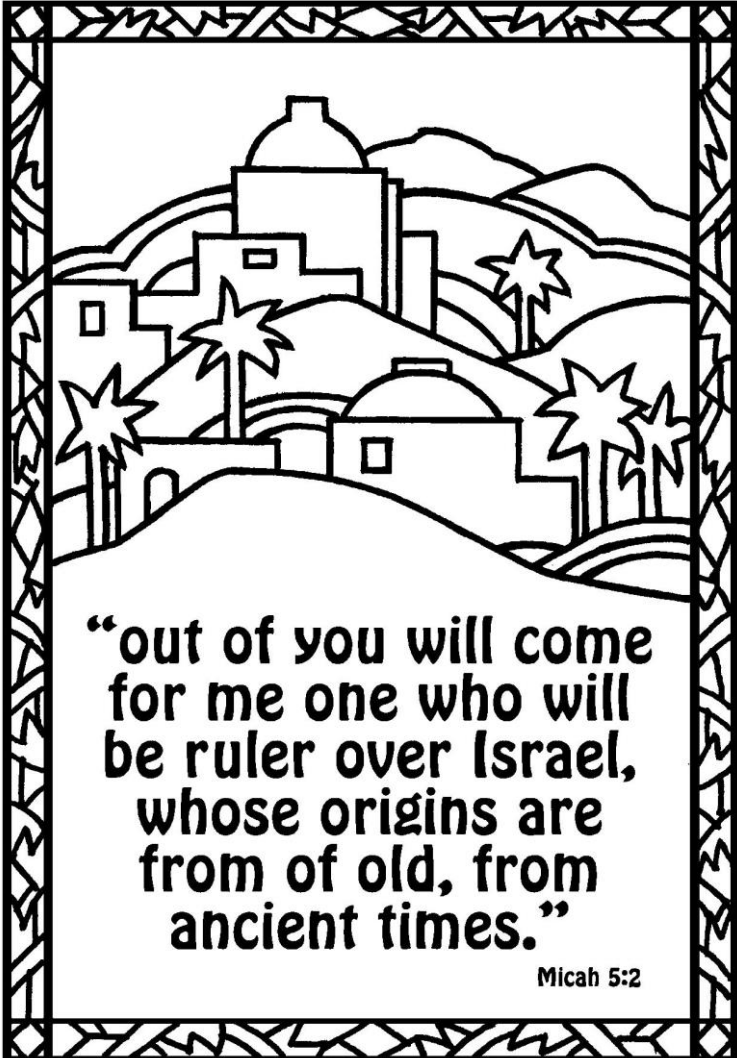




OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Welcome

Welcome to worship, especially our guests! We are delighted to have you with us. If you are looking for a church home, we are happy to share ours with you. If we haven't seen you in a while, it is great to see you today! Please join us again for Christmas Eve and Day worship. May God bless your time with us richly.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we look forward to Christmas, you have once again shown us all your blessings. We know that you have provided much more than just our daily needs. We thank you for so generously giving us your Son, our Lord. Through him you have showered us with the blessings of forgiveness, a purpose in life, and eternal life in paradise—no strings attached. For all these blessings, may we truly be thankful, dear Lord. Amen.

WELS Connection

As WELS gears up to celebrate its 175th anniversary in 2025, this month's WELS Connection looks at the importance of remembering our history—thanking God for how he has blessed and worked through WELS over the years.

Serving Today

- Minister – Pastor Em. Timothy Kujath
- Organist – Marie Kurth
- Ushers – Tony Sulko, Bill Unruh

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

Words of Welcome / WELS Connection

Opening Hymn

CW 327

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



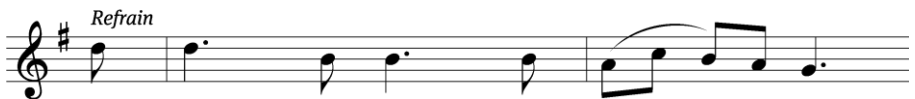
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from
3 O come, O Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.



Refrain
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Tune: French, 15th cent., alt

Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

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

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Song of Praise

CW 623 sts. 1, 3

O Bless the Lord, My Soul



1 O bless the Lord, my soul! Let all with-in me join and
3 'Tis he for - gives your sins, 'tis he re - lieves your pain, 'tis



aid my tongue to bless his name whose fa - vors are di - vine.
he that heals your sick - ness - es and makes you young a - gain.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.

Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–1776

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, 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.

Be seated

The Word

First Reading

Micah 5:2–5a

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he will be our peace

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer

Psalm 85A

Refrain



Tone



You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people
and covered / all their sins.
You set aside / all your wrath
and turned from your fierce / anger.
Show us your unfailing / love, LORD,
and grant us your sal- / vation. *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the / LORD says;
he promises peace to his / people.
Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him,
that his glory may dwell / in our land.
Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;
righteousness and peace kiss each / other.
**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Text: Hal H. Hopson

Tune: Hal H. Hopson

Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Setting: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5–10

⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me;
⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings
you were not pleased.

⁷Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—
I have come to do your will, my God.’ ”

⁸First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 1:23



Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and they will call him Im - man - u - el.

Refrain

Tune: © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 716671

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

⁴⁶And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones

but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things

but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,

remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever,

just as he promised our ancestors."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

Hymn of the Day

CW 333

O Little Town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt.
Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Micah 5:2-5a

“Bigger Is Not Necessarily Better”

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.

Thank Offering & Friendship Register

Members of Our Savior's give generous and free will gifts to honor the Lord and support our ministry of the gospel. Guests are welcome to give but should not feel obligated to do so.

As the offering is gathered, please sign the Friendship Register as it is passed down the pew.

Hymn

CW 540

- 1 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild, for sinners you became a child.
You came from heaven to fulfill your Father's just and holy will,
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild.
- 2 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild, with God we now are reconciled.
You have for all the ransom paid, your Father's righteous anger stayed,
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild.
- 3 O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild, joy fills the world which sin defiled.
Whate'er we have belongs to you, O keep us faithful, strong, and true,
O Jesus so sweet, O Jesus so mild.

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Geoffrey W. Daisley, 1877–1939, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Frieda Pietsch, 1904–1982
Text: Public domain

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! 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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

Closing Hymn

CW 313 sts. 1,3-4

Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
of his grace to_en - rich the hum - ble poor.
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt.

Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

Holiday Worship Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship – 2:00 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 25 Christmas Day Worship – 9:00 AM

Sincere Thanks – to retired Pastor Timothy Kujath, who traveled here from Hortonville to lead our worship and Bible class this morning.

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.

We are happy to announce that the Lord has led Pastor Mahnke to decline the call to serve in Pewaukee. He will continue to serve as our vacancy pastor for the foreseeable future.

Pastoral Call News - Our voters issued a Divine Call to Pastor James Backus, currently serving at St. Mark in Watertown, WI. Please keep Pastor Backus, his family, and congregations in your prayers as he deliberates where he can best serve our Lord. We encourage you to reach out to him: pastor.backus@smlcwatertown.com or call/text 517-920-1564.



Invitations for Christmas Worship – Christmas is the time when people are most likely to accept your invitation to attend worship. Please think about family, friends, neighbors, coworkers with whom you can the good news about salvation. We have printed special invitations with our Christmas worship times. Please pick up a few in the narthex or office entry today.

Asleep in Jesus – Len Becker passed victoriously into eternal life with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on December 12. A Christian funeral was held at Our Savior's on December 18. We offer our sympathies to Loris and her family. May God grant them peace, joy and full confidence that Len is rejoicing in heaven. Blessed be his memory.

This Week at Our Savior's

Today	9:00 AM 10:15 AM	Worship / WELS Connection Sunday School & Bible Class
Tuesday	2:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship
Wednesday	9:00 AM	Christmas Day Worship
Sunday 12/29	9:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion <i>No Sunday School or Bible Class</i>

Growing Together

December 15 , 2024

<u>Weekly</u>	<u>Vision</u>	<u>Debt Red</u>	<u>Plate</u>	<u>Advent</u>	<u>Chr Gifts/Bags</u>	<u>Missions</u>
\$2,603.00	\$90.00	\$65.00	\$7.00	\$52.00	\$235.00	\$40.00

<u>NLHS Tuition</u>	<u>NLHS Op</u>	<u>Teacher Appreciation</u>	<u>IROW Paper</u>	<u>School Fees</u>
\$15.00	\$30.00	\$200.00	\$10.90	\$833.33

Anticipated Weekly Offerings \$4,230

Attendance: Sunday, December 15 – 126

Gifts and Memorials

We thank Tony Sulko for his gift given in memory of Len Becker.

We thank the Brost family for their gift given with thanks to our teachers for fortifying their children's faith in all they do.

Thanks be to God for the love which led to these gifts.

Pick up today:

- **2025 Offering Envelopes** – *please do not use until January*
- **Forward in Christ, Meditations, Portals of Prayer**



Snow Removal

If you can help with snow removal, please sign up on the table in the narthex. Questions? Please see or call Bill Unruh.



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