

*“My spirit
rejoices in God
my Savior,
for he has been
mindful of the humble
state of his servant.”*

Luke 1:47-48, NIV

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 19 / 22, 2024

Zion Ev. Lutheran Church

6430 Hwy. D

Allenton, Wisconsin 53002

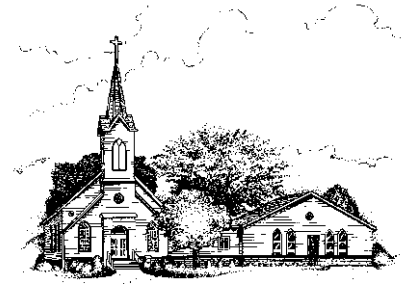
Members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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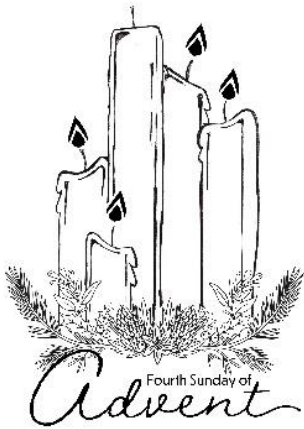
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Welcome to God's House

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 was supposed to provide.



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! Being made aware of our weakness does not disqualify us from God's care. It does the opposite. It's what prepares us for the work he does best. He is a God who lifts up the lowly.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem #333:1, 4

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

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.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let
us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

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 bears a son,
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 our peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer - 85A

Refrain



LORD, in your mer - cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

Tone

Musical notation for the Tone of Psalm 85A. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The treble staff contains a melody: G4 (quarter), A4-B4 (beamed eighth notes), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The bass staff contains a harmonic accompaniment: G2 (quarter), A2-B2 (beamed eighth notes), C3 (quarter), B2-A2 (beamed eighth notes), G2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), E2 (quarter), D2 (quarter), C2 (half).

You, Lord, forgave the iniquity of your / people
and covered / all their sins.
You set aside / all your wrath
and turned from your fierce / anger.
Show us your unfailing / love, Lord,
and grant us your sal- / vation. **Refrain**

I will listen to what God the / Lord says;
he promises peace to his / people.
Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him,
that his glory may dwell / in our land.
Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;
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 be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. **Refrain**

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:
“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.
⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.’”
⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings
you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were
offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come
to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by

that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23

Alleluia. The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-55

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

⁴⁶And 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,
just as he promised our ancestors.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel #327:1, 2, 4**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

***Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel!***

O come, O Root of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

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. **Refrain**

Sermon

Luke 1:39-55

God Has Done Great Things!

The 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

Prayer of the Church

Lord God Almighty, who came among us in Jesus Christ to forgive and to save, extend your everlasting kingdom of grace and mercy to all people on earth.

Continue to strengthen those whom you have brought into your kingdom by grace through faith in Christ.

Bring to faith those not yet within your Church so that they may receive the redemption from sins which Your Son purchased for us on the cross.

As Mary heard, believed and treasured the words spoken by the angel, give us the same love for your Word and a fervent desire to share its promises.

Eternal Lord, as we struggle with the effects of sin here on earth, keep us firm in the faith, confident of your promises of everlasting life in Christ.

Govern our hearts by your Holy Spirit that in our daily need, and especially in times of temptation, we may receive your help and all that you have promised.

Almighty God, you care for our earthly lives by the gifts and skills of many people.

We thank you for blessing us with caring people who dedicate their lives in service as they protect and care for us.

We especially thank you for all public servants, military personnel, police officers, firefighters, doctors, nurses, and all those who support them in their various vocations.

Help us see you at work through the service of those you place on earth to defend and care for us.

Heavenly Father, ruler of all things, your Son healed all manner of sicknesses and cured all manner of diseases. Come to the aid of your servants during their times of affliction, especially...

Deliver them from depression and give them patience and comfort as they rest in Jesus' promise never to leave them or forsake them.

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son into the flesh to be the Savior who gives us true peace. We ask that peace for all who are sad in these days: **for the grieving and lonely, the forgotten and homeless, the refugee and the imprisoned, the widowed and the orphans, the poor and the needy and all who cry out for healing and mercy upon their broken lives, especially those who are dealing with loss.**

Hear us as we bring our personal prayers....

Silent prayers and special intercessions

Lord God, awaken us, that we may be ready when your dear Son comes, that we may receive him with joy and serve you with pure hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Offering

The members of Zion have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. If you are a visitor, please don't feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.

Hymn

Holy Is Your Name #956



1 My _____ soul is filled with joy as I
2 I am low - ly as a child, but I
3 I pro - claim your pow'r, O God! You work
4 To the hun - gry you give food, send the
5 In your love you now ful - fill all you



sing to God, my Sav - ior. You have looked up - on your
know from this day for - ward that my name will be re -
won - ders for your ser - vants; you have scat - tered the proud -
rich a - way with noth - ing. In your mer - cy you are
prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, God, my



ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.
mem - bered, and the world will call me bless - ed.
heart - ed, you have lift - ed up the low - ly.
mind - ful of the peo - ple you have cho - sen.
Sav - ior, ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy.

Refrain



And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -

a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the
 peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name!

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

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.

Closing Hymn

Let The Earth Now Praise the Lord #315:1, 2, 4

Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has truly kept his word
 and at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

What the fathers most desired, what the prophets' heart inspired,
 what they longed for many a year stands fulfilled in glory here.

Savior, hear my welcome cry—loud hosannas lifted high!
King of glory, enter in; cleanse my soul of ev'ry sin.

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85A LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer *Psalm 85A*

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956 Holy Is Your Name *CW 956*

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315 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord *CW 315 sts. 1-2, 4*

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620-1659, abr.; (sts. 1-2): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 2021

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter

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This Week at Zion

Today:	7:30 / 9:45 a.m. 8:30 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion Sunday School
Mon:	10:00 a.m. 2:30 p.m.	OWLS Meeting at Peace, Hartford KM Gardens Devotion, Kewaskum
Tue:	5:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 10:00 p.m.	Christmas Carol Sing Christmas Eve Worship -Children's service Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Wed:	9:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Worship
Thu:	7:00 p.m.	<i>No worship service this evening</i>
Sun:	7:30 / 9:45 a.m.	Worship with Holy Communion

Christmas Invitations Invite a family member or friend to one of our Christmas services this week....take an invitation or two from the cabinets and at least give someone you know the option of coming to hear the good news of Jesus' birth and meaning of Christmas.

We thank our organists this weekend: Jared Peterson on Thursday and Bea Pamperin on Sunday.

Church calendars, newsletters, and *Forward in Christ* magazines are available on the cabinets. Take a Forward in Christ and read the article about making your heart a manger for Christ all year long. There are copies of the January church calendar out as well.

Offering Envelopes for 2025 can be found in the fellowship hall. Even if you use the auto - withdrawal option for your contributions, you should have a box with your name on it.

Council Positions At our annual meeting in January, we will be electing two new members to the church council. The nominating committee has been working to find people who are willing to be on the ballot. If you are

or know of anyone who would be willing to be on the ballot, please contact our church president, Keith Bartelt.

WELS Connection As WELS gears up to celebrate its 175th anniversary in 2025, this month's WELS Connection looks at the importance of remembering our history--thanking God for how he has blessed and worked through WELS over the years.

Church Event Schedule Please note that there are no Sunday School, Bible study, or catechism classes scheduled for this week, next Sunday (29th) or the following Wednesday between Christmas and New Year's Day. We also will not have a worship service on the day after Christmas - December 26th. The regular weekly schedule returns to normal on Sunday, January 5th as we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. Take a church calendar so you can keep track of everything!

Wreaths Across America Thank you to those who purchased and came out to place wreaths for the veterans laid to rest in our cemetery last Saturday. More than 4 million Christmas wreaths were placed on gravesites around the country to honor veterans.

KML's 12 Days of Christmas Over twelve days in December, Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School's Student Council and National Honor Society work to collect money through student involvement to support families in need. This year we are raising money to help the Heimsch, Kruschel, and Smidl families. To learn more about the 12 Days of Christmas at KML, visit kmlhs.org/12days.

Teen Retreat Calling all teens in grades 8-12! Teen retreats offer you the opportunity to connect with other teens about real, relevant issues — and also have a phenomenal time enjoying one-of-a-kind activities. Register now at www.CampPhillip.com for our next teen retreat on January 10-12, focusing on the account of the Wise Men and do some stargazing for yourself on the beautiful Camp Phillip property. See the poster on the bulletin board.