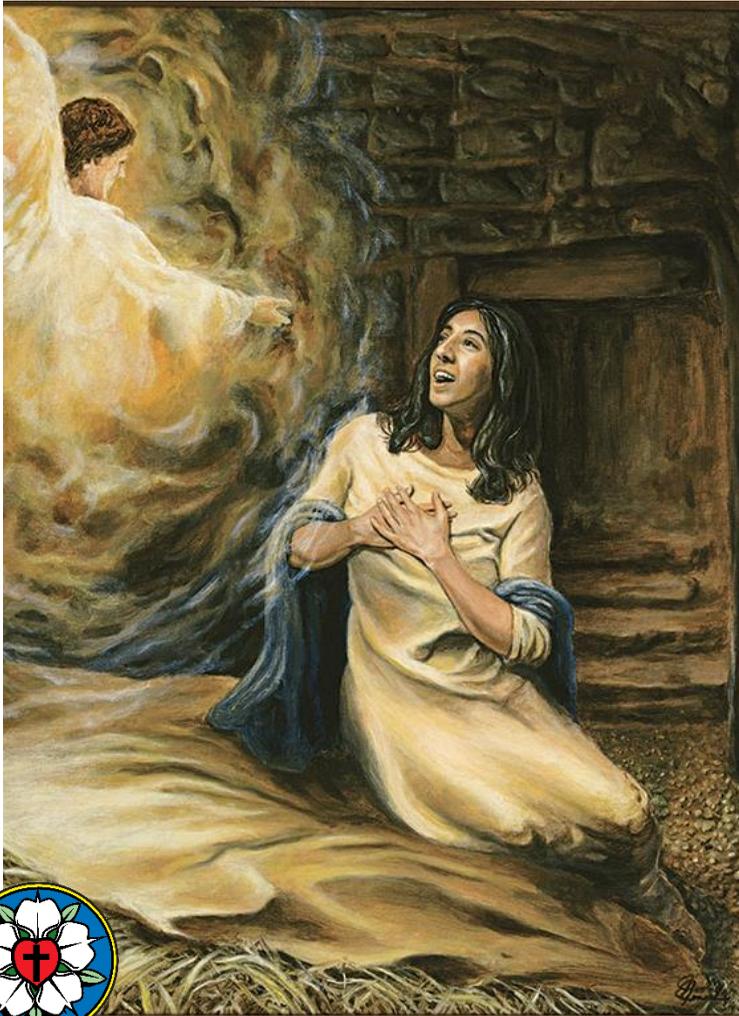


# Service of Advent Lessons & Carols

Fourth Sunday in Advent



## Our Saviour Lutheran Church

Lake Havasu City, Arizona + Evangelical Lutheran Synod

# Fourth Sunday in Advent + December 18, 2022

**Welcome to worship at Our Saviour Lutheran Church!** We are happy and honored to have you with us as we worship the Lord! If you are visiting, take a moment to sign our guest book. If you have any questions ask an usher to assist you. Again, welcome!

**Prayer Upon Entering Church** – O Saviour King, as we contemplate your coming into our world at your first Advent, prepare us to also receive you as you come into our hearts today through your Word, so that we remain ready for your next Advent, when you come to renew all things. Amen.

## The Order of Service

### Prelude & Ringing of the Bells

#### Hymn

“Once in Royal David’s City”

**CW 343**

*VERSES 1 & 2 WILL BE SUNG BY A SOLOIST AND THE CHOIR*

**THE CONGREGATIONS STANDS AND SINGS VERSES 3 & 4**

#### Confession of Sins

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy Child.

But first, let us confess our sins and ask for forgiveness:

**Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

The almighty and merciful Lord has granted us pardon and forgiveness of all our sins, grace for true repentance and amendment of life, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*BE SEATED*

## Nine Lessons & Carols

### First Lesson

**Genesis 3:8–15**

*The Seed of the woman will crush the serpent’s head.*

<sup>8</sup>They heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>The LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup>The man said, “I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.” <sup>11</sup>God said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?” <sup>12</sup>The man said, “The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” <sup>13</sup>The LORD God said to the woman, “What have you

done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”<sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the livestock, and more than every wild animal. You shall crawl on your belly, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will crush your head, and you will crush his heel. (EHV)

## Hymn

“Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord”

CW 315, vv. 1–2, 5

## Second Lesson

Jeremiah 23:5–6

*God will raise up for David a Righteous Branch.*

<sup>5</sup>Listen, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, who will reign wisely as king and establish justice and righteousness on earth. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will dwell securely. This is his name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness. (EHV)

## Hymn

“Behold, a Branch is Growing”

CW 360

THE CONGREGATION SINGS VERSES 1 & 4; Choir Sings Verses 2 & 3

## Third Lesson

Isaiah 35:1–10

*God will prepare a way in the wilderness for His people.*

The wilderness and the dry land will be glad. The desert will rejoice and blossom like a rose. <sup>2</sup>It will blossom abundantly, and there will be great joy and singing. Lebanon’s glory will be given to it, it will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make feeble knees firm. <sup>4</sup>Tell those who have a fearful heart, “Be strong. Do not be afraid. Look! Your God will come with vengeance, with God’s own retribution he will come and save you.” <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be cleared. <sup>6</sup>The lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy. Waters will flow in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. <sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool, and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water. Grass, reeds, and rushes will be in the haunts where the jackals once lay. <sup>8</sup>A highway will be there, a road, and it will be called The Holy Way. The unclean will not walk there. It will be for those who walk in that Way. Wicked fools will not wander onto it. <sup>9</sup>No lion will be there, nor will any ravenous animal go up on it. They will not be found there, but the redeemed will walk there. <sup>10</sup>Then those ransomed by the LORD will return, they will come singing to Zion, and everlasting joy will be on their heads. They will obtain happiness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.” (EHV)

## Hymn

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

(CW 302)

Choir Sings Verses 1–3; **THE CONGREGATION JOINS IN VERSE 4:**

**His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav’n above.**

**His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.**

**So let your praise be sounding for kindness so abounding.**

**Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God’s word!**

## Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 40:1–11

*The LORD promises to send His messenger to point to the coming Messiah*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call out to her. Her warfare really is over. Her guilt is fully paid for. Yes, she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice is calling out: In the wilderness prepare the way for the LORD. In the wasteland make a level highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley will be raised up, and every mountain and hill will be made low. The rugged ground will become level, and the rough places will become a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all flesh together will see it. Yes, the mouth of the Lord has spoken. <sup>6</sup>A voice was saying, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry out?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like a wildflower in the countryside. <sup>7</sup>Grass withers, flowers fade, when the breath of the LORD blows on them. Yes, the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>Grass withers, flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever. <sup>9</sup>Get up on a high mountain, O Zion, you herald of good news. Lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, you herald of good news. Lift it up! Do not be afraid! Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>Look, God the LORD will come with strength, and his arm is ruling for him. Look, his reward is with him. The result of his work is in front of him. <sup>11</sup>Like a shepherd he will care for his flock. With his arm he will gather the lambs. He will lift them up on his lap. He will gently lead the nursing mothers. (EHV)

### Hymn

"Comfort, Comfort All My People"

**CW 312, vv. 1–2**

## Fifth Lesson

Isaiah 7:10–14

*The Lord promises that a son shall be conceived, and called Emmanuel.*

The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, <sup>11</sup>"Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above." <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, neither will I test the LORD." <sup>13</sup>So Isaiah said: "Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also?" <sup>14</sup>Therefore the LORD himself will give you all a sign. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and call his name Immanuel. (EHV)

### Hymn

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

**CW 301**

## Sixth Lesson

Micah 5:2–4

*The One who shall be ruler of Israel will be born in Bethlehem.*

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity. <sup>3</sup>Therefore the LORD will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth. (EHV)

### Hymn

"To Shepherds as They Watched by Night"

**CW 335, vv. 1–2**

## Seventh Lesson

**Zechariah 9:9–12**

*The King comes in humble fashion, but to powerfully rescue His people.*

Rejoice greatly, Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! Look! Your King is coming to you. He is righteous and brings salvation. He is humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup>I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem. The battle bow will be taken away, and he will proclaim peace to the nations. His kingdom will extend from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth. <sup>11</sup>As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you I will release your prisoners from the waterless pit. <sup>12</sup>Return to the stronghold, you prisoners who have hope. This very day I declare that I will restore double to you. (EHV)

### Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates”

**CW 306, vv. 1–2 & 5**

## Eighth Lesson

**Luke 1:26–38**

*An angel announces to Mary she will bear the Savior of the world, by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin pledged in marriage to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.”

<sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled by the statement and was wondering what kind of greeting this could be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, because you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>Listen, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will never end.”

<sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>Listen, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age even though she was called barren, and this is her sixth month. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible for God.”

<sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, “See, I am the Lord’s servant. May it happen to me as you have said.” Then the angel left her. (EHV)

### Hymn

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

**CW 328, vv. 1–3**

## Ninth Lesson

**Matthew 1:18–25**

*The Savior of the world is born, in fulfillment of prophecy and the angelic announcements.*

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. <sup>20</sup>But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you

are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup>All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.” (EHV)

Hymn

“Where Shepherds Lately Knelt”

CW 345

Meditation

Isaiah 7:10–14

Musical Offertory by the Choir

“Redeemer, Come”

### The Prayers

**The Kyrie** “*Lord Have Mercy*” *Hymnal, page 213*

- ♪ Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful and answer me.
- ♪ **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

**Prayer of the Church** *The ancient “O Antiphons”*

Let us pray: O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed of the nations and their Savior, come and save us, O Lord our God.

- ♪ **O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily order all things; come and teach us the way of prudence.

- ♪ **O come, our Wisdom from on high, who ordered all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai, come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

- ♪ **O come, oh, come, our Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai’s height  
In ancient times gave holy law, in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage, come quickly to deliver us.

- ♪ **O come, O Rod of Jesse’s stem. From every foe deliver them  
That trust your mighty pow’r to save: Bring them in victory through the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

♪ **O come,, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home.  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

♪ **O come, O Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by your drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone for uniting all people, come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

♪ **O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind;  
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease, and be yourself the King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel!**

*Special petitions may follow before the Lord's prayer*

### Lord's Prayer

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**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.**

### The Benediction *Hymnal, page 119*

♪ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ + and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

♪ **Amen.**

### Announcements

#### The Closing Hymn

“Hark the Glad Sound! the Savior Comes”

**CW 313**

#### Silent Prayer

#### Postlude



# *Welcome in Jesus' Name!*

We are thankful to have the opportunity to worship with you today! We pray that you will be comforted by Jesus' love and forgiveness through the Word of God. Please sign our guest book. And come again and again!

Restrooms and drinking water are in the hallway off the lobby. Audio amplification devices are available for the asking.

## **This Week at Our Saviour**

Sunday, Dec. 18	9:00 am	Divine Service/Service of Lessons & Carols
	10:30 am	Bible Study/Sunday School
	3:00 pm	Christmas Carol Sing
Wednesday	9:00 am	No Midweek Bible Study thru Advent
	10:30 am	Basic Bible Christianity
Thursday	4:30 pm	Choir Practice
Saturday	6:30 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, Dec. 25	9:00 am	Divine Service with Communion
	10:30 am	No Bible Study/Sunday School

For updates, please check the calendar under the Events tab at [www.havasulutherans.org](http://www.havasulutherans.org)

## **Serving in God's House This Morning**

Elder	Jim Snow
Altar Guild	Judy Baker
Altar Flowers	Open

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week**

Birthdays – None

Anniversaries – None



## **Our Saviour Evangelical Lutheran Church**



(928) 855-8811 + [www.havasulutherans.org](http://www.havasulutherans.org) + ELS / WELS  
3163 Maricopa Ave., Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406

Rev. Timothy Buelow, Pastor; Sara Buelow, Cantor; Leslie Mansfield, Secretary

Nathan Rovey, President; Joseph Osinski, Treasurer; Jim Snow, Elder