

**A Prayer
Upon Enter-
ing Church**
O Radiant
Dawn,
splendor of
eternal light,
sun of justice:
come and
shine on those
who dwell in
darkness
and in the
shadow
of death.

O King of all
nations and
keystone of
the Church:
come and save
man, whom
you formed
from the dust!

~ *the Fifth and
Sixth Great
Antiphons of
Advent*



The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 23, 2018 + 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord's Day. "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me" (Hebrew 10:5). Our Lord Jesus Christ did not come to please God with impressive offerings, but to take on our human flesh from His mother, Mary, and serve all the brothers and sisters of mankind. By becoming a man, with body and blood and flesh and soul, God has come to this earth in the beauty of mercy and the strength of salvation.

Sharing God's Blessings Today

- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored by Donnie and Lynn Budnik in honor of Lynn's mom, Phyllis, for the blessing she is in their lives. Donnie and Lynn also honor the memory of their dads, Donald and Ralph, and Donnie's mom, Elizabeth, whom they will love always.
- Flowers do not adorn the chancel during the Advent season.
- The Radio Broadcast and Flower sponsor sign-up charts for 2019 will be available soon.

The Adult Jesus

Christmas calls a community back to its origins by remembering Jesus' own beginnings as a human child, a prophet of God's reign, a judgment on the world and its projects. What the parish celebrates during this season is not primarily a birthday, but the beginning of a decisive new phase in the tempestuous history of God's hunger for human companions. The social concerns of the season are thus rooted in Jesus' proclamation of God's reign: the renunciation of patterns that oppress others (holding, climbing, commanding) and the formation of a new human community that voluntarily embraces those renunciations. It is an adult Christ that the community encounters during the Advent and Christmas cycles of Sundays and feasts: a Risen Lord who invites sinful people to become church. Christmas does not ask us to pretend we were back in Bethlehem, kneeling before a crib; it asks us to recognize that the wood of the crib became the wood of the cross.

~ *Nathan Mitchell, A Christmas Source Book*

Announcements

Parish announcements may be found in the weekly newsletter, *For You*, provided by the ushers after worship.



PRELUDE

A Collection of Hymns for Advent IV

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Please stand.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please kneel. Silence for reflection.

*Don't say
goodbye to
the Fourth
Sunday in
Advent too
quickly. This
day is the
sweetest day
you'll ever
have.*

*It's the day
that's right
before The
Big Day-
We're-All-
Waiting-For.
It's the day in
which the joy
of the festival
is so close,
we can feel it,
and the mere
promise of its
arrival is
enough to
warm and
cheer us.
This Sunday
is the day
when most of
the waiting is
behind us,
and all of the
feast is ahead
of us.*

*In short, to-
day is the day
that most
closely re-
sembles the
whole Chris-
tian life.*

There they are, printed just to the right of this margin: the words for which Christ died and shed His blood: "I forgive you all your sins." Those words are not the pastor's words, but Christ's words, spoken to you in His stead and by His command (John 20:23). Jesus was born so that these words could be spoken to you.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this, your confession, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

Please stand.

ENTRANCE HYMN

"My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" blue hymnal #730

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

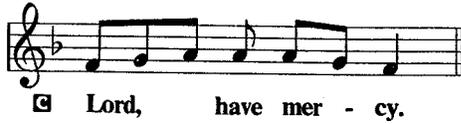
KYRIE

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



☞ Lord, have mer - cy.

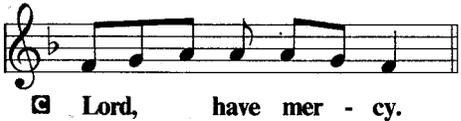
P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the holy Church, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray . . . Stir up your power, O Lord, and come and help us by your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by your grace and mercy; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

[Note: "incarnation" refers to God becoming flesh in Jesus Christ – that is, God becoming human and touchable.]

Confession makes sense to me because it is incarnational. In the sacraments, the Holy Spirit uses stuff to sanctify us. In the Eucharist He uses bread and wine...in baptism He uses water. In confession, the stuff He uses is another person. In that way, confession teaches us about the Incarnation all over again.
~ Lauren F. Winner, Girl Meets God

*That glorious
form, that
light unsuf-
ferable,*

*And that far-
beaming blaze
of majesty*

*Forsook the
courts of ev-
erlasting day,*

*And chose
with us a
darksome
house of mor-
tal clay.*

*~ John Mil-
ton (d. 1674
A.D.), "On
the Morn-
ing of
Christ's
Nativity"*

OLD TESTAMENT Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7

L: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph 'like a flock;*
shine forth, you that are enthroned up'on the cherubim.

**C: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, 'and Manasseh,*
stir up your strength and 'come to help us.**

L: Restore us, O 'God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we 'shall be saved.

**C: O LORD 'God of hosts,*
how long will you be angered despite the prayers 'of your
people?**

L: You have fed them with the 'bread of tears;*
you have given them bowls of 'tears to drink.

**C: You have made us the derision 'of our neighbors,*
and our enemies laugh 'us to scorn.**

L: Restore us, O 'God of hosts;*
show the light of your countenance, and we 'shall be saved.

**All: Glory to the Father, and 'to the Son,*
and to the 'Holy Spirit;
as it was in 'the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. 'Amen**

EPISTLE Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

*With goodness
and kindness,
like a king who
sends his son,
who is also a
king, God sent
God, the
Word, among
us. He sent
him to save us
through per-
suasion rather
than violence,
for there is no
violence in
God. He sent
him to call us
rather than to
accuse us; he
sent him to
love us rather
than to judge
us.*

*~ Letter to
Diognetus,
130 A.D.*

*Come to me,
Beloved,*

*Babe of Beth-
lehem*

*Lay aside thy
scepter*

*And thy dia-
dem.*

*Come to me,
Beloved,*

*Light and
healing bring;*

*Hide my sin
and sorrow*

*Underneath
thy wing.*

*Bid all fear
and doubting*

*From my soul
depart,*

*As I feel the
beating*

*Of thy hu-
man heart...*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill coun-try, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:

C: **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; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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

Please be seated.

SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:00 a.m.)

During the singing of the hymn, children of preschool age through grade 4 may leave for Sunday School classes downstairs in the church hall. There is no music time this week so please reclaim your children from their classes in the church hall..

*. . . Hide from
me the pity*

Of the seraphim

*They, so pure
and spotless*

*I, so stained
with sin.*

*Only thee,
Beloved,*

*Only thee, I
seek.*

*Thou, the
man Christ
Jesus*

*Strength in
flesh made
weak.*

*~ D. M
Dolben*

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” green hymnal #34

SERMON

“A Body Prepared”

Please kneel.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all creation according to its needs.

P: . . . let us pray to the Lord,

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

OFFERING

*While the offerings are received, please pass in your row the **Friendship Register**, and add your name(s). If you are a guest or visitor, please include your address.*

VOLUNTARY

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” . . . Michael Burkhardt

Please stand.

*Hark, hark,
the wise eternal Word*

*Like a weak
infant cries.*

*In form of
servoant is the
Lord,*

*And God in
cradle lies.*

*~ T. Pestel
Behold the
Great Creator
Makes*

OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the
hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and
give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray . . . Gracious Father, with this bread and cup, we remember the life our Lord offered for us. Believing in the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

□ And al - so with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

□ We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

□ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

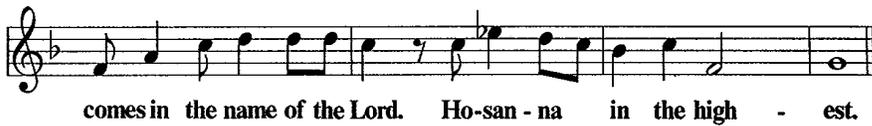
P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS ("Holy")

□ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en 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 who



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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

ACCLAMATION

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

The cry of distress of a humanity at odds with itself and with God – "Lord, make us one!" – finds an answer at the table of the unifying bread of life. As Augustine wrote: In uno estote, unum estote, unus estote – "be in the one Lord, be one body, be united as one."

*~ Photina
Rech,
Wine and Bread*

Through the Holy Eucharist every catholic, Christian church becomes a Bethlehem. Each is a mystery of a real but hidden presence. In the manger the Son hid His Godhead beneath the dwindled form of infancy, and on the altar, beneath the lowly species of bread, even His manhood eludes the gaze of men. In both states of humility the eternal Son does deeds of infinite grandeur.

~ John Seward,
Cradle of Redeeming Love

AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated.

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. If you cannot use the steps to the altar, you may either ask an usher to have Communion brought to you, or you may go to the altar in the side (west) chapel. Those not communing may cross their arms over their chest for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His body and blood forgives ours sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Once He Came in Blessing" green hymnal #312

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" green hymnal #30

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE ("Nunc Dimittis")



Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -
veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

The Lord has exalted me by a gift so great, so unheard of, that language is useless to describe it; and the depths of love in my heart can scarcely grasp it. I offer then all the powers of my soul in praise and thanksgiving. As I contemplate his greatness, which knows no limits, I joyfully surrender my whole life, my senses, my judgment, for my spirit rejoices in the eternal Godhead of the Jesus, that Saviour, whom I have conceived in this world of time.

~ Bede the Venerable (d. 735 A.D.), from a commentary on St. Luke's Gospel

**A Prayer as
You Go**

Grant, we
beseech
Thee, al-
mighty God,
that the new
Nativity of
Thine Only-
begotten in
the flesh
may deliver
us whom an
old servi-
tude holds
fast beneath
the yoke of
sin. Amen

~ *Collect of
the Third
Mass of
Christmas
Day, from
the Missale
romanum*

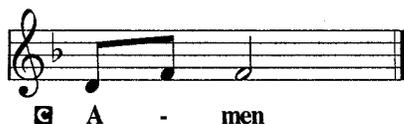
POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

BENEDICTION

P: Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.



SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

... Charles W. Ore

+ Soli Deo Gloria +
To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Presiding: The Rev. Christopher Johnson

Assisting: Vicar Joseph Pinzl

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Lector: (9:00) Samantha Pinzl

(11:00) Carl Boettcher

Radio Announcer: (9:00) Scott Schubring

Acolyte: (11:00) Mara Stahl

Elder: (9:00) Craig Zastrow

(11:00) Adam Holzschuh

Ushers: (9:00) Sally Christoffersen; Steve and Marlene Kroening;

Ken Rodemeier

(11:00) Al Lippert

Communion Assistant:

(9:00) Bill Metter

(11:00) Gary Gisselman

Altar Guild: Sally Christoffersen; Vicky Radunz

Acknowledgements

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Zion Lutheran Church

Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

Church Telephone: 715-848-7286

Senior Pastor Steven K. Gjerde
Associate Pastor Christopher S. Johnson
Pastoral Assistant Joseph C. Pinzl
Kantor Irene Beethe
Children's Catechist Ivan Beethe
Parish Nurse Lenore Grosinske
Office Manager Pam Gabriel
Secretary Anna Mae Zeinemann
Custodian Michael Renken

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www.zionlutheranwausau.com

Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or
click "Listen Live" at www.wsau.com)

Member Congregation of Lutheran Core
www.lutherancore.org