

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 22, 2024

WELCOME!

We love that you are here today! Our service is printed for you in this worship folder. Or you can follow the projections on the front wall.

Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you exit the worship space, as well as across the hall as you enter into the school.

Quiet room Parents may use the library in the back of this worship space which still enables you to hear/see the service.

A **Connection Card** and pen are found in the pocket of the chair in front of you. Time will be provided to fill it out during the service. You may drop it in the wicker basket along the wall after the service.

THEME: THE KING IS COMING! BEHOLD!

Today is the fourth Sunday of the season we call Advent. The word Advent means “coming.” Advent builds our anticipation for the coming of Christ – first, when He came as a baby in Bethlehem; secondly, the way He comes to us in Word and Sacrament right now; thirdly, when He will come visibly on the Last Day. The themes of the four Sundays of Advent are as follows:

Watch!

Prepare!

Rejoice!

Behold!

PLEASE RESPECT OUR PRACTICE OF “CLOSE COMMUNION”

Christ says the Sacrament is an expression of unity (1 Co 10:16-17). We WANT to be unified with you on the basis of Christ and His doctrine! Honesty compels us to ask you to WAIT before communing with us: 1) until you’ve had a chance to find out what we teach; 2) until you make your unity with us evident by membership at Peace. Regular classes are conducted for this purpose (837-5346). WELS & ELS guests please sign a Connection Card and give it to an usher before communing. Thank you.

WHAT’S THE MEANING OF THE ADVENT WREATH?

The arrangement of four blue candles and one white candle in the front of the worship space is simply a tool for counting off the four Sundays of Advent. On Christmas Eve/Day the white candle is lit. It is a way to build anticipation for the celebration of Christ’s birth.

WORSHIP TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve 9:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

Christmas Candlelight 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day 9:00 a.m. (with communion)

WHAT ABOUT NEXT WEEKEND?

December 29 - Normal service times: 8:00 & 10:30
(no Sunday School)

December 30 - Monday: 6:30

SPECIAL PRESENTATION BETWEEN SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY

William Woodington, author of “Whatever Is True – A Christian View of Anxiety” will speak to us via Zoom between services on December 29. We will begin around 9:20 a.m.

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presider Rev. Luke C. Werre
Sermon Professor Souksamay Phetsanghane
Accompanist Mrs. Lisa Schoenherr
Projection Slides Kayla Frank

ADVENT – DIVINE SERVICE

GATHERING RITE¹²

The congregation will begin singing the refrain with the vocalist and continue repeating the refrain. The vocalist will sing the verses.

Gently
mp James J. Chepponis

Come, come Em - man - u - el.
Come, Em - man - u - el.

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May the ruler of Israel **R**

He will shepherd his flock and **R**

Let us turn to the Lord and **R**

By the will of God he has **R**

For the son of Mary will **R**

Trust the word of the Lord and **R**

REETING

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ ☩, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

¹ The gathering rite gently eases us into the service as with a unified voice we turn our thoughts to the coming of Christ.

² Each Sunday the verses for this gathering rite reflect the Scripture readings for that Sunday.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Congregation sings refrain: Come, come Emmanuel...

Lord, have mercy upon us and R

Christ, have mercy upon us and R

Lord, have mercy upon us and R

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Congregation sings refrain one last time.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. As we behold you in Word and Sacrament, take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

²But 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.
³Therefore 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.
⁴He 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.
⁵This one will be their peace.


The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM


Psalm 14*

Refrain



Come, Lord Je - sus, come. Come, Lord Je - sus,
 come. Re - store your peo-ple and bless them.

Psalm Tone



The fool says in his heart, "There is no God."
 They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

The LORD looks down from heaven on the sons of men
 to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God.

All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt;
there is no one who does good, not even one.

Refrain

Will evildoers never learn—
those who devour my people and do not call on the LORD?

You evildoers frustrate the plans of the poor,
but the LORD is their refuge.

Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!
When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, let Israel rejoice and be glad!

**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.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said:

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but you prepared a body for me.

⁶You were not pleased
with burnt offerings and sin offerings.

⁷Then I said, “Here I am.
I have come to do your will, God.

In the scroll of the book it is written about me.”

⁸First he said:

Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law,
both burnt offerings and sin offerings,

* Previous page: Especially the last verse of the psalm (Oh, that salvation for Israel would come out of Zion!) expresses the eager anticipation of the Old Testament believer for the Messiah to come. It also expresses our earnest desire for Christ to return and rescue us from this bleak world.

you did not desire,
and you were not pleased with them.

⁹Then he said:

Here I am.

I have come to do your will.

He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Refrain



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone



Come to us, Em - man - u - el; come and set your peo - ple free.

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GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-55

³⁹In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

⁴⁶Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

⁴⁸because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.³

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY

When the King Shall Come Again | CW 307

³ This is called the "Song of Mary." We use this song in our liturgies, especially "Evening Prayer."

“Why Shepherds?”

Please stand when presider indicates

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.**

Please be seated

MUSICAL OFFERING

A musical offering follows—for meditating on the sermon and signing Connection Cards.

Offering plates are by the doors as you go out.

⁴ Our guest preacher is Professor Souksamay Phetsanghane (Pastor Souk). He teaches languages at Luther Preparatory School in Watertown. LPS is a WELS owned & operated boarding school with the specific purpose of preparing students to study for the ministry.

Please stand when presider indicates

ADVENT PRAYER

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Special prayers...

Now hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION⁵

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is my ☩ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen

⁵ The minister makes the sign of the cross to mark the word "is." The bread and wine do not merely represent Christ's body and blood. With the bread and wine Christ is giving us His actual body and blood from heaven.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

Please be seated

DISTRIBUTION

Please respect our practice of "Close Communion." For explanation, please see the inside cover of this worship folder. Thank you.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You | CW 324

Please stand when the presider indicates

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in the true faith into life everlasting. Your sins are forgiven. The peace of God is with you.

Amen.

PRAYER

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

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.

Amen.

Please be seated

CLOSING HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes | CW 313



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt.

Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

There is no Bible study or Sunday School today.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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