

### Be Still and Know 10

1. Be still and know that I am  
 2. The Lord Al - mighty is our  
 3. The God of Ja - cob is our

God, be still Lord and know that I am  
 God, the the Lord of Al - mighty is our  
 rock, the God of Ja - cob is our

God, be still Lord and know that I am God.  
 God, the the Lord of Al - mighty is our God.  
 rock, the God of Ja - cob is our rock.

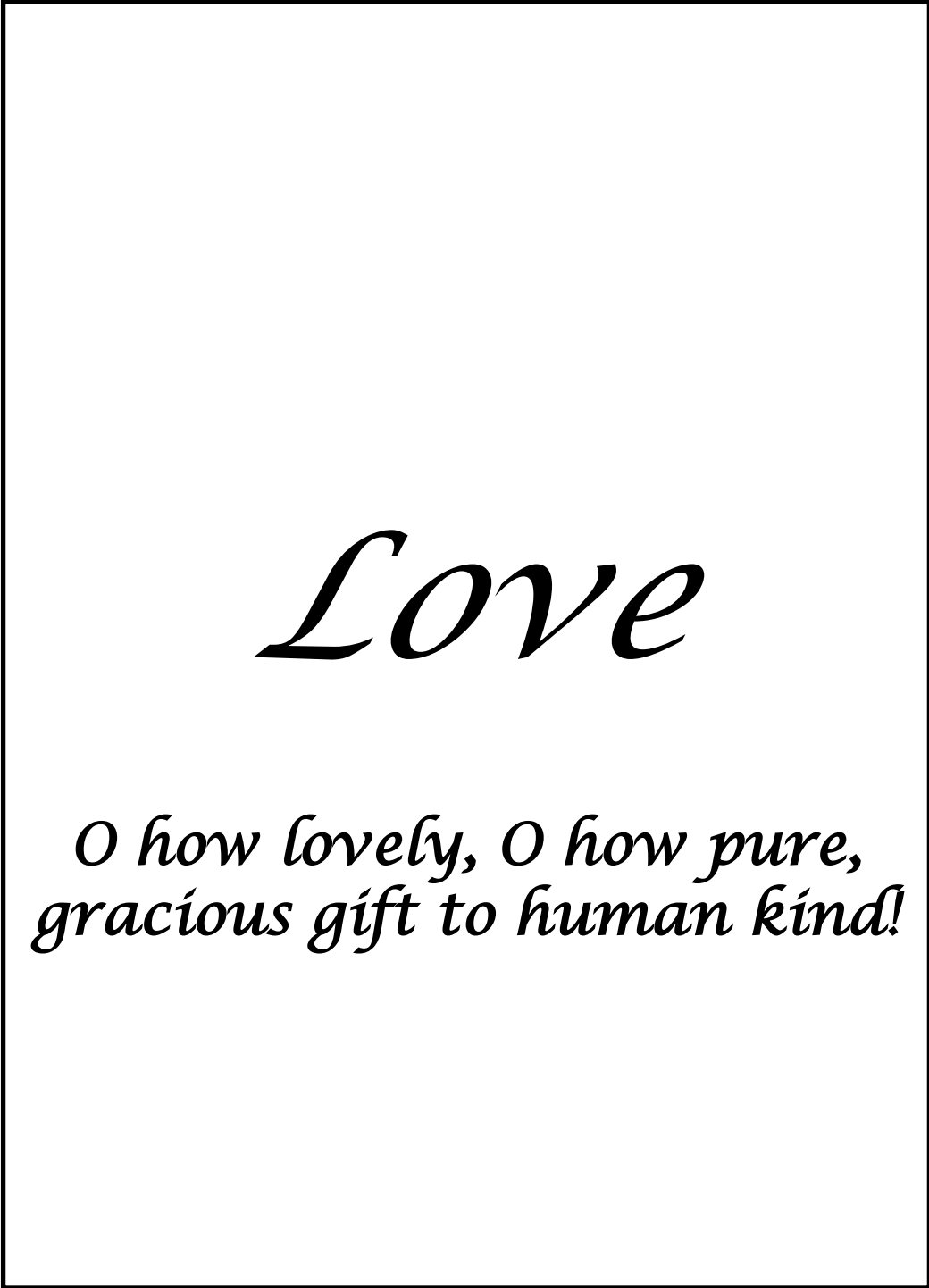
### Blessed Is the One

Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name, who comes

in the name of the Lord. Bless-ed is the one who comes

in the name, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Text: Psalm 118:26  
 Music: BLESSED IS THE ONE, Nathan Houge, b. 1977





St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 Wilton, WI  
 Fourth Sunday of Advent  
 December 21, 2025  
 10:15 AM  
**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 the people should stand as they are able.)

\*Welcome and Announcements

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

**\*Hymn**

**"Be Still and Know"**

**Rear Cover**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THOSE SERVING TODAY**

Ministers: All God's People; Synod Authorized Minister: Karen Sparling; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Kirstin Arndt; Acolytes: Linus Arndt

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Gloria Meltesen, Linda, Jeremy Munson, Kristy Gwin Solovey, Gordy O'Rourke, Marilyn O'Rourke, Larry Arndt, Nick Evans, Jack Arndt, Collin Niedfeldt, Mark Drews, Carol Lydon Fronk, Jeri Bauer Weger, Patty Von Haden, Ben Bender, Jeff Bruce, Pastor Bob Gerke, Brian, Jim Summerfield, Darlene Diekrager, Clint Meacham, Robert Hill, Tom Arndt, Alice Leis

**IN THE MILITARY**

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Allen Roscovious, Matthew Dutton

**CALENDAR**

Today	Noisy Offering	
	Birthday/Anniversary Fellowship	
	Council Meeting	11:30 PM
Wed., Dec. 24	Christmas Sing	6:00 PM
	Children's Program, Communion, Candlelight	7:00 PM
Sun., Dec. 28	Worship	10:15 AM

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank You**

What a pleasure to have Bishop Felix with us today. We offer our<sup>1</sup>

**Oh.. Lamb of God,  
you take away  
the sin of the world,  
have mercy, we pray  
Oh..Lamb of God, Oh.. Lamb of God!  
Give us your peace on earth today.**

### **SENDING**

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

Distribution

#### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our host,  
**at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.  
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,  
welcome the stranger,  
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.  
Amen.**

#### **\*BLESSING**

May God who comes among us,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.  
Amen.

Hymn                    **“Joy to the World”**                    **ELW#267**

In the darkness, a light shines.  
In the waiting, life stirs.  
As we remember that Christ is the “life-light” bringing life  
to the world and filling the darkness with light.

With each candle we light, we proclaim that the light of  
Christ is stronger than the shadows, and the life He brings  
is everlasting.

Today we light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of  
Love. Love is the flame that gives light its meaning and life  
its purpose. Christ’s love shine in the world, a love that is  
patient, kind, and never ends.

ALL:

**God of love, shine your light in us and through us. Help  
us to live as your people full of life, love, and the light of  
Christ.  
Amen.**

**\*Hymn:                    “He Came Down”                    ELW# 253**

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**

**\*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**

## Gathering

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

**promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen**

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves**

**for the peace and security only you can provide.**

**We reach for swords and spears,**

**reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting**

**and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,**

**and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in God's timing,**

**and awaken us to your advent among us,**

**that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**

**Amen.**

**kingdom come.**

**Amen.**

### **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

#### **\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Words of Institution

#### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one, 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.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

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

**"Lamb of God"**

**Sung to "The First Noel"**

**Oh.. Lamb of God,**

**You take away**

**The sin of the world,**

**Have mercy, we pray**

from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his

wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

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

Sermon

Bishop Felix Malpica  
La Crosse Area Synod

Hymn **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ELW #257 vv. 5-8**

**\*PRAYERS** (God of grace. **Hear our prayer.**)

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

**OFFERING**

**\*OFFERING HYMN**

\*Hymn

**“Blessed Is the One”**

**Back Cover**

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Nourishing God,

**you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your**

## WORD

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

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God’s own righteousness.

✠ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.

**Amen.**

Hymn **“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

**ELW#254**

## 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!*

### A reading from Isaiah 7:10-16

<sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore 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. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For 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

- <sup>1</sup> Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- <sup>2</sup> **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**
- <sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>4</sup> **O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people  
pray?**
- <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- <sup>6</sup> **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**
- <sup>7</sup> Restore us, O God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
- <sup>17</sup> **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**
- <sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
- <sup>19</sup> **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.

### A reading from Romans 1:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup> the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of

holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup> through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> To 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**                      **Sung to "What Child is This?"**

**What Word is this on printed page,  
proclaimed and lived among us?  
O living Christ, the nations rage,  
What hope and truth will you bring us?  
Peace, peace, is what we pray,  
thy kingdom come among us.  
Come, Lord, renew our hearts;  
Your children, we are listening.**

### \*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.**

<sup>18</sup> Now 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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But 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