

**A Prayer
Upon Enter-
ing Church**

O Lord, wake us from our slumber in senseless sin, that we may rise to your light, and in so doing dress us for action and give to us steadfast faith that we may be without fear even in the face of our enemies. May Immanuel be a sign of your everlasting faithfulness to us that we may take heart as those adorned, even now, in the grace and mercy of your beloved Son.
Amen



The Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2019 + 9:00 and 11:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord's Day. God promised Adam and Eve that their sin would be crushed by one of her offspring. Throughout the ages, this promise remains true. Through the mouths of His prophets, spoken from the lips of angels, given even to lowly shepherds, and resting in the very womb of a virgin, this promise is fulfilled in the messiah—Jesus Christ. In this lowly child born in a manger God Himself came 2,000 years ago to be with His people, saving them from the power of sin and death. So too does He come this very day, God in the flesh, to save you!

Sharing God's Blessings Today

- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored in loving memory of their mother, Pearl Tranetzki, who would have been 100 on December 23, 2019, from her loving children, Emi and Tom Tranetzki, and Polly and Larry Nemec and family.
- The bulletins are sponsored by Bruce and Barb Thornton, in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary on December 26.
- Flowers do not adorn the chancel during the Advent season.
- The Radio Broadcast and Flower sponsor sign-up charts for 2020 will be available soon.

A Welcome for Those With Young Children

This house is your children's home, too. Relax and enjoy your time here:

- Jesus knows that children tend to wiggle and squawk, so please don't feel embarrassed by it. Your children are welcome at Zion.
- To make it a bit easier on your family, please consider sitting towards the front where your children can easily see the worship leaders, hear the words, note the colors, wonder about some of the images up there, and embrace the action at the altar.
- As we go along, softly explain the liturgy to your children, encouraging them to chime in with their parts: *Amen! Lord have mercy! And also with you! I believe! Our Father!* All of that belongs to them, too.
- Be sure to sing and pray your parts as you stand and kneel and sit. Your children learn by following your lead.
- If you and your child must leave, please hurry back. There is a nursery downstairs for those who would like to use it, but like Jesus, we want your children in the liturgy, not out. *Let the little children come unto me.* (Luke 18:16).

If you need help, just ask. There are lots of folks here who will lend a hand.

Announcements

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



PRELUDE

A Selection 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.

For God is good, or rather the source of all goodness, and one who is good grudges nothing, so that grudging nothing its existence, He made all things through His own Word, our Lord Jesus Christ. Among these things, of all things upon earth He had mercy upon the human race, and seeing that by the principle of its own coming into being it would not be able to endure eternally,...

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

"The Advent of Our God" green hymnal #22

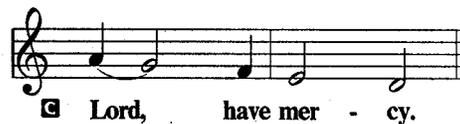
GREETING

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

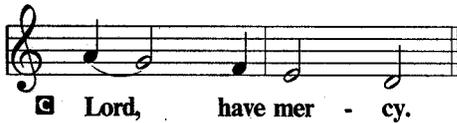
P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



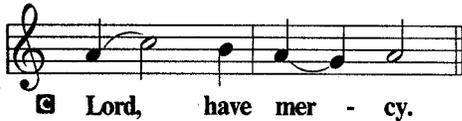
P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



COLLECT

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.

...he granted them a further gift, creating human beings not simply like all irrational animals upon the earth but making them according to His own image, giving them a share of the power of His own Word, so that having as of were shadows of the Word and being made rational, they might be able to abide in blessedness, living the true life which is really that of the holy ones in paradise.

~St. Athanasius, 335 A.D.

The coming of Jesus into the world is the sign of God's being with us. There is no greater sign. Other signs – whether they are in nature, history, or personal experience – can be ambiguous, but this one is not. Jesus came into the world to reveal and to redeem – to show us the true character of God, and to "save His people from their sins."

~Arland J. Hultgren, 2016 A.D.

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah – the king of Assyria."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 24

L: The earth is the LORD'S and all 'that is in it,*
the world and all who 'dwell therein.

**C: For it is he who founded it up'on the seas*
and made it firm upon the rivers 'of the deep.**

L: "Who can ascend the hill 'of the LORD?*"
and who can stand in his 'holy place?"

**C: "Those who have clean hands and 'a pure heart,*
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, |
nor sworn by what 'is a fraud.**

L: They shall receive a blessing 'from the LORD*
and a just reward from the God of 'their salvation."

C: **Such is the generation of 'those who seek him,*
of those who seek your face O 'God of Jacob.**

L: Lift up your heads O gates; |
lift them high O ever'lasting doors;*
and the King of glory 'shall come in.

C: **"Who is this 'King of glory?""*
"The LORD strong and mighty, |
the LORD might'y in battle."**

L: Lift up your heads O gates; |
lift them high O ever'lasting doors;*
and the King of glory 'shall come in.

C: **"Who is he this 'King of glory?""*
"The LORD of hosts he is the 'King of glory."**

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 Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom

*It was not His
own death that
the Savior
came to com-
plete, but that
of human be-
ings.*

*~ St. Athana-
sius, 335 A.D.*

*The Son of
God goes
forth to war
A kingly
crown to
gain.*

*His blood-red
banner
streams afar;
who follows
in His train?*

*Who best can
drink His cup
of woe, Tri-
umphant over
pain,*

*Who patient
bears his
cross below
He follows in
His train...*

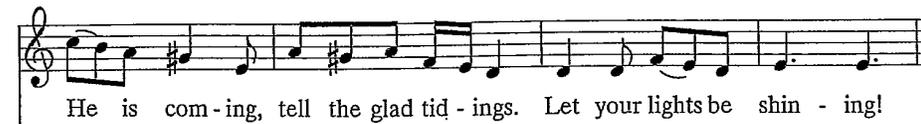
we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH



GOSPEL

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

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

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what

the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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

*A noble
army, men
and boys, The
matron and
the maid,*

*Around the
Savior's
throne rejoice,
In robes of
light arrayed.*

*They climbed
the steep as-
cent of heav'n
through peril,
toil, and pain.*

*O God, to us
may grace be
giv'n to fol-
low in their
train!*

*~ "The son fo
God Goes
Forth to
War," LSB
661, stan-
zas 1 & 4.*

Oh, come,
strong
Branch of
Jesse, free
your own
from Satan's
tyranny; from
depths of hell
your people
save and give
them victory
o'er the grave.
Rejoice!
Rejoice!
Emmanuel
shall come to
you, O Israel.

~Stanza 3 of
Oh, Come,
Oh, Come,
Emmanuel

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. Please reclaim your children at 10:25 a.m. after their music time in the balcony.

HYMN OF THE DAY

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

SERMON

“Dress for Action!”

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"

... Charles Callahan

Please stand.

OFFERTORY ("The Magnificat")



My soul pro - claims your great - ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless - ing shall pro - claim

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.

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.



C And al - so with you.

At communion, we think of "receiving" but we are also being given. (When we receive) Communion in the hand, Christ is literally allowing Himself to be "handed over" to each us of us, as He allowed Himself to be handed over to earthly authorities. At that moment, we hold the salvation of the world within our hands....

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, Lord God of
 pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.**

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

...To consume is to consent to the salvation of the world residing in us, literally flowing through our veins by the pumping power of our own hearts. What will we do, then, while possessing the Salvation of the World with our own cells and sinews? What do we do with what we carry? This is not a metaphor; it is Reality.

~Elizabeth Scalia, 2016 A.D.

For if death has been destroyed...and all trampled it down on account of the Lord, all more did he first trample it down in his own body and destroy it. Death having been put to death by him, what else happened that the body should rise and be shown as the trophy over it?

~ St Athanasius, 355 A.D.

sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, 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 our 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

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

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed" green hymnal #87

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

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

A Prayer as You Go

O Lord, we have heard the angels announce that you would be the Savior which you have confirmed for us through the supper of salvation. By your holy Spirit, give us now those pure hearts resolved in holding fast to you, that we may join all brothers and sisters in a joyful celebration of your birth. We bless you now and evermore. Amen.

BENEDICTION

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



☐ A - men

SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

"Hail to the Lord's Anointed" ... Benjamin M. Culli

+ Soli Deo Gloria +
To God alone be glory

Serving at Worship

Preaching: The Rev. Joseph Pinzl

Presiding: (9:00) The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde (*at Bethany, 10:30*)

(11:00) The Rev. Christopher Johnson

Assisting: (9:00) The Rev. Christopher Johnson

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Lector: (9:00) Mark Gehrke

(11:00) Robert Steffen

Radio Announcer: (9:00) Dick Ames

Acolyte: (9:00) Madison Cornell

(11:00) Emma Pagel

Elder: (9:00) Scott Schubring

(11:00) Donna Nuernberg

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

Ken Rodemeier

(11:00) Al Lippert

Communion Assistants:

(9:00) Steve Zeinemann

(11:00) Marge Gausewitz; Gary Gisselman

Altar Guild: Pam Hoppe; Bonnie Waack

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
Associate Pastor Joseph C. Pinzl
Kantor Irene Beethe
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Custodian Michael Renken

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

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