



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Second Sunday of Advent
December 5, 2021
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

**(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" v. 1-2 **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 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding ” **ELW #246**

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.

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

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:

Pastor Cathleen: cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu

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FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI

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 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.

Christmas Brunch

Sunday, December 12 ; 9:00 am—1:00 pm @ Wilton Community Center
Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage, Juice or Milk and Coffee
Adults \$7.00, 12 & under \$5.00
Proceeds go toward Wilton Fest Fireworks Fund

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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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Word

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

FIRST READING

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means “my messenger”) will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God’s people, as silver and gold are refined.

Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

Luke 1:68-79

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.
⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**
⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old
to save us from our enemies, ⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,
⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**
⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham: ⁷⁴to set us free
from the hands of our enemies, free to worship you without fear,
⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**
⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.**
⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of
death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

SECOND READING

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Communion

The following students are receiving their First Communion today: Mia Anderson, daughter of Ann and Travis Anderson; Linus Arndt, son Kirstin and Justin Arndt; and Ben Gruen, son of Angie and Jaren Gruen.

Poinsettia Donations

Do you wish to make a donation toward the cost of poinsettias in honor or memory of a loved one? If so, you will find the usual form and an envelope in the narthex. Please complete and give the envelope to Nalani or drop it in the offering plate located in the narthex. Thank you.

Social Ministry Meeting

We are looking for folks willing to serve on the Social Ministry Committee. April Arndt is the Church Council liaison, and is asking that any folks interested attend the meeting today, immediately following the worship service. This invitation is extended to all church members, men and women.

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

Sending

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

*Benediction

Sending Hymn "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" **ELW #249**

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: Barb Ornes; Communion Servers: Justin & Kirstin Arndt Bever

IN OUR PRAYERS

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

IN THE MILITARY

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

CALENDAR

Today	Social Ministry Meeting	11:00 am
Wed., Dec. 8	Confirmation	6:30 –8:00 pm
Sun., Dec. 12	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:15 am
	Christmas Brunch	9:00 am—1:00 pm
	Wilton Community Center	

gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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

GOSPEL

*Gospel Acclamation

ELW p.151

*GOSPEL READING

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

Luke 3:1-6

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'

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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day "Come Now, O Prince of Peace "

ELW #247

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.
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

***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.