



OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 4, 2022



Second Sunday in Advent

WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Advent is a time to reflect on Christ's coming birth and to prepare to celebrate the incarnation of the eternal Word during Christmas. The next two Sundays have the unifying theme of "Be born in us today." Today's theme is "Bringing Blessings." God told Abraham that all nations would be blessed through him; we await that fulfillment in Christ this coming Christmas.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Dear Father in Heaven, thank you for sending Jesus as you promised to bless all nations. Strengthen our faith in Christ as we recall the promises you made to your people to send a Savior. Give us a spirit of contemplation and joy as we anticipate the celebration of the birth of Christ during this Advent season. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath is a combination of two very common symbols: light and the fir tree. From the early centuries of Christianity it has been the practice to represent Christ by a burning candle. The fir tree has a long history of religious use. No doubt the Advent Wreath was suggested by the Christmas tree. It seems that the Advent Wreath originated a few hundred years ago among the Lutherans of eastern Germany. A wreath of evergreens, made in various sizes, was either suspended from the ceiling or placed on a table. Four candles representing the four Sundays of Advent were fastened to the wreath. Eventually the use of the Advent Wreath became widespread and moved also from the home into the church. The general symbolism of the Advent Wreath lies in the growing light of the wreath, increasing each week as we approach the birthday of Jesus, the light of the world, and as we patiently await his final coming.

Acknowledgments

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Our Worship Focus:

Bringing Blessings

Opening Hymn

CW 305

(Stand for v. 5)

- 1 Lift up your heads, you mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation he will bring;
therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise your joyful songs of praise.

- 2 The King is born in poverty,
his chariot is humility,
his kingly crown is holiness,
his scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe he brings;
therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise your grateful hymns of praise.

- 3 How blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
to whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is he
who comes to set his people free.
To God the Spirit raise your happy shouts of praise.

- 4 Fling wide the gates; prepare your heart
to be a temple set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
and new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise for word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to you; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with your saving grace;
show me your kind and friendly face.
Your Holy Spirit guide us on
until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame we offer to your name.

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Georg Weissel, 1590–1635
Text: Public domain

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

We see the first candle is lit on the Advent wreath as we rejoice in the blessings that have come to us through the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. God told Abraham that through one of his descendants “all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3).

Holy Child of Bethlehem, you were born among us to live and die and rise in fulfillment of God’s promise to bless all nations.

The promised descendant of Abraham, Jesus Christ, is a blessing for people of all nations who trust in him for salvation. “So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith” (Galatians 3:7-8).

Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Through faith in your name, Lord Jesus, we have the blessings of forgiveness and salvation!

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

Lord God, we are blessed with your love and salvation, but we do not always live as your people. We turn away from your Word and ways to follow our own selfish desires. We listen to the temptations of the world around us. We do not share with others the blessings we have received. Have mercy on us and forgive us.

God has had mercy on us. He sent his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the blessing for the nations, to atone for the sins of the world. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered” (Romans 4:7).

Song of Praise

CW 333 st. 4

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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt.
Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by your strength, and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

The Word

First Reading

Genesis 12:1–8

The call of Abram

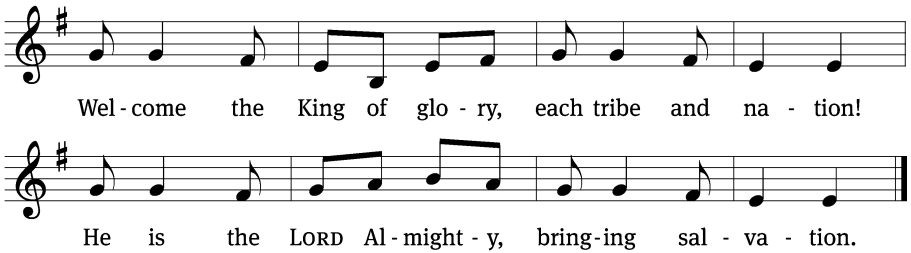
Now the LORD said to Abram, “Get out of your country and away from your relatives and from your father’s house and go to the land that I will show you. ²I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great. You will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse anyone who dishonors you. All of the families of the earth will be blessed in you.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him. Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took Sarai his wife, Lot his brother’s son, and all the possessions they had accumulated and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to travel to the land of Canaan. Eventually they arrived in the land of Canaan. ⁶Abram passed through the land until he came to the Oak of Moreh at the place called Shechem. The Canaanites were in the land at that time. ⁷The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “I will give this land to your descendants.” Abram built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸He moved on from there to the hill country east of Bethel and pitched his tent there, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

Psalm 24B

Welcome the King

Refrain



Wel - come the King of glo - ry, each tribe and na - tion!
He is the LORD Al - might - y, bring - ing sal - va - tion.

- 1 See, all the earth is God's, its people and nations;
God built it on the deeps and laid its foundations. (Refrain)
- 2 Who can go up this mountain, who stand in praising?
Those who are pure, who come with clean hands upraising. (Refrain)
- 3 They shall receive forgiveness, and have God's blessing
if they will search for God, their Savior confessing. (Refrain)
- 4 Come, lift your voices high, be lifted to glory;
the LORD our God approaches, come, shout the story. (Refrain)
- 5 Who is this glorious one, for whom we are waiting?
We wait the mighty LORD, our God celebrating. (Refrain)
- 6 Come, lift your heads with joy; come, lift up your tower;
the King of glory comes in full might and power. (Refrain)
- 7 Who is this King of glory of whom we're singing?
Our God, this LORD of hosts, the vict'ry is bringing. (Refrain)

Text (sts. 1-7): Arlo D. Duba; (Ref): Northwestern Publishing House

Tune: Israeli

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Second Reading

Romans 4:1–8

Abraham justified by faith

What then will we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered according to the flesh? ²If indeed Abraham had been justified by works, he would have had a reason to boast—but not before God. ³For what does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁴Now to a person who works, his pay is not counted as a gift but as something owed. ⁵But to the person who does not work but believes in the God who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited to him as righteousness. ⁶This is exactly what David says about the blessed state of the person to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: ⁷Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven and whose sins are covered. ⁸Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord will never count against him.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

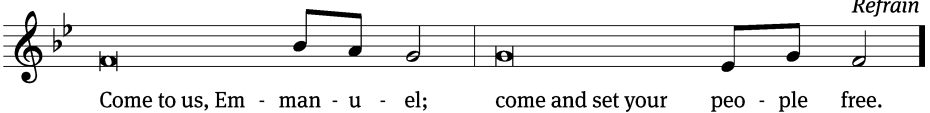
CW 161



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel

Luke 1:39–56

Mary's song

In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. ⁴⁰She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! ⁴⁵Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

⁴⁶Then Mary said, My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, ⁴⁸because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones. He has lifted up the lowly. ⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever. ⁵⁶Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned to her home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Children's Message

- 1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:
“All hail,” said he to meek and lowly Mary,
“most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!

- 2 “I come from heav’n to tell the Lord’s decree:
a blessèd virgin mother you shall be.
Your son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!

- 3 Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleases God,” she said.
“My soul shall praise and magnify his holy name.”
Most highly favored maiden, Gloria!

- 4 Of her Immanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
“Most highly favored maiden.” Gloria!

Text: para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924, alt.; Basque, c. 18th cent.
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Genesis 12:3

All families of the earth shall be blessed!

Stand

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.

Be seated

Thank Offering & Friendship Register

As the offering is gathered, we ask both members and visitors to sign the Friendship Registers, which are located at the end of the pews. Guests are welcome to give but should not feel obligated to do so.

Hymn

CW 535

- 1 Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry,
in the dawning of the King,
he the theme of heaven's praises,
robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended,
took on flesh to ransom us.

- 2 Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry,
he the perfect Son of Man;
in his living, in his suffering
never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam,
come to save the hellbound man.
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
of the law; in him we stand.
- 3 Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry,
Christ the Lord upon the tree;
in the stead of ruined sinners
hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption,
see the Father's plan unfold,
bringing many sons to glory,
grace unmeasured, love untold.
- 4 Come, behold the wondrous myst'ry,
slain by death the God of life;
but no grave could e'er restrain him;
praise the Lord; he is alive!
What a foretaste of deliv'rance;
how unwavering our hope.
Christ in power resurrected
as will we be when he comes.

Text: Michael Bleeker, b. 1977; Matt Papa, b. 1983; Matt Boswell, b. 1979

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Stand

Prayer of the Church

Lord and Savior, have mercy on those who are suffering through illness and loss. Watch over them and comfort them through the promises of your holy Word. Lead us as we seek ways to help and serve those in need so that we might share our blessings with them. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

Be born in us today. As we have been blessed through your birth, help us to bless others in your name.

Lord and Savior, you were born among us in fulfillment of the promise to Abraham, that one of his descendants would be a blessing to people of all nations. By your suffering and death, you atoned for the sins of the world. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

Be born in us today. Like Abraham, we too are blessed to be a blessing to others. Guide and protect the pastors, teachers, missionaries and other workers who carry the good news of Jesus to every nation. Help us to support them with our gifts and prayers.

Lord and Savior, Abraham believed your promise and his faith was counted as righteousness. Through faith in your name, we too are counted righteous.

Special prayers to follow

Through your suffering, death and resurrection, we have received the blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. Holy Child of Bethlehem,

Be born in us today. We pray that the Holy Spirit will work through our acts of love and our words of witness so that others will come to know and worship you as Lord.

Holy Savior, Lord of all nations, hear our prayer and accept our grateful praise.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name” (Luke 1:46-48).

“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace” (Numbers 6:24-26).

Amen.

Closing Hymn

CW 321

- 1 God’s own Son most holy came a servant lowly,
came to live among us, came to suffer for us;
bore the cross to save us, hope and freedom gave us.
- 2 Still he comes in preaching, truth eternal teaching:
“Turn away from evil; turn to me, my people.
I pronounce you sinless; trust in my forgiveness.”
- 3 Still he comes providing proof of love abiding:
he whose death has freed us gives himself to feed us,
thus to us extending peace and joy unending.
- 4 Come, then, O Lord Jesus, from our sins release us.
Keep our hearts believing that, your grace receiving,
we may here confess you till in heav’n we bless you.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547, abr.; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

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*Thank you for worshipping with us!
May God richly bless your week.*

ADVENT

The origins of the Advent wreath reach back to pre-Christian times in Northern Europe. As the winter solstice approached, people placed candles on evergreen wreaths in anticipation of the return of longer daylight hours. Christians adapted this custom to the Advent season and the anticipation of the celebration of Christmas. By the dawn of the Reformation, the Advent wreath as we know it today was in use.

Five candles adorn the wreath:

The 1st blue candle we light today is called the PROPHECY candle which reminds us of the age-old prophecies of the birth of Christ.

The 2nd blue candle we light is called the **BETHLEHEM** candle which points to the city chosen as the birthplace of Jesus preparing for his arrival.

The 3rd pink candle we light is the SHEPHERD candle which highlights the joy of shepherds as they praise God over the Savior's birth.

The 4th blue candle we light is the ANGEL candle which centers on the angels' announcement to the world that Jesus had arrived as they proclaimed the news.

The final (white) candle we light at Christmas is the CHRIST candle which at the center of the wreath always takes us right to the cradle where Jesus is. White symbolizes purity. As true God and Man, Jesus is God's perfect Christmas gift to the world and the only way to heaven.

This Advent wreath supplies us with the messages of:

“prophecy” | “prepare” | “praise” | “proclaim” as we countdown to Christmas.

Advent Devotions – “Word Made Flesh: The Historical Reality of Christmas” is a series of Advent devotions, a gift to you from Martin Luther College, the WELS College of Ministry. Each of the 25 devotions is prompted by a question about the historical accuracy of the Christmas account. Pick up a copy today in the narthex or the office entry.

Serving the Pastoral Vacancy - Pastor Jeff Mahnke from St. Peter Lutheran Church is serving as Our Savior’s vacancy pastor. Should you need his pastoral guidance and service, call / text him anytime at 715.297.0132. His email address is pastorm@mysaintpeter.org.

Divine Call News - **Divine Call News** - The Lord has led Pastor Learman to return our Call. Please keep our congregation in your prayers. Our next pastoral call meeting is on hold until the new year.



Shoveling Help Needed! Here comes the SNOW and with it the removal from sidewalks. If you’re willing to help, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex. As soon as it is known how many would be willing to help, a schedule will be put together. If you have any questions on what this entails please see or call Bill Unruh at 715-359-6335.

Ladies’ Aid Invites You! Our Savior’s Ladies’ Aid invites all ladies to join them for their Christmas lunch and party on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 11:00 am at The Palms in Schofield. They will also have an optional \$5 gift exchange. Please RSVP to Karen Leopold 715-845-8096 by Dec. 5.

OWLS Christmas Lunch Celebrate Christmas with us! Our December meeting/ luncheon is on Tuesday, Dec 13 at Our Savior’s in the lower level. We’ll begin with a devotion at 11:45 followed by lunch at noon. Our lunch includes chicken, California medley, jojo potatoes, and coleslaw. Members are asked to bring cookies or bars for dessert. Meal cost is **\$12.00** per person with reservations due by December 5 to Ruth at 715-573-2142. Don’t forget to bring your pennies to add to Our Saviors School students’ mission gifts to the Costa Maya Ministries in Mexico. Questions, call Ruth at 715-573-2142.

Memorial - We thank Elaine Radtke for her gift to Our Savior's School given in memory of Kristi Schultz Hough. Blessed be her memory. Thanks be to God for the love which led to this gift.

“The Greatest Gift” Live Outdoor Nativity

Did you know that Christmas Eve has surpassed Easter as the worship service that unchurched individuals are most likely to attend? A recent survey found that 80% of unchurched adults would seriously consider accepting an invitation, extended by a friend, to attend a Christmas Eve service.

Help those who are unchurched learn about “The Greatest Gift.” A live outdoor nativity will be held Dec. 17, 5-8:30 p.m., at Northland Lutheran High School, 2107 Tower Road, Kronenwetter. This is a free event with no registration required. It involves a 20-minute walk through the woods stopping at stations to hear the true Christmas story from actors and carolers.

Holiday Worship Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 18	Children's Christmas Service - 9:00 AM
Saturday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Worship - 6:30 PM
Sunday, Dec. 25	Christmas Day Worship - 9:00 AM
Sunday, Jan. 1	Sunday Worship - 9:00 AM

NOTE: *No Sunday School or Bible Class on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.*

Christmas Invitations – Next weekend invitations will be available for you to invite friends, relatives, associates at work and neighbors to celebrate Christmas and hear the message of Jesus' birth to save sinners at Our Savior's on Christmas Eve and Day. Please start thinking about whom you can invite. Statistics show that a good number of unchurched persons would actually come to worship on Christmas if someone invited them.

This Week's Opportunities for Growing in Christ

Today	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship Sunday School & Bible Class
Monday	6:00 PM	Board of Education
Wednesday	11:00 AM	Ladies' Aid Christmas Lunch & Party at The Palms
	6:00 PM	Coordinating Council
Sunday 12/11	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship with Communion Sunday School & Bible Class

Our Stewardship of God's Gifts: November 27, 2022

<u>Weekly</u> \$2,342.00	<u>Vision</u> \$260.00	<u>Debt Reduction</u> \$95.00	<u>Thanksgiving</u> \$610.00	<u>OS School</u> \$10.00
<u>Plate</u> \$65.00	<u>Children's Ministry</u> \$1,000.00	<u>Publications</u> \$11.00	<u>School Fees</u> \$60.00	

Anticipated Weekly Offerings \$4,038

Attendance: Thanksgiving Eve 35 + 13 (online) = 48
 Sunday, Nov. 27 70 + 29 (online) = 99

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

- Minister – Pastor Kevin Schnake
- Organist – Marie Kurth
- Ushers – Mark Krohn, Kurt Schubring
 (Next Sunday – Tim & Ellen Heil)

Thank You

Thank you to our un-decorating and decorating crews!

We appreciate all your work to make our church beautiful.

We are also grateful to our maintenance, cleaning and altar crews.

There's a lot of behind the scenes work which goes unnoticed until something goes wrong or is missing.

THANK YOU for keeping our property in order.

To God be the glory!



Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love

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