

Fourth Sunday in Advent



A Real Christmas Lifts Up the Lowly

Welcome! We are so happy you have come to worship today! Someone has described worship as "a joyful dialogue with God." God speaks to us in his Word, and we speak to him in praise and prayer. May God richly bless you through this "joyful dialogue" today!

Restrooms – The restrooms are located straight ahead as you enter the building. You will also find restrooms in the lower level gathering space at the end of the classrooms on the right side before the exit doors.

Parent's Room – The sound of children in the house of the Lord is music to our ears! However there is also a parent room to the right just before you enter the sanctuary if your little one needs a moment. It is accessed as you exit the sanctuary, on the left, next to the seats reserved for families with small children.

Assistance Getting Around – There is a walker and a wheelchair available in the fellowship hall. Anyone who needs them is welcome to use them. Please speak to an usher if you need help accessing them.

Offering Message – An offering will be gathered in the service today. These offerings support the Gospel ministry of Lord of Love locally, and also the global mission of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Visitors need not feel obligated to give, but certainly may if you wish.

Holy Communion is celebrated today. Mindful of the Scriptural teaching concerning church fellowship, we practice close (or closed) communion. Communicant members of this congregation, or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod), are encouraged to commune this morning. Guests are asked to speak with our pastor, before the service, if they wish to commune.

Explanation of the theme of the day: By this time of the holiday season, people are often weighted down. They feel guilty about presents that are not perfect, or parties that did not go as planned, or year-end projects that did not get completed. To top it all off, now is when it dawns on people how little attention they have given to the spiritual preparation Advent invites.

If that is how we feel, perhaps the frenzy of December has done us a favor. We have been stretched to our limits. We have been made painfully aware of our shortcomings. We have been humbled. Perfect! For being made aware of our weakness does not disqualify us from God's care. It does the opposite. It is what prepares us for the work he does best. He is a God who lifts up the lowly.

Lord of Love Lutheran Church

December 22, 2024

DIVINE SERVICE II

OPENING HYMN (CW 1)

The Advent of Our King



Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-76, alt.

Tune: ST. THOMAS (SM) Aaron Williams, 1731-76.

STAND

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION

- M: 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.
- C: 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.

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in 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.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY Kyrie

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

- **M:** Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.
- C: Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

- **M:** We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.
- **C:** We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.
- M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.
- C: We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.
- M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.
- C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Four Advent candles are lit.



THE WORD

SALUTATION

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

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.

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5

² 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.
³ 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.
⁴ 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.
⁵ This one will be their peace.

PSALM OF THE DAY





You showed favor to your <u>land</u>, O LORD;* you restored the fortunes of <u>Ja</u>cob.

You forgave the iniquity of your <u>people</u>* and covered <u>all</u> their sins.

Show us your unfailing <u>love</u>, O LORD,* and grant us your salvation.

Refrain

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

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

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

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son* and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning,* is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

⁵ Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said: Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but you prepared a body for me. ⁶ You were not pleased with burnt offerings and sin offerings. ⁷ Then I said, "Here I am. I have come to do your will, God. In the scroll of the book it is written about me." ⁸ First he said: Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law, both burnt offerings and sin offerings, you did not desire, and you were not pleased with them. ⁹ Then he said: Here I am. I have come to do your will. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY (CW 274)

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord (p. 10)

SERMON

Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰ She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me?⁴⁴ In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!" ⁴⁶ Then Mary said, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones. He has lifted up the lowly. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, ⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever."

Great Things...FOR ME!

10 1 My soul now mag ni fies the Lord; 2 Hence - forth shall ple blest. peo call me 3 His is all who mer - cy on fear. 4 He brings down from their rul ers seat 5 He helped Is his serv ant ra el, _ _ 0 d. God My spir it shall in re joice. he For great things has done for me. Who trust him from in age to age. And rais those of low de - es gree. memb - 'ring Re his e ter nal grace, _ -. 0 My did hum - ble state he re gard, The might - y God is now my guest; His arm of strength all is near; to He fills with the hun souls meat; gry old did As from of fore - tell he . Ex alt ing cious choice. -me by gra The Ho ly One has set me free. The proud he ters. though they scat rage. The rich de in pov _ part er ty. То all A bra ham and his race. -6 So praise with me the Holy One, Who comes in all humility. To our Redeemer, God's own Son,

Be glory in eternity!

Text: Hermann Bonnus, c. 1504–48; tr. John T. Mueller, 1885–1967, alt. Tune: ANGELUS (LM) Georg Joseph, 17th century, adapt.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

GATHERING OF THANK-OFFERING

Please sign and pass the Friendship Register during the collection of the offering. Thank you!

RITE OF CONFIRMATION (10:30 a.m.)

Michelle Stachowiak becomes a member of Lord of Love this morning by the rite of Confirmation.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Mighty God, you have done great things for us, looking upon our humble estate and exalting us to be your children for Jesus' sake. Preserve us by your Holy Word, that we would properly fear your name and rejoice in it all our days. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, our God, Bethlehem was too small to be among the clans of Judah, yet from it came forth the King of kings. Remember the congregations of your people where numbers are small and resources are scarce. Provide for their needs, and remind them that the Lord dwells among them in his Means of Grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, you are the Creator of all life. Have mercy on those women who are unable to conceive or who suffer the heartbreak of miscarriage. Be their rock against despair, provide them consolation and purpose in your Son, and restore them to exult in your salvation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

O Lord, our God, uphold all who suffer in mind or body. Especially today do we remember all those impacted by the shooting this week at Abundant Life Christian School in Madison. Give them the comfort of Christ, their Immanuel, who is with them in their trials. Grant them health and healing in accord with your perfect will. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

Almighty God, we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ on the cross. Prepare the hearts of all who commune this day with penitence and trust in your promises, and so make us holy with your Son's body and blood. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving Jesus' advent in the flesh, we may always confess him and remain watchful for his advent in glory at the Last Day; for you live and reign, ever one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

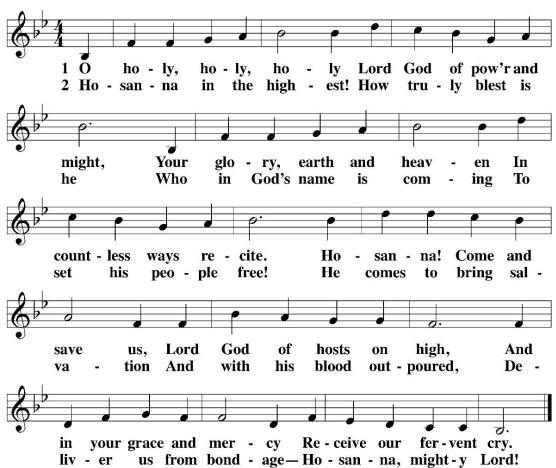
M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who comes with his Father to make his home in human hearts, working repentance and faith by his Spirit until he comes again.

Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sanctus

Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us. By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will. By his innocent death, he overcame hell. By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Matthew 26:26-28 1 Corinthians 11:24,25

Matthew 6:9-13

M: 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."

- **M:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

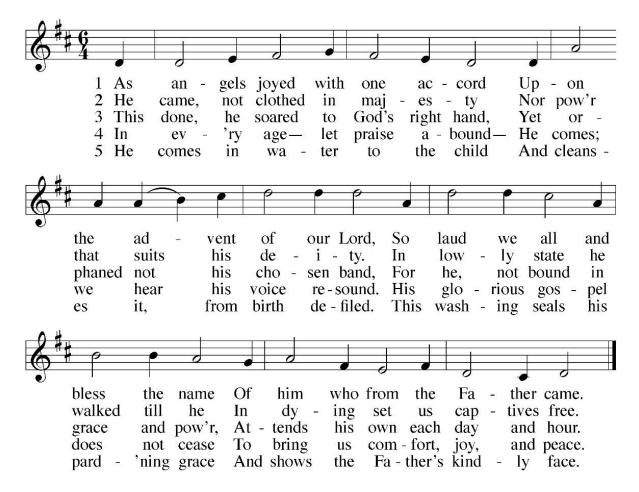
John 1:29



BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMN (CW 5)



- 6 He comes to us in bread and wine To give himself—and gifts divine. Oh, praise him for this sacrament, Redeeming love's great testament!
- 7 Lift up your heads! All grief and pain Shall vanish when he comes again.Where we shall see him face to face, There joy alone shall have a place.

Text: Werner H. Franzmann, 1905–96, abr., alt. © 1993 Werner H. Franzmann. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin Melody, 15th century, adapt. **DISTRIBUTION HYMN** (CW 28)



I with joy may see your face,

Freely ransomed by your grace.

Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (77 77) Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–59, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis Tune: FRUET EUCH, IHR LIEBEN CHRISTEN 10 Lord. now let your ant De - part in serv peace. 2 All glo - rv glo - ry the Fa ther, All to to For as - sured: I have seen vour prom ised In -glo - ry the Son, All to the Spir it, For -car-nate, sav - ing Word-A Light that will en - light en ev - er three the be - gin - ning, in one; For as in gloom where All Gen - tiles dwell; The bril - liant, crown - ing now, shall be, God's tri - une name re -Is ev - er Of those in glo Is el! ry ra Through all e ing sound ter ni ty. --

- M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

Numbers 6:24-26

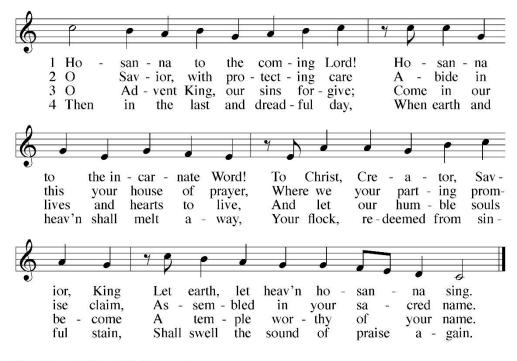
BLESSING

M: 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.

CLOSING HYMN (CW 21)

Hosanna to the Coming Lord



Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, abr., alt. Tune: VOM HIMMEL HOCH (LM) Schumann, Geistliche lieder auffs new gebessert, Leipzig, 1539.

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Personal Prayers for Worship

Before Communion:

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the tree. This wine is your blood, which purifies me from all guilt. At your invitation, I come rejoicing. Receive me, my Savior.

After Communion:

Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for nourishing me in this sacrament with your body and blood. You have given me forgiveness, life, and salvation. Let me always remain in you as a branch remains in the vine. Send me out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory.

O living Bread from heaven, how richly you have fed your guest! The gifts you now have given have filled my heart with joy and rest. Lord, grant me that thus strengthened with heavenly food, while here my course on earth is lengthened, I serve with holy fear. And when you call my spirit to leave this world below, I enter through your merit where joys unmingled flow.

Gluten Free communion wafers: Gluten free communion wafers are available each Sunday during the Lord's Supper. They are placed on the baptismal font at the start of communion. If you would prefer this wafer, please pick it up as you approach the altar

Weekly Bible Studies

<u>Sunday 9:15 am:</u> Exodus, sanctuary <u>Tuesday 9:00 am:</u> The Gospel of John, *lower level* <u>Wednesday 6:30 pm:</u> Revelation, *lower level* <u>Friday 6:00 am:</u> Breakfast 6:00, Bible study 6:45 | The Book of Esther DeForest Family Restaurant (505 W. North Street, DeForest)

Sunday December 22: Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:30 am with Holy Communion 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Teen Class

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Organist: Sharon Freund
- Councilman: 8:00: Shane Strong, 10:30: Phil Boll
- Ushers 8:00: Steve and Sef Fox
- Ushers 10:30: The Heath Family
- Counters: Kim Bauer and Wayne Kaalberg
- Altar Guild: Colleen Biwer
- A/V & Recording: Jen Olson
- Refreshments: Sharon Freund

Sunday December 29: First Sunday after Christmas

Worship Service: 8:00 & 10:30 am with Holy Communion 9:15 am: Adult Bible Study, Sunday School and Teen Class

- Pastor Joel Jenswold
- Organist: Jennifer Boll
- Councilman: 8:00: Mike Wilson, 10:30: Mitch Myhre
- Ushers 8:00: Dave and Ben Olson
- Ushers 10:30: Greg Zeman and TBD
- Counters: Sharon Kalscheuer and Donna Cotter
- Altar Guild: Colleen Biwer
- A/V & Recording: Julie Doyle
- Refreshments: Kristin Vomhof

Happy Birthday We wish God's blessings to Kathy Zech (12/27) as she celebrates her birthdays this week.

Anniversary We wish God's blessings to Roz and Katie Craney (12/27) as they celebrate their anniversary this week.

<u>In Our Prayers</u> Roger LaGrange, Peter Leege, Peg Schroeder, John Schueman, and Steve Tobison, who are experiencing difficulties.

A special prayer for all our men & women who are serving in the Armed Forces. Among them are Carter Chavez (grandson of John & Sherry Hill), and Shannon Garrett.

COMING UP AT LORD OF LOVE

<u>December 24:</u> Christmas Eve Worship Service | 6:30 pm <u>December 25:</u> Christmas Day Worship Service | 9:00 am <u>December 31:</u> New Year's Eve Worship Service | 4:00 pm

Seeking Musicians for Our Christmas Eve Worship Service

If there are members (any ages) that would like to participate in the pre or post service music on Christmas Eve, please reach out to Kristin Huebner. Musical selections would be of a religious nature (not secular) and for children, we ask that their current piano, band, or vocal teacher be able to assist in the preparation of their choice. Kristin can be reached at 608-217-5109 (text or voice) and kmhueb@gmail.com

Christmas Poinsettia Donations

The altar guild is asking for donations of poinsettias (or funds to purchase on your behalf) this year to decorate for our Christmas services. If you would like to donate a poinsettia, simply purchase one (in any color) and bring it to church. The plants can be brought to church anytime during the month until December 23, and can be taken home after the Christmas Day worship. The altar guild will arrange and maintain the poinsettias. Any donations need to be received in the church office by December 15th Please use the small white labeled envelope found in the office, and can be placed in the collection basket on the counter.

Please make note of these weekly schedule changes during the Month of December

- No Quilting December 23 or December 30
- No Tuesday Morning Bible Study December 24 or December 31



"I rejoiced with those who said to me, Let us go to the house of the LORD."" Psalm 122:1



Today's 8:00 service will be recorded including the Service of the Sacrament. Individuals taking communion will not be visible in the recording.