



**MORRISON
ZION
LUTHERAN**
Wisconsin Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

Our mission is to
Glorify God
as we
Gather
around the Gospel
to help people
Grow
in the Gospel
and
Go
with the Gospel

Welcome! We thank God that you have joined us at worship today.

Restrooms are located in the basement. Hearing loop headphones and Large Print Hymnals are available from an usher.

If your children need to leave worship, please take them to the basement. A TV broadcasts the service in the basement.

Today we gather together in the presence of God. He is present among us in a special way through his Word and Sacrament. We acknowledge our sin and rejoice in the good news of forgiveness through the life and death of Christ. This is the focus of our worship.

December 22, 2024
4th Sunday in Advent

A real Christmas starts with Advent.

A Real Christmas Will Lift Up the Lowly

By this time of the holiday season, people are often weighted down. They feel guilty about presents that are not perfect, or parties that did not go as planned, or year-end projects that did not get completed. To top it all off, now is when it dawns on people how little attention they have given to the spiritual preparation Advent invites.

If that is how we feel, perhaps the frenzy of December has done us a favor. We have been stretched to our limits. We have been made painfully aware of our shortcomings. We have been humbled. Perfect! For being made aware of our weakness does not disqualify us from God's care. It does the opposite. It is what prepares us for the work he does best. He is a God who lifts up the lowly.

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith and warns us against the dangers of not understanding what communion is, we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please contact pastor.

Questions for Personal Preparation for Holy Communion are located on p.15 of this service folder.

Gathering Rite

My Soul in Stillness Waits CW 325

Stand



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.



1 O Lord of Light, our on - ly hope of glo - ry,



your ra-diance shines in all who look to you; come, light the



hearts of all in dark and shad-ow.

Refrain

M: We wait in hope for the LORD ; he is our help and our shield.

C: **In him our hearts rejoice, for we trust in his holy name.**

M: May your unfailing love be with us, LORD, even as we put our hope in you (Ps 33:20-23)



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

M: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

C: **according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions**

M: Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. (Ps 51:1-2; 32:1)

M: If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.**

M: I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. (Ps 130:3-5)

Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

4 O Key of Knowl - edge, guide us in our pil-grim-age;

we ev - er seek, yet un - ful-filled re - main; o - pen to

Refrain
us the path-way of your peace.

M: I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

C: **Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.**

M: He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins. (Ps 130:6-8)

M: My heart is not proud, LORD, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me

C: **But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content.**

M: Israel, put your hope in the LORD both now and forevermore. (Ps 131:3)

Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

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

C: **We remember Jesus whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.
⁵And he will be our peace. (NIV)

Psalm of the Day

LORD, in Your Mercy, Hear My Prayer Psalm 85a CW

Refrain



LORD, in your mer - cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

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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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.

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. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia. (Matthew 1:23 NIV)

Stand

Gospel

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.

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.” (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Be Seated

Hymn of the Day

O Little Town of Bethlehem CW 333



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

Luke 1:39-55



Stand

Create in Me

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver"* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Prayer of the Church

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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

Proper Preface

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the World. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen

O Christ, Lamb of God



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us your peace. A - - men.

Be Seated

Distribution

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Distribution Hymn

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came CW 328



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
 2 "I come from heav'n to tell the Lord's de - cree:
 3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
 4 Of her Im - man - u - el, the Christ, was born



his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame:
 a bless - ed vir - gin moth - er you shall be.
 "To me be as it pleas - es God," she said.
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail," said he to meek and low - ly Mar - y,
 Your son shall be Im - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "My soul shall praise and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly name."
 and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say,



"most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored maid - en." Glo - ri - a!

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



THANKSGIVING

Stand

Song of Simeon



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Benediction

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Be Seated

Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel CW 327



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

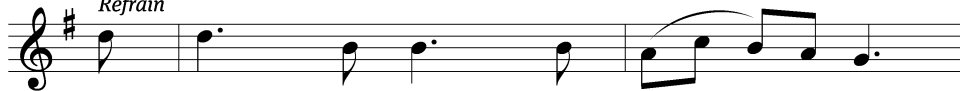


cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your
by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y
wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



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 Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent., alt
Text and tune: Public domain

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PERSONAL PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?

A: *He says that I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.*

Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?

A: *I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?*

Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?

A: *I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.*

Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?

A: *His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.*

Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?

A: *In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.*

Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?

A: *I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: "Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."*

Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?

A: *I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.*

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

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