



Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 23, 2018

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word.

☞ **Restrooms** are located down the hallway and to the right from the back of church.

☞ **We love families!** Your children are welcome in our service! Thanks for bringing them to hear about Jesus! If you would like, there are children's bulletins with crayons in the back of church and a cry room in the back of the sanctuary.

☞ **Friendship Registers.** They are the red colored books located at the end of each row. We invite everyone to fill them out during the offering.

WORSHIP NOTES

OUR WORSHIP SERIES: Our Lord Jesus is coming, bearing real gifts, profoundly important gifts. He came that first Christmas to win forgiveness and give all the gifts that come with it: hope, peace, joy, love. He is coming again at the end of this world to give the gift of resurrection to eternal life. In the season of Advent, we connect Christ's first coming with his second coming. We rejoice in all the unconditional gifts he gives. Each Sunday during the gathering rite Advent candles are lighted.

THEME OF THE DAY: Love is rarely a gift. Typically, when you love someone, it is because you get something in return. You love your spouse in part because of the support and affection he shows to you. You love your favorite teacher because of what she gives you by making learning enjoyable. You love your dog because he is a loyal companion. In such cases, love is not a gift. It is something that is merited...deserved. Now, if you loved a spouse who always treated you like dirt, loved a teacher who taught you nothing, loved a dog that daily bit you, then your love would be a gift. If you love someone who gives you nothing in return, who makes your existence more difficult, then your love is a gift. You are showing undeserved love, which Scripture calls grace.

Love is rarely a gift. However, with God, his love is always a gift. God the Father looks at humanity and he sees us doing the evil we should not do. Just as bad, he sees us failing to do the good that we ought to do. Do we make God's existence easier? No. Instead, God the Son took on human flesh and suffered and died to make atonement for our sins. Yet, he did so gladly. Why? Love! Love that is undeserved. The gift of love!

Order of Service for THE SEASON OF ADVENT



STAND

INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

M: When God created the world, he made the crown of his creation—the human race—in his image. Perfect people lived in a perfect world in a perfect relationship with God.

C: **But mankind rebelled against God, bringing sin into the world and death to all. God declared the wages of sin to be death. We too are guilty, and we confess our sinful thoughts, words, and actions.**

M: However, God—who is Love—did not want to be separated from his children forever. He promised a Savior who would bear the punishment for sin, defeat the devil, and break the bonds of death.

Genesis 1:26; Romans 6:23

C:

O, come, O, come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Un-til the Son of God ap-pear. Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

M: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son. Jesus, our Savior, has paid the ransom for your debt; your sins are forgiven. In view of God's mercy, today we light the love candle. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.

C: **This is *love*: not that we loved God, but that he *loved* us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

Galatians 4:4,5; 1 John 4:9;10

C:

O, come, my Love, who gives to me Grace un - de - served, un -
end - ing, free. Help me to share this gift most rare
That all, God's hope and peace, may share. Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em-man - u - el Shall come to you. O Is - ra - el!

M: In the love of God we go to the world—to our friends, relatives, acquaintances and neighbors. We regard no one from a worldly point of view. If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

C: **God has committed to us the ministry of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. Jesus, who had no sin, became sin for us; in him we have become the righteousness of God.**

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

C:

Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

✠ The Word ✠

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, 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.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet foretold that God's love for his people would be demonstrated by a special birth that would take place in the little town of Bethlehem. The one who would be born was God's gift of love to us.

² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times. "

³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor gives birth
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

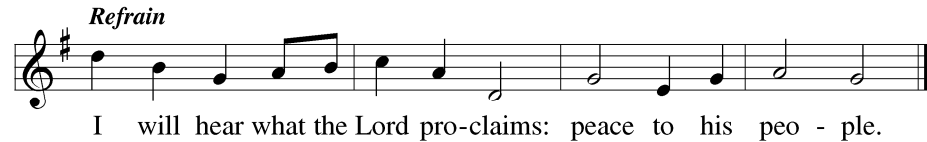
⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he will be their peace.
When the Assyrian invades our land
and marches through our fortresses,
we will raise against him seven shepherds,
even eight leaders of men.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 85

Christian Worship page 97



You showed favor to your land, O LORD;*
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

You forgave the iniquity of your people*
and covered all their sins.

Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,*
and grant us your salvation.

Refrain

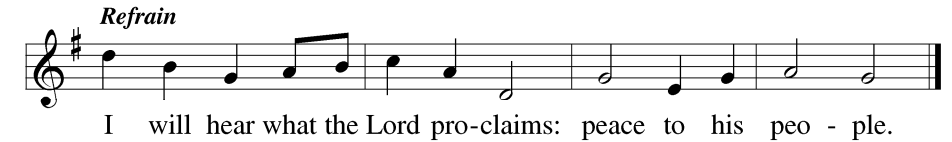
I will listen to what God the LORD will say;*
he promises peace to his people, his saints.

Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell in our land.

Psalm continues on next page

Love and faithfulness meet together;*
righteousness and peace kiss each other.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.



SECOND LESSON

Revelation 12:1-6

God lets us see Christmas Eve from his perspective. God did not see a peaceful manger on a silent night. God saw a monster, the devil, wanting to devour his son the moment he was born. Why would God send his son, knowing it would be so dangerous? Because of his great love for you.

¹A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. ²She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. ³Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.

⁴His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born. ⁵She gave birth to a son, a male child, who “will rule all the nations with an iron scepter”¹. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

⁶The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

¹ A quotation from Psalm 2:9

VERSE OF THE DAY

Psalm 90:14

Each day fill us with your steadfast love, that we may sing for joy and be glad through all our days. Alleluia!

STAND

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

The Virgin Mary sings her song, praising the Lord for the love he showed to her, to the nation of Israel, and to the world.

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!" ⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has been mindful
of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
even as he said to our fathers."

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
Christian Worship #24

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came, His
2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree: A
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head; "To
4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born In

wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame; "All
bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be. Your
me be as it pleas - es God," she said. "My
Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn, And

hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y, "Most
Son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told, Most
soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name." Most
Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say, "Most

high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!
high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

SERMON

Revelation 12:1-6

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

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

STAND

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

M: We pray in your name, Lord, and as you taught:

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be
done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and
forever. Amen.

PRAYER

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so
hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and
comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting
life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
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.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED



CLOSING HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Christian Worship #65

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -

still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep And
gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The
won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To
scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin And

dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.
an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -
No ear may hear his com - ing, But
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The

ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of
claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To
in this world of sin Where meek souls will Re -
great glad ti - dings tell; Oh, come to us, A -

all the years Are met in thee to - night.
God the King And peace to thee the earth.
ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.
bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Liturgist
Preacher
Organist

Pastor Brian Adams
Pastor Jacob Hoff
Mrs. Sharon Larsen



ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT SUNDAY SERIES: If you give someone a gift only if they meet certain qualifications, that is not a gift. There is one who is coming at Christmas, bearing real gifts, profoundly important gifts. Jesus came that first Christmas to win forgiveness and give all the gifts that come with it: **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.** He is coming again at the end of this world to give you the gift of resurrection to eternal life. In the season of Advent, we connect Christ's first coming with his second coming. We rejoice in the unconditional gifts he gives. Let us prepare our hearts, and the hearts of others, to meet him. Please join us during the Sundays of Advent this year as we focus on these themes:

- Advent 1 – December 2-3: **“The Gift of Hope”**
- Advent 2 – December 9-10: **“The Gift of Peace”**
- Advent 3 – December 16-17: **“The Gift of Joy”**
- Advent 4 – December 23: **“The Gift of Love.”**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: This Christmas season there will be many opportunities for worship! Please join us!

- Advent 4 – Sunday, December 23rd at 8:00 and 10:00 AM
- Children’s Christmas Service – Sunday, December 23rd at 4:30 PM
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Monday, December 24th at 6:30 PM
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – Monday, December 24th at 10:00 PM
- Christmas Morning Service – Tuesday, December 25th at 10:00 AM
- 1st Sunday After Christmas – Sunday, December 30th at 8:00 and 10:30 AM
- New Year’s Eve Service – Monday, December 31st at 6:30 PM

NO CLASSES: There will be no Adult Bible Class, Sunday School or Public School Confirmation classes this Sunday, December 23rd or Sunday, December 30th. We will resume all classes on Sunday, January 6th.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE: Everyone is invited to our Children's Christmas Worship Service this afternoon at 4:30 PM. Come and enjoy our St. Paul's students joyously proclaim the birth of our Savior!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE: This year we will present our Christmas Eve Candlelight service at both 6:30 PM and 10:00 PM.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ENRICHMENT CENTER: The Early Childhood Enrichment Center is now open for enrollment for the 2019-2020 school year. Children must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1, 2019. Interested families may contact Mrs. Patti Krizan and Mrs. Nancy Willms at (414) 421-1833. Registrations are taken on a first come, first served basis. Enrollment opens to the community after January 15, 2019.

GREETERS: Thank you to everyone who greeted before worship services this year! Please let Cory in the office know if you no longer wish to greet, otherwise you will be placed on the schedule for the new year. If you have not greeted before, please consider signing up to greet a couple times this year. We need additional greeters for all services. If you are interested in signing up to greet, please place your completed form in the Greeter bin on the narthex counter by the end of December.

SAVE THE DATE: Next year's Vacation Bible Camp will be held July 8-12, 2019. Registration will take place later in spring.

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE: The Refreshment Committee is in need of 1 or 2 people to clean up after the second service. Please consider offering your talents for one Sunday per month for 15-20 minutes. The more volunteers we get, the less often you will be needed. Duties include: emptying and washing out the coffee makers, cleaning the serving trays and table, putting away the coffee condiments and taking out the garbage. If you are willing to lend a helping hand or you have additional questions, please contact Tony Tripoli 414-232-5817.

MARY AND MARTHA SOCIETY: Thank-you to everyone who donated items for new mothers and newborn babies on behalf of Lutherans for Life – a ministry that unites us in *"...protecting a child's right to live and be loved."* The items for new mothers have already been distributed at the Lutherans for Life Christmas Party. But we continue to collect items for newborn babies over the next month.

Items Needed for Newborns:

- Bottles (like the old-fashioned kind)
- Baby Bath Soap / Baby Lotion
- Pacifiers
- Socks
- Mittens
- Onesies (up to 12-18 months)
- Sleepers
- Stuffed Animals
- Hand-made (crocheted or knit) blankets

This list of items will be collected now through January 13-14, 2019

A bin is set up in the church narthex to collect these items. (Mary and Martha members will sort through and distribute these items.) We appreciate ANY help you can give in helping us bring the Good News of LIFE – to new mothers and their newborn babies – with the Good News of JESUS. As Jesus says, *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for Me."* Matthew 25:40 THANK-YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

WLHS INSTALLATION SERVICE: A special installation celebration service for new WLHS staff will be held on Sunday, January 13, at 3:00 p.m. at Pilgrim Ev. Lutheran Church (W156 N5436 Bette Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051). Academic Dean Mr. Jim Brandt and Mission Advancement Chief Development Officer Mr. John Sebald will be installed. Everyone is invited to attend.

VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS FOR THIS WEEK (December 23)

8:00 AM – Larry & Lucille Ellenberger

10:30 AM – Carl & Carolyn Streeter

GREETERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE (December 24)

6:30 PM – Dave & Cindy Wirtz; Brandon, Austin & Ian

10:00 PM – Jeff & Chris Romeis; Nolan



GREETERS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY (December 25)

10:00 AM – Donn & Denise Johnson

GREETERS FOR NEXT WEEK (December 30)

8:00 AM – {sign up to be a greeter!}

10:30 AM – Tony & Mary Tripoli

GREETERS FOR NEW YEARS EVE (December 31)

6:30 PM – Andy & Chris Backus

USHERS FOR DECEMBER

8:00 AM – TEAM #4 – Pete Kosovich, Craig Gebert, Matt Gebert, Gordy Lesser

10:30 AM – TEAM #8 – Walter Falkowski, Terry Ganyo, Jacob Marciniak, Fred Socha

6:30 PM – TEAM #9 – Terry Plant, John Kiesow

USHERS FOR CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS SERVICE (December 23)

4:30 PM – TEAM #5 – Mark Klein, Chris Klein, Gary Eickhorst, Dan Mertz, Brett Abramowski

TEAM #6 – Nick Derouin, Mark Derouin, Reed Goede, Bob Duchesneau

USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE (December 24)

6:30 PM – TEAM #9 – Terry Plant, John Kiesow

10:00 PM – TEAM #7 – David Brightsman, Kyle Brightsman, Luke Raduenz, Randy Raduenz

USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY (December 25)

10:00 AM – TEAM #3 – Donn Johnson, John Migacz, Todd Grunze, Frank Krajewski

USHERS FOR NEW YEARS EVE (December 31)

6:30 PM – TEAM #7 - David Brightsman, Kyle Brightsman, Luke Raduenz, Randy Raduenz

ALTAR GUILD

Dec 19-25 – TEAM #1 – Sherry Kosovich, Beverly Garves

Dec 26-Jan 2 – TEAM #1 – Sherry Kosovich, Beverly Garves

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

Dec 23: Set-up – Don & Marge Gebert, Clean-up – Larry & Marion Klug

Dec 30: Set-up – Jerry & Alyce Lehtinen, Clean-up – Tony Tripoli

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 23

Worship Service8:00 AM

NO Adult Bible Class/Sunday School/PSCIC

Worship Service10:30 AM

Children’s Christmas Service 4:30 PM

Monday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship..... 6:30 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship..... 10:00 PM

Tuesday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship..... 10:00 AM

Sunday, December 30

Worship Service8:00 AM

NO Adult Bible Class/Sunday School/PSCIC

Worship Service10:30 AM