

COVER



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 18, 2022
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

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

Announcements

Gathering

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

- P: On this fourth Sunday of Advent,
as we think about the coming of Jesus Christ,
C: **we light the candle of love.**
- P: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us!
This is how God showed His love:
C: **He sent His one and only Son into the world
That we might live through Him.**
- P: A new command I give you: Love one another,
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.
All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.

Mary Leis, Tracie Herman, Don Schreier, Debra Welch,
Sterling Schwartz, Patrick Reardon

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty,
Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

CALENDAR

Dec. 21	Confirmation	6:30pm-8:00 pm
Dec. 23	Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal	5:00 pm
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Worship	4:00 pm

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSITION COMMITTEE SURVEY

Additional copies of the survey are located in the narthex. The drop box for completed surveys will be available next week.

POINSETTIAS

If you wish to make a donation in honor of memory of a loved one, to assist in the cost of the poinsettia plants, please complete the form on the table in the narthex, place it in the envelope provided and either give the envelope to Nalani, or place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

PASTORAL SUPPLY

Rev. Mark Jolivette has graciously agreed to lead worship on Christmas Eve. **The service time is 4:00 pm.**

Hymn

“People, Look East”

ELW#248

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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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 hinders our faith, that
eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with
the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

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

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Distribution

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

“Lamb of God”

ELW p.154

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 (God in your mercy, **hear our prayer**)

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Eternal God,
you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

Word

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

First Reading

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
⁴**O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

Second Reading

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

***Gospel Acclamation**

"Alleluia"

ELW p. 151

GOSPEL READING

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

The holy gospel according to Matthew 1:18-25

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

Sermon

Reverend Dionne Stepanek

Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

ELW #257