

Historic Zion Lutheran Church

DIVINE SERVICE FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

9:00 am Sunday, December 24, 2023

RECEIVING OF THE LORD'S SUPPER AT ZION

As intended by Christ and as practiced by the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church throughout her history, "Closed Communion" is observed in this congregation, in which the Lord's Supper is distributed only to those:

- (a) who have been **baptized** in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
- (b) who have been **instructed** in the truth of Holy Scripture as taught in the Lutheran Confessions, who have been **confirmed** in this Lutheran faith, and who now confess the same doctrines that are taught in this congregation, holding membership in a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod;
- (c) who **believe that in this sacrament the real body and blood of Christ are truly distributed to them and orally received by them**, bestowing on them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation;
- (d) who **sincerely repent** of all their sins, and desire to receive God's forgiveness in this holy meal.

Guests at our services, before receiving the sacrament, are requested to affirm these facts with one of our pastors. Thank you for honoring our practice. If you are looking for a church home, would like to be a member of Zion, or would like to learn more about the Christian Faith, please speak to one of our pastors about our membership classes.

✠ = *appropriate to make the baptismal sign of the cross*
When "rise" or "kneel" is indicated, it is appropriate to sit if needed

Greeting And Announcements: *The Lord be with you! And also with you!*

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

The Office of Confession of Sins and Absolution

Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

[*Kneel*]

Our help is in the name of the Lord Who made heaven and earth. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord. And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

O almighty God, merciful Father; 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.

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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. Amen!

The Congregation rises, turns towards the entrance of the nave, and faces the Cross of Christ, the reminder of Christ's promise to come and dwell among His people as they are gathered in His name.

Introit



[Antiphon] “Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | right- eousness; || let the earth open, that salvation and | right- eousness may bear | fruit;”

Verse 1: **The heavens declare the | •glory• of God, || and the sky above pro- | claims his hand- i- | work.**

Verse 2: *In them he has set a tent | for the sun, || which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber, and, like a strong man, | runs its course with | joy.*

Verse 3: **Its rising is from the end | of the •heavens•, || and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing | hid- den from its | heat.**

Gloria: **Glory be to the Father and | to the Son: || and | to the Ho- ly | •Spirit•; As it was in the be- | •ginning•, is now, || and will | be for- eever• A- | men!**

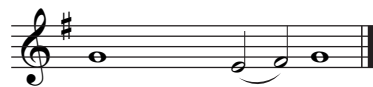
[Antiphon] “Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the clouds rain down | right- eousness; || let the earth open, that salvation and | right- eousness may bear | fruit;”

Kyrie



Salutation

The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir— it.

Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Advent: *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.*



A ——— men!

Collect for Advent: *Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*



A ——— men!

[Be Seated] + **The Office of the Word of God** +

Old Testament Reading..... **2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

[After the reading] *This is the word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle of the Day **Romans 16:25-27**

[After the reading] *This is the word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

[Rise] **Alleluia Sequence**

[Deacon] *Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel." Alleluia!*



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

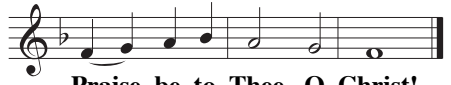
Holy Gospel **St. Luke 1:26-38**

[The Gospel is announced.]

[The Gospel is proclaimed.]



Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord!



Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

Confession of Faith (The Nicene Creed)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

[Bow] And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, And was made man;

And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sits at the right hand of the Father; And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the Prophets. And I believe in one Holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen!

[Be Seated]

Hymn of the Day **O Come, O Come Emmanuel** **Burgundy Hymn 357**

[All sing stanzas 1 & 2; Men alone sing stanzas 3 & 5; Women alone sing stanzas 4 & 6; All sing stanza 7.]

Sermon

[Rise] **Prayer of the Church**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs: [After each petition]:..., Lord, in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

[After the final prayer]:..., one God, now and forever **Amen.**

[Be Seated] **Offerings, Voluntary**

[Rise] **Offertory Hymn** **Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God**



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 Thy pres - ence, and



take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of

Thy sal - va - tion; and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

+ The Office of the Sacrament of the Altar +

Preface

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

And with thy spir - it. We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface for Advent, Sanctus

It is truly meet, right and salutary ever more praising You and saying:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
 Heav'n and earth are full of Thy 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 that
 com - eth in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the highest.

[Kneel] **Lord's Prayer** [Pastor chants:] *Our Father who art ... but deliver us from evil.*


For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glo - ry for -
 ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Words of Institution, Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

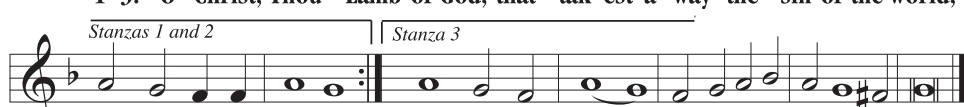
A - men.

Agnus Dei



1-3. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world,

Stanzas 1 and 2 | Stanza 3



have mer-cy up - on us. Grant us Thy Peace. A - - - men!

[Be Seated]

Distribution Hymns The Angel Gabriel Burgundy Hymn 356

Jesus Came, the Heav'ns Burgundy Hymn 353

[Rise]

Eucharistic Benediction

The Body and Blood of your Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting! ✠ Depart in Peace! Amen!

Post-Communion Canticle The Nunc Dimittis



1. Lord now— lettest Thou Thy
servant, de— part— in — peace, ac— cord— ing to Thy Word.

2. For mine__ eyes have seen
Thy Salvation,
which Thou hast pre— pared__ be— fore the face of all__ people.



3. a Light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the Glo- ry of Thy peo-ple Is - - - ra-el.



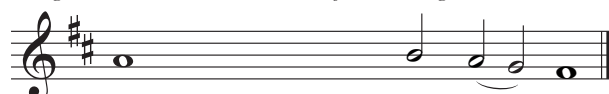
4. Glo— ry__ be to the
Father, and to__ the__ Son, and to the Ho- ly Ghost.



5. As it__ was in the
beginning, is
now, and e— ver shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Post Communion Rite

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.



And His mercy endureth for - ev — er.

Prayer of Thanksgiving ... now and forever.



A — men.

The Lord be with you.



Bless we the Lord.



Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.



During the Recessional, the Congregation turns and faces the Processional Cross, the symbol of Christ's promise to remain with and lead His people as they now go and live in the world in His name.

Recessional Hymn What Hope! Burgundy Hymn 342

Postlude

Oh, Rejoice, All Christians, Loudly!

**Come join us at Zion Lutheran Church
as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.**

- Advent Services, Wednesdays at 7pm
- Christmas Eve Candelight Service of Lessons and Carols
Featuring Choir, Brass, and Organ
Prelude begins at 6:30pm • Service begins at 7pm
- Christmas Day Festival Service
Featuring Choir, Brass, and Organ
Prelude begins at 8:45am • Service begins at 9am



2313 South Hanna Street at Creighton

Telephone 744-1389

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Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Old Testament Reading is 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ...

‘And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

The Epistle is Romans 16:25-27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

The Gospel is Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Hymns for the Fourth Sunday in Advent

LSB357 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Latin, c. 12th cent.

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*
- M 3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might,
Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height
In ancient times didst give the Law
In cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*
- W 4. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow'r to save,
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*
- M 5. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*
- W 6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*
7. O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain.*

LSB356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Basque, c. 18th cent.

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
2. “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee;
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!
3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
“Most highly favored lady.” Gloria!

LSB353 Jesus Came, the Heav’ns Adoring

Godfrey Thring

1. Jesus came, the heav’ns adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came to win redemption, Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.
2. Jesus comes again in mercy When our hearts are worn with care;
Jesus comes again in answer To an earnest, heart-felt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.
3. Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Bringing news of sins forgiv’n;
Jesus comes with words of gladness, Leading souls redeemed to heav’n.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv’n.
4. Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate’er befalls us, Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comforts us in failing years.

LSB342 What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

Stephen P. Starke

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1. What hope! An Eden prophesied Where tame live with the wild;
The lamb and lion side by side, Led by a little child!

2. A shoot will sprout from Jesse's stem, A branch from David's line,
A Prince of Peace in Bethlehem: The fruit of God's design.
3. As banner of God's love unfurled, Christ came to suffer loss,
That by His death a dying world Would rally to the cross.
4. Come, Jesus, come, Messiah Lord, Lost Paradise restore;
Lead past the angel's flaming sword — Come, open heaven's door.

The Fourth Sunday in Advent



Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

2313 Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46803 | 260-744-1389

pastor@zionfw.org, church@zionfw.org | website: www.zionfw.org

Zion Lutheran Church is the body of Christ at Hanna and Creighton in Fort Wayne, Indiana that:

- Receives Christ's gifts in Word and Sacraments; and
- Responds to God's love in Christ by
 - Reaching out to those who do not know His love; and
 - Revealing His love in acts of kindness and mercy.

The Pastoral Ministry at Zion

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Douglas D. Punke, MDiv (341-5397)

Field Workers:

Paul Mroczenski, Matthew Harrison

The Teaching Staff at Lutheran South Unity

Principal:

Amber Bahr (744-0459; www.lsusfw.org)

Teachers:

Yvonne Schwantz (8th, ELA), Michael Cullen (7th, MS Science),
Chase Mertz (6th, MS Social Studies), Danielle Ramsey (5th), John Kuker (4th),
Abbey Zelt (3rd), John Fink (2nd), Hannah Maresh (1st),
Karen Koehlert (K-A), Rachel Wiegman (K-B), Natalie Reynolds (Art & Music),
Lizzy Hoham (Progress Partners Coach), Marcus Rush (K-5 PE)

The Support Staff

Organist and Director of Parish Music:

Michael Hollman, MM

Church Office Manager:

Melvia Culpher

PRAYERS FOR TODAY

- + For the church, especially those bearing the cross of persecution
- + For those who serve our Lord at home and abroad, especially our fieldworkers Paul Mroczenski and Matthew Harrison
- + For our nation; for our leaders; for our military, including James Hall; especially at this perilous time in our world
- + For our schools, especially Lutheran South Unity School, Concordia Lutheran High School, and Concordia Theological Seminary
- + For those who travel
- + For the aged and the homebound
- + For those who are on hospice care
- + For the ill, distressed, and those suffering affliction, including Jessica Krause, Connie Houser, Jason Kaiser, Janice Grim, Sarah Hollman, Debra Busche, Bill Weinrich, John Starks, Dwight Bieberich, Willodean Bates, Dick Hollman, Bob Ockree, David Evans, John A. Pless, Joe Harrison, Louisa Porter, Marlow Hogan, Gregory Hogan, Marissia White, Dwight Johnson, Sue Doepner, Blakely White, Joan Messmann, Ron Rastl, and Robert & Jenny Hobby
- + For God's blessing on all godly marriages
- + For the gift of life and for length of days
- + For the gift of rebirth by water and the Spirit
- + For those who mourn the death of loved ones, especially Art & Marie Litke at the death of Marie's brother Kenneth Raber
- + In remembrance of the faithful departed
- + For our communicants and for a fruitful use of the most Blessed Sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood

IN THE SERVICE TODAY

Today is the Divine Service for the Fourth Sunday in Advent. Thank you to everyone who purchased and dedicated a poinsettia for Zion's chancel. Please see the dedication insert. Please also complete an attendance/communion card, including the names of all children, and indicate if you are communing. Non-members, please read the back of the card.

CALENDAR

December 24, 2023 thru December 30, 2023

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
		No Education Hour this morning	
	6:30 PM	Pre-service Music — Choral & Instrumental	Church
	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Service of Lessons & Carols	Church
MON.	8:45 AM	Pre-service Music — Choral & Instrumental	Church
	9:00 AM	Festival Divine Service	Church
TUES.			
WED.	5:30 PM	Wednesday Divine Service	Church
THURS.			
FRI.			
SAT.	11:00 AM	Private Confession	Church

December 31, 2023

SUN.	9:00 AM	Divine Service	Church
	10:30 AM	Education Hour	Various

ZION ANNOUNCEMENTS

EDUCATION HOUR: no Education Hour today. We'll prepare for Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols tonight. Education Hour will return next Sunday.

COMMUNICATION: we have a new way to communicate with members; our database can now send mass emails and text messages. We'll use it mainly for timely, need-to-know information, but we do need to know your email address and/or cell phone number. Therefore, please make sure that Melvia has them. Call the office to verify.

FLOWER CHART: Rosie has hung the flower chart; go ahead and mark the dates you want.

FYI: annual giving statements will be ready on January 7th after church service. Any statements that haven't been picked up by January 21st will be mailed out on the Monday Jan. 22nd.

SAVE THE DATE: on January 28, 2024 after Divine Service, we will be holding our semi-annual Congregational Assembly in Bauer Hall.

NEXT YEAR'S OFFERING ENVELOPES are on table in the Great Hall. Most are gone, but if you haven't picked yours up yet, please stop and pick them up.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS: Don't forget, if you would like to continue receiving the *Lutheran Witness*, please submit a check to Zion in the amount of \$19 by December 31st.

CHRISTMAS IS HERE! This evening is our Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols, 6:30 PM for choir and instruments, and 7:00 PM for the Lessons and Carols. The Christmas Feast is tomorrow, December 25, 8:45 AM for choir & instruments, and 9:00 for the Festival Divine Service. "O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!"

MEMORY VERSE CHALLENGE: Galatians 4:4-5—"But when the fullness of time had come. God sent forth his Son, born of women, born under the law, to redeem those who were the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." Last week's verse was Isaiah 40:1.

LIFE DEFENDERS TRIP TO THE NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE: College-aged and high school students are invited to join Right to Life of Northeast Indiana on a bus trip to the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. We leave the evening of January 17th and return home early morning on Saturday, January 20th. We want YOU on the bus with us for this life-changing experience! Learn more at www.ichooselife.org/dc or call our office at 260-471-1849.

RLNI: Our Rally for Life will take place January 27th at the University of St. Francis Performing Arts Center, 431 W Berry St, Fort Wayne, at 12 pm; doors open at 11:30 am. Our keynote speaker this year will be State Senator Liz Brown, a passionate advocate for life in the Indiana General Assembly! The March for Life will start after the Rally. Also, the **2024 Legislative Forum** will be February 17th. Doors open at 9:00a with the event running from 9:30a-11:30a at the Historic Woman's Club at 402 W Wayne St, Fort Wayne. There will be an all-new format. You will hear from legislators and organizations on where we stand on LIFE in Indiana. Breakfast is being served at a cost of \$5. Register for the Legislative Forum at ichooselife.org.

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For the family of God's Priestly People at Zion

God calls His own people a "Royal Priesthood." God makes us kings and queens, princes and princesses who are bound together by the Holy Spirit in Baptism for the Christian benefit of each other. Priests **PRAY** -- They talk to God about their neighbor! Priests **TEACH** -- They talk to their neighbor about God! Priests **OFFER SACRIFICES** -- They offer to God the sacrifice of broken and contrite hearts; they offer their bodies and work as holy services to God for their neighbors. Join in this priestly work of prayer with your fellow members.

Morning Prayer

Luke 1:26-38
Matthew 1:1-17
Matthew 1:18-25
Matthew 2:1-12
Matthew 2:13-23
Luke 1:1-25
Luke 1:26-38

DAILY LECTIONARY

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Monday
Tuesday Isaiah 49:22-26; 50:4-5:1:8, 12-16
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

Evening Prayer

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Isaiah 49:1-18
Isaiah 51:17-52:12
Isaiah 52:13-54:10
Isaiah 55:1-13
Isaiah 58:1-59:3, 14-21

THE DAILY PETITIONS OF THE CHURCH

[Daily] **O Lord, have mercy upon us. O Christ, have mercy upon us. O Lord, have mercy upon us.** Let us pray:

[S] For the joy of the Resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; for diligent preaching and hearing of God's Word of Law and Gospel; for our pastors; for the teachers and students of our Sunday School; for our Bible Class leaders and their students; for our catechumens; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[M] For workers; for the unemployed; for farmers; for seasonable weather; for businesses small and large; for our leaders, federal, state and local; for the economic welfare of the nations on earth; for peace in our world; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the tempted; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; for the lonely; for the sick, the hospitalized, and the needy; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[W] For fathers, mothers, and families; for those adults who must rear their children alone; the teachers and students of Lutheran South Unity School and Concordia Lutheran High School; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[T] For the Church and her pastors; for the training of ministers of the Word; for missionaries of the Church; for the leaders of the Church, including Matthew, our synod president, and Richard, our district president; for those who have not heard the Gospel; for the fruitful use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[F] For the preaching of the Cross; for those persecuted for the sake of Gospel; the confession of the orthodox Lutheran faith in our community; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Sat] For faithfulness unto life's earthly end; for the revival of those who have withered in the faith or fallen away; for the dying; Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer. Amen!**

[Daily] **The Our Father**

TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

The First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Galatians 4:4-7

Luke 2:22-40



What Doctor Luther Says:

About the Kingly and Priestly Offices of Christ

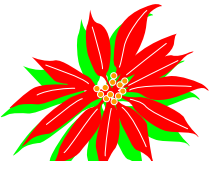
4. *The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind: Thou art a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.*

Up to this point the prophet has made impressive predictions regarding the kingdom of Christ, who was to be his Son as well as the true Lord and God, and about Christ's people. But it is not enough for David to have Christ as King and Lord of all things. He proceeds to make a priest and pope of Him, if I may be pardoned for this last term in reference to this Person. We have heard previously that this King is to have a new kind of people, which in turn demands a corresponding priestly office, so that He will be in a position to direct their consciences toward God. After all, a kingdom made up of God's people requires a priesthood and divine services so that the people receive the interpretation of God's Word and will. A priesthood functions as the mediator between God and people. Now the prophet assigns both offices to Christ: He is to be the everlasting King and Priest. ...

[W]hen God selected David from the tribe of Judah (1 Sam. 16:1), He made a covenant with him to maintain the kingdom for a member of his family down to Christ (2 Sam. 7:16). ... But from the very beginning God separated and ordained the tribe of Levi, particularly the house or family of Aaron, for the priesthood and spiritual government (Num. 8:16). Furthermore, God so guided the development of history that the family of Aaron always retained the priesthood, so that no one else presumed to seize the office, not even David himself.

But now David proceeds to reach for the priestly office too when he says that this promised Son of his — Christ — is not to be King only (an office which properly belongs to Him, according to God's ordinance) but also a Priest at the same time

Luther's Works, 13:304-5.



In loving memory of our beloved parents Carl & Myrtle Albersmeyer,
Byrle & Joyce Greenamyre
by Carl & Rosie Albersmeyer & families

In memory of Baby Bahr, Elizabeth Hope Bahr
by Michael & Amber Bahr

In loving memory of William Bengs and Walter & Adeline Bengs
by Clarann Bengs

In loving memory of our parents
Paul & Esther Bieberich and David & Agnes Shutt
by Don & Beth Bieberich

In loving memory of Paul & Esther Bieberich and
Paul Menze & Hilda Bieberich
by Dwight & CarolLu Bieberich

Dedicated to all our family and friends
by Mike & Rita Davies

In memory of Eileen Porter and Sylvia Ganaway
by Julie Ganaway

To my mother Virginia Hollman and grandmother Hulda Sonne
by Beth Hollman

To my beloved wife Virginia Hollman
by Richard Hollman

In loving memory of my parents Alonzo & Ora Edmonds
by Alanza Jackson

In loving memory of Spiro Kostoff & Anne Kostoff
and Karen Kostoff Wood
by the Family

To honor the Christ Child
by Rev. George & Lois Lange



In loving memory of
Dr. Robert & Katherine Leininger
and Fred, Betty, Teresa & John Beckman
by Kevin & Maribeth Leininger

In loving memory of Willie Manning
by Rose Manning

In honor of Robert & Loretta Manth, Albert & Caroline Manth,
Ferdinand & Henrietta Bornkamp, and Mrs. Clara Tegtmeier
by Jennifer Manth

In loving memory of Walter & Georgianna Ostermeyer
O come all ye faithful, joyful and “triumphant”
from their thankful children Karen, Kim, David, and Kirk

“Now in the manger we may see God’s Son from eternity,
The gift from God’s eternal throne
Here clothed in our poor flesh and bone. Alleluia!”
by Pastor & Marge Punke

In loving memory of my parents Albert & Emma Dirks
by Marilyn Shafter

In loving memory of my wife Jill, my parents David & Savannah,
my sister and nephew Artis & Michael Barksdale
by Clarence Stokes

In loving memory of Bryce Shull
by Jim & Judy Voelz

In loving memory of William Wallschlaeger
by Carolyn Wallschlaeger and family

“Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! ... Repeat the sounding joy.”
by André Woodard

In loving memory of Margaret Trachsel
by Charlene Young

LSUS NOTES

Praying for You!

Please pray for these students/staff:

Ezra	Donald
Ja'maire	Aveyah
K'Marie	Alan
Yu May	Stephanie
Key'Vontay	Mrs. Washington
Trinidee	Safe Christmas Vacation



Kindergarten ROUNDUP

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 @ 6 PM

This event is for parents interested in enrolling in their student in Kindergarten in the Fall of 2024. (They must be 5 years old by October 1st, 2024)

- Meet the teacher and principal.
- Hear what a day in kindergarten looks like.
- You will be learning about school expectations.
- Participate in a scavenger hunt!

Register with
QR Code



Found in Scriptures:

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great JOY that will be for all the people. —Luke 2:10