



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 22, 2024

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Congregation

Building on the Rock of Jesus and His Word

1600 S. Main St. Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

stpetersfdl.net ~ 920-922-1160

Worship: Thursday, 6:30 pm ~ Sunday, 8:00 & 10:30 am

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Pastor Peter Lindemann	920-342-6924 (cell) or 922-1160 ext. 305
Pastor Luke Boehringer	920-579-8150 (cell) or 922-1160 ext. 304
St. Peter's Lutheran School, Mr. Courtney Meyer, Principal	922-1160 ext. 302
Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Mr. David Schroeder, Principal	921-4930 ext. 304

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE May Christ our Advent King strengthen his rule in your heart through his powerful, Spirit-filled Gospel.

Thank you for joining us for worship. *If you have any questions about our service or practice, please feel free to ask one of the ushers or the pastor.*

A PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP Come, gracious Lord, our hearts renew, our sins forgive, our foes suppress, our rooted enmity subdue, and crown your gospel with success. Teach us in watchfulness and prayer to wait for your appointed hour, and fit us by your grace to share the triumphs of your conquering power. Amen.

SERVICE THEME

A Real Christmas Will Lift Up the Lowly

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Service of the Word

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

These sentences will be spoken and the Advent candle lit immediately following the tolling of the bell at the beginning of the service.

Advent 4

M: We light four Advent candles as we behold Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

C: With eyes of faith we behold Jesus whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.

M: We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

C: We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.

M: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Four Advent candles (the Prophecy, Bethlehem, Angel, and Shepherd candles) are lit. The service continues with the opening hymn.

OPENING HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem | 333

M: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: (spoken) And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

M: God our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: (spoken) Amen.

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

OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is eter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, by your victory you have broken the power of the evil one. Fill our hearts with joy and peace as we look with hope to that day when every creature in heaven and earth will acclaim you King of kings and Lord of lords to your unending praise and glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

The lowly little town of Bethlehem would be lifted up. There a special son would be born who would bring spiritual peace to the ends of the earth.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity.³Therefore the LORD will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel.⁴He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth.⁵This one will be their peace.

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

PSALM

Out of the Depths | 130

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 10:5-10

We could not possibly raise ourselves up to God. So, the Son of God obeyed the law for us and by his sacrifice has made us holy. Christ has lifted up the lowly.

Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said:
Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but you prepared a body for me.

⁶You were not pleased with burnt offerings and sin offerings. ⁷Then I said, “Here I am. I have come to do your will, God. In the scroll of the book it is written about me.”

⁸First he said: Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law, both burnt offerings and sin offerings, you did not desire, and you were not pleased with them.

⁹Then he said: Here I am. I have come to do your will.

He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.

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

VERSE OF THE DAY



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL (Sermon Text)

Luke 1:39-55

In Spirit-wrought humility, Mary knew she needed a Savior. God lifts her up, making her the mother of that Savior.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel | 327

SERMON

Pastor Luke Boehringer

“Blessed Is She Who Believes”

1. Blessed are you among women!
2. Blessed is the fruit of your womb!

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.

GATHERING OF OUR OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

HYMN

All My Heart Again Rejoice | 329 v 1-4

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

All My Heart Again Rejoice | 329 v 5-6

ORGANIST: Erin Achey

GREETERS: 8:00 ~ Tracy & Eric Freiberg
10:30 ~ Heidi & Bruce Zabel