



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19, 2021
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

**(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.^

Prelude....A time for silent reflection

Advent Candle Lighting

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

ELW #240

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.
Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

God for whom we wait,
**in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✝ your sins are forgiven.
You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal
promise, and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You” **LW #241**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***KYRIE**

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074,
Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever,
To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311)

Additional Contact Information:

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Prayers for the Children

We ask that all members join the Women of the ELCA and pray this prayer as you rise in the morning and as you prepare to retire each evening.

Lord, Jesus Christ, I bring to you:

Jada, Myles, & Conner Garske; Britain Hahn, Gracie Brandau; Amara Brandau; Chase Brandau; Avery Brueggen; Riley & Aria Brueggen; Nolan & Logan Buchholz; Thadyn & Ayawyn Conner; Vanessa & Elliott Ornes; Lailah Eckes; Lena Ornes; Porter Sorenson; Kennedy & Josie Ornes; Brooklyn, Madelyn, & Kaylin Gruen; Emma, Bryce, Marah & Bria Gruen; Ava, Katie, & Benjamin Gruen; Brady Zimmerman; Braylee Zimmerman; MaKenzie & Cooper Powell; Wesson & Arden Mayne; Vanessa, Mia, & Brek Anderson; Tyler & Jaden Bever; Carlee, Collin, & Camden Neidfeldt; Morgan Speicher; Krista & Sierra Cook; Tyler Brandau; Franklin & Douglas Wildes; Sophia, Derek & Deacon Erdman; Kody Tormoen; Angel Brueggen; Callie Fleming; Miranda, Daphne & Linus Arndt; Emma Elder; Bryson Lamb; Alaina & Braxton Holthaus; Jayda Leis; David, Sam & Zachary Ross; Gannon Tormoen; Jase & Margo Picha; Watson Sebranek.

That your spirit will dwell with them according to your will. That they will grow in the knowledge of you and know that they are dearly loved by you. I pray that you will protect them from deception by the evil one and all his darts that would lead them astray. May they do well in school, learning and discerning what direction you have in mind for them. I also pray for all children everywhere, that you would keep them in your care. In Jesus name I pray.

Amen

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

***Canticle of Praise**

“This is the Feast”

ELW p. 149

***Prayer of the Day**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, 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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.^

FIRST READING

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.
⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you,**
from generation to generation.
⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones**
and lifting up the lowly.
⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,**
to remember the promise of mercy,
⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

Poinsettia Gifts To the Greater Glory of God

IN HONOR OF

BY

Alrita Ornes

John & Barb Ornes

IN MEMORY OF

BY

Mid (Sullivan) Witt

Patty & Jerry Von Haden

Dan Sullivan

Ruben VonHaden

Robert Sullivan

Ed Ross, Sr.

The Ross Family

Shirley Ross

Ron Ross

Ray Nofsinger

April Arndt & Luke Kroeger

Deb Kroeger

Mark Sapp

George and Carolyn Dougherty

Esther Hunt

Other family and friends

Earl & Anita Brandenburg,

Leonard & Dixie Arndt

Junior & Bonnie Brandau

Carl & Freda Bever

Karen and John Arzt

Bill & Ida Brandau

Lipscomb & Mary Louise Baker

Leonard & Galetta Brandau

Rick & Lori Brueggen

Herman & Clara Buchholz

Emma & Ferdinand Waege

Sharon & Rodney Fick

Alta & Winnafeld Waege

Dale Graunke

Smith-Nelson Funeral Home

Gary Bever

Dean Switz

Phillip Genske

Pamela Eaton

Gordon Ornes

John & Barb Ornes

Gary Bever

Barb Bever & Family

Elwin Steinke

Anita Steinke and Family

Dale Graunke

Bev Graunke

Uncle Gary and Uncle Wayne

Katie, Emily, and Ann

Carol Osteboe

Bud Osteboe

Alta & Winnafeld Waege

Dennis & Sherri Waege

project. Your patience is appreciated, if you have already signed up and have not heard from us and are able to volunteer, please reach out to info@cclse.org.

If you have a church group, student group, business or organization that would like to send groups of volunteers, we would love to work with you! Please contact us directly at info@cclse.org. We are happy to answer your questions and will meet with you to help you through the process.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH SORTING DONATIONS

If you are only able to give a day or afternoon, we will still be needing your help as we sort through and continue to pack donations for delivery. Please join with us in keeping all we serve in prayer.

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’ (in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

***Gospel Acclamation**

ELW p.151

***GOSPEL READING**

Elizabeth, John’s mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth’s inspired greeting and Mary’s song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

Luke 1:39-45

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting,

the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness” **LW #251**

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Hear us O God, **Your mercy is great**)

OFFERING

Offering plates are located in the Narthex as you enter and exit the church.

Offering Prayer

God of our waiting and watching,
**we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.**

CALENDAR

Fri., Dec. 24	Worship	4:30 PM & 6:30 PM
Sun., Dec. 26	Service of Carols & Scripture	10:15 AM

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Afghanistan Refugee Assistance—From Catholic Charities, La Crosse

Current primary needs at Ft. McCoy are for [volunteers](#) for a variety of services and hijabs for the Afghan women.

Thank you to everyone who is interested in volunteering their time, skills, and compassionate nature in providing service to our new Afghan neighbors currently living at Fort McCoy. We need a lot of help over the next few months!

We currently operate:

- Three Women and Children Centers
- Two Sewing Centers
- One Learning Center for children and young adults and supporting over six local centers around the base
- One Legal Center
- Six Indoor Recreational Centers for children and adults

Former Camp Counselors, Retired School Teachers, Physical Education Teachers or Coaches, Social Workers, Compassionate Community

Members...What ever your talent or skill, WE NEED YOU!!

Whether you are able to give one day per week for the next few months or able to commit to one total week, WE HAVE A SPOT FOR YOU! What becomes difficult is trying to piece meal schedules of only a few hours here or there or only one or two days of the next six months. Our volunteers need to help us offer consistency to those we are serving. We need up to 100 volunteers per day so trying to work around various schedules is difficult. In the last month, we received an enormous response from the community wanting to serve our Afghan guests. While this is amazing, we are trying to respond to each one. We are giving priority to those who are able to offer a larger time commitment to this

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.^

*Benediction

Sending Hymn "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" **ELW #244**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Larry Ballwahn; Communion Servers: Justin & Kirstin Arndt

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Steve Zirk, Gary Von Ruden, Sue Ann Degenhardt, Curt Brieske, Randy Steinbrink, Annette Udulutch, Gary VonRuden, Gloria Meltesen, LuAnn Bever-Denter, Dave Crowe, Florence Dougherty, Darlene Babbitt.

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale

Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ^

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW p. 152

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW p. 153

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

P: Come to Christ's banquet.

Feast on God's gift of grace.

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.154