



The virgin will conceive and give birth to
a SON, and will call him IMMANUEL
(Is. 7:14).



Messiah
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
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December 24, 2023

Advent 4

Good morning and welcome to our visitors! We appreciate your joining our worship family this morning, and we invite you to sign our guest book. If you would like more information about our church, please contact the pastor at 414-427-9337.

Choir...8:00 A.M.

Sunday family worship...9:00 A.M.

Sunday school and Bible class follow the service

Today's Worship

"The Word became flesh" (Jn. 1:14).

Greeting and prayer:

Opening hymn 385: *From East to West*

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

C: Amen.

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful by nature. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*



GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST *Gloria in Excelsis*



Prayer of the Day

P: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that we may experience the peace of knowing all things are possible with You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lighting of the Advent candle (357:6)

*O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing night;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*



Old Testament lesson: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

“Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies.

‘Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

SING TO THE LORD

Antiphon



Psalm Tone



Sing to the LORD, bless His name;*
Proclaim the good news of His salvation
from day to day.

Declare His glory among the nations,*
His wonders among all peoples.

Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!*
Tremble before Him, all the earth.

Antiphon

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;*
Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;

Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it.*
Then all the trees of the woods will
rejoice before the LORD.

For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth.*
He shall judge the world with righteousness,
And the peoples with His truth.

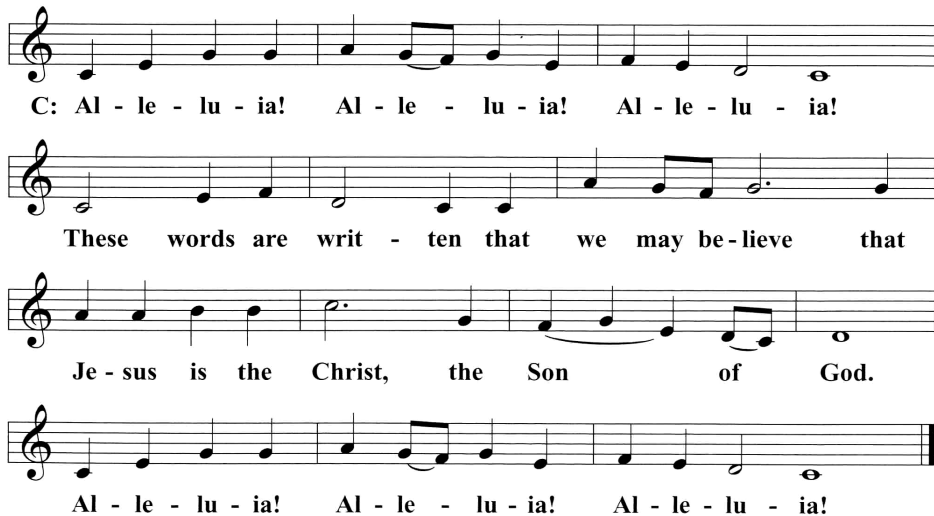
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Antiphon

Epistle lesson: Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

P: Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it. Alleluia.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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.

Hymn: *O Come, All You Unfaithful* (p. 9)

Sermon: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God."

And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Not a Problem!

- I. For God is merciful.
 - II. For God becomes man.
 - III. For God rules forever.
 - IV. For God's Word works faith.
-



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -

new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me

not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly

Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of

Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Offering

Hymn 338:1: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.*



Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Plain type.

Cong: **Underlined, boldface type.**

Dear Lord God, whose love comes to us in the person of Jesus on Christmas: **We can never grow tired of praising you for the mercy you have shown to the sinful world in sending your Son to save us from the punishment we deserve.** In humility, he chose not to fully use his power and glory in order to be our substitute in keeping the Law. Yet even as an infant, he was true God. **The mystery of the Incarnation, God becoming man, is beyond our comprehension, yet we receive it by faith as Mary did.**

Bless our celebration today and tomorrow with an even greater understanding and appreciation of your saving will for us in Christ. **May we see Jesus not only as the Baby of Bethlehem, but as the Lamb of God upon whom you laid the sin of the entire world.**

Thank you for this time with one another to share our joy and sing Your praises. **We thank you for family and friends.** Keep us safe in all our travels. **Preserve us from bad weather and unforeseen problems along the way.**

We pray for those who are not able to be with us because of illness or the frailties of age. **Assure them that you are always with them.** Give your healing and help to all who are weighed down with the difficulties of life. **May the joy of Jesus' birth lift their spirits and give them true hope.** Use us as your hands to reach out in love to all those around us. Give us peace in the present and comfort for all our tomorrows, confident that nothing is impossible for you. **In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Hymn 384: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

BASIC LEAD

O COME, ALL YOU UNFAITHFUL

(Is. 1:18; Is. 42:1-3; Is. 55:1-3; Mt. 1:21; Mt. 11:28-30; Mt. 12:18-20; Rom. 5:8; Rev. 5:12)

Music and words by Lisa Clow and Bob Kauffman

♩ = 56

VERSE

1. O come, all you un-faith-ful. Come, weak and un-sta-ble.
 come, bar-ren and wait-ing ones, wear-y of pray-ing.
 come, bit-ter and bro-ken. Come, with fears un-spo-ken.
 come, guil-ty and hid-ing ones, there is no need to
 come, though you have noth-ing. Come, he is the of-fering.

6 G² D/F# Em⁷ 1.3.

Come, know you are not a lone. 2. O
 Come, see what your God has done.
 Come, taste of His per-fect love. 4. O
 Come, see what your God has done.
 Come, see what our God has done.

10 2.4.5. A^{SUS} G² **CHORUS** Bm⁷

Christ is born, Christ is born. Christ is

15 Em⁷ A^{SUS} A D **TURN** D^{SUS}

born for you. fine vs 5

19 D D^{SUS} D.S. CODA D

3. O you.

22 D^{SUS} D G² **BRIDGE** D/F#

He's the Lamb who was giv-en, slain for our par-don. His

27 1. Em⁷ A^{SUS} A

prom-ise is peace for those who be-lieve. He's the

31 2. Em⁷ D/F# G^{maj7} E⁷/G# D/A A

prom-ise is peace for those who be-lieve. 5. So

Announcements

Special services

Our Christmas Eve service begins at 6:00 p.m. tonight. The Christmas Day song service is at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow. The New Year's Eve service with Holy Communion will be next Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday Bible class

The Wednesday Bible class will resume at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 10. We will continue the study of the New Testament book of James.

Heart help

I am scheduled for cardiac ablation at Froedtert Hospital for treatment of arrhythmia on Thursday with an overnight hospital stay. Your prayers are appreciated. The Elders will conduct the services next Sunday. *In Christ, Pastor.*

CLC finances

November receipts were \$108,634 versus disbursements of \$106,432. Mission Development Fund (MDF) receipts were \$44,400 with disbursements of \$16,914.

Council notes:

Auditors needed: Two voting members are needed to audit the congregation's financial records. No experience needed. Training will be provided. Contact Jim Lisak if you would be willing to help.

Finances: Offerings for November were \$827 under budgeted needs, and the balance of available funds decreased by \$1,036 during the month. Offerings for the fiscal year to date are \$25,700 under budgeted needs, and the balance of available funds has decreased by \$12,560. While we are still running a deficit, we thank the Lord that the gap between the budget numbers and offerings has been narrowing significantly. May the Spirit provide us with the means and the willing hearts to support the Lord's work here and around the world.

Teacher call discussion: The need for another teacher to fill the vacancy created with Mrs. Winters resignation was discussed at length. The Council will recommend to the voters at the January meeting that we call a third fulltime teacher.

Request for delegate volunteers: At the January voters meeting two delegates and two alternates will be elected to represent Messiah at the Great Lakes Delegate Conference (June 3-4, 2024) and at the CLC Convention (June 20-24, 2024). If you are a voting member and would be willing to be nominated, please speak to the chairman of the Elders, Eric Williams.

Streaming tweaks: A request has been made to start the service streams 10-15 minutes before service time, so that viewers can benefit from hearing the pre-service music. The Council is researching licensing and copyright questions.

Looking Ahead...

♣Today:

6:00 P.M: Christmas Eve service.

♣Tuesday:

11:00 A.M: New Perspective service, Franklin.

♣Wednesday:

10:00 A.M: Villa of Greenfield service.

♣Next Sunday:

9:00 A.M: Worship service and Sunday school.

6:30 P.M: New Year's Eve service with Lord's Supper.

♣January 28th:

11:15 A.M: Quarterly voters meeting.



<i>Bible Readings:</i>	
12/24	2 Pe 1-3; Jude
12/25	1 Jn 1-4
12/26	1 Jn 5; 2 Jn; 3 Jn; Rev 1-2
12/27	Rev 3-6
12/28	Rev 7-10
12/29	Rev 11-15
12/30	Rev 16-18

<i>December Ushers</i>	<i>Cleaning Teams 12/29-1/5</i>
Kenny Winters Ian Stewart Jared Muller	Church: Quade P. Gurath A. Garvens
<i>December Slideshow</i> David Albrecht	School: Barthels Serba
<i>Christmas Eve</i> T. Blue/A. & M. Plockelman <i>Slideshow:</i> E. Gurgel	<i>Christmas Day</i> S. Lisak/J. Schaser/C. Starr <i>Slideshow:</i> J. Lisak

<i>Fruits of Faith</i>	<i>Last Week:</i>	<i>To Date:</i>
Budgetary Offerings:	\$12,632.00	\$192,215.40
Budgetary Needs:	\$8,380.21	\$206,995.80
Over (Under) Budget:	\$4,251.79	(\$14,780.40)
ILCSAF:	\$100.00	\$500.00
MDF:	\$55.00	\$835.00
MSAF:	\$30.00	\$764.75
<i>Attendance Last Sunday: 137</i>		

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