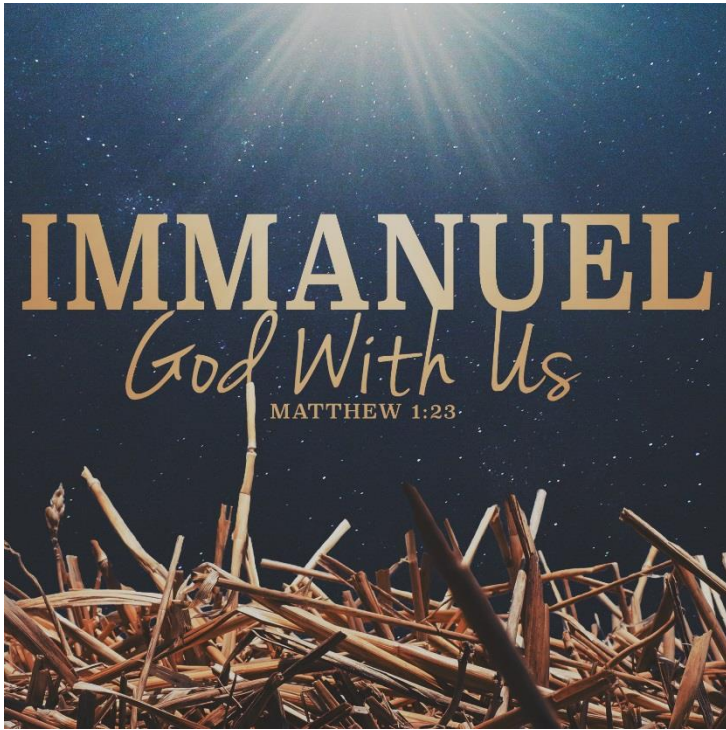


Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2019



Christ Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)
Rev. David Wetmore, Senior Pastor
Rev. Scott Holoubek, Assistant Pastor
1300 Townline Road
Wausau, Wisconsin 54403
(715) 848-2040

Pastor Wetmore Cell: (715) 581-6084

Pastor Holoubek Cell: (715) 780-7169

Website: www.clc-wausau.org

The Mission of Christ Lutheran Church is to help all people know Jesus as their Savior and grow in relationship with Him.

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 22, 2019

HYMN "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" LSB 340 vs. 1-4

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

C: and shall call His name Immanuel.

P: She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus,

C: for He will save His people from their sins.

P: Christ Jesus was descended from David according to the flesh

C: and declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In today's Reading from Isaiah, when God was about to send the King of Assyria to destroy Judah, King Ahaz didn't want to hear about it, though the nation deserved destruction.

C: Help us to consider the physical or spiritual consequences of our actions, not taking God's grace and forgiveness for granted.

P: As Paul begins his Letter to Rome, he writes that he is "called to be an apostle . . . among all the nations, including you."

C: Help us to make talking about God's grace in our lives with people different from ourselves a priority. We are by nature sinful and have sinned in our words, in our thoughts, and in our actions. Have mercy on us, Jesus!

P: God's plan of salvation has been unwavering since creation. The prophecies were kept, the Savior entered human history to pay for all sins, and everyone who believes has been given "clean hands and a pure heart" purely by the grace of God for Jesus' sake. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.**

Public domain

KYRIE

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

C: O Lord, Emmanuel, have mercy.

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

C: O Lord, Wisdom from on high, have mercy.

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

C: O Lord, Branch of Jesse's tree, have mercy.

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

C: O Lord, Key of David, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

Psalm 24

P: David wrote: The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

C: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in His holy place?

P: He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

C: He will receive blessing from the LORD and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

P: Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

C: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

P: Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!

RESPONSE.....LSB 523

1 **O Word of God incarnate,
 O Wisdom from on high,
 O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
 O Light of our dark sky:
 We praise You for the radiance
 That from the hallowed page,
 A lantern to our footsteps,
 Shines on from age to age.**

2 **The Church from You, dear Master,
 Received the gift divine;
 And still that light is lifted
 O'er all the earth to shine.
 It is the chart and compass
 That, all life's voyage through,
 Mid mists and rocks and quicksands
 Still guides, O Christ, to You.**

Public domain

SALUTATION AND COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Open our eyes to see Your presence among us, O Immanuel, that we look forward in faith to follow where You have led the way; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when He knows how

to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷ The 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!"

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 1:1–7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ² which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴ and 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, ⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of His name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. ⁷ To 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.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE

Matthew 1:23a

P: Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

C: and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 1:18–25

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸ Now 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. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But 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. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people

from their sins.”²² All 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).²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN “Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”..... *LSB 350*

SERMON

APOSTLES CREED – Second Article

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: As the time of Advent comes to an end, let us go to our heavenly Father on behalf of the Church around the world and all people in their various needs.

“You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” For people who have not heard a word of forgiveness from their society or circle of friends, that God would use the Church to bring them news of His mercy and grace, available from His Son, born in a stable, killed on a cross, and risen from the grave, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free.

P: Paul’s apostleship was “to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of Christ’s name among all the nations.” For our communities and country and for all the nations of the world, that God would put

into positions of authority and influence capable and faithful people who would work for order at home and peace with neighboring states, let us pray to the Lord.

C: From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.

P: "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." For those who tend God's good earth, those who distribute and sell the fruits of the harvest, and those who manage wildlife preserves and wilderness expanses, that they be successful in their oversight of creation and give praise to the Creator, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art.

P: For people who are weighed down by illness, strife, or oppression, our friends and neighbors "who seek the face of the God of Jacob," that God would bring healing, peace of body and mind, and freedom from discrimination, including . . . , let us pray to the Lord.

C: Dear desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

P: For the forgotten in prison and unseen among us, all whose treatment by society has given them cause to stop waiting for answers to prayer, that God would surround them with caring, devout family and friends, so that they in patient joy look forward as "the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth," let us pray to the Lord.

C: Born Thy people to deliver; Born a child and yet a king!

P: "Joseph was a just man and unwilling to put Mary to shame." For those who have succumbed to the criticisms of their circle of acquaintances, the fallen morality of their society, and the consequences of their own mistakes, that God would open their eyes to the forgiveness He offers through Christ so that they lift up their heads to the gates through which our Savior walks, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Born to reign in us forever, Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

P: For the Church around the world, wherever it experiences active persecution or increasing indifference, that God would strengthen, guide, and protect laity and clergy alike and that it receive blessing from the Lord and righteousness from the God of our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: By Thine own eternal Spirit Rule in all our hearts alone.

P: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

C: By Thine all-sufficient merit Raise us to Thy glorious throne. Amen.

OFFERING

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

If you are a confirmed member of a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregation, we invite you to commune with us. If you are not a confirmed member of an LCMS congregation and would like to come forward with your family and friends during the distribution, please place your hands over your heart and you will receive a blessing.

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who accomplished our salvation and returned to heaven, and who declares us His saints that we follow where He has led the way. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS.....Tune: LSB 380

**Holy, holy, holy Lord!
God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain
All the glory of Your name!**

Hail, hosanna, God most high!
Blest is He who now draws nigh
In the name of God the King!
Hallelujahs glad we sing:
Hail, hosanna! Praises due
Be forever, Lord, to You!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

As we receive the body and blood of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to instill in us such a sense of His abiding presence that we begin and end day each as Your cleansed and forgiven saints. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to follow Him one day through heaven's gates to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

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

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI Tune: *LSB 358*

**O Lamb of God, You take away
The sin of all; now hear us pray,
And grant us from our sin release:
Have mercy on us! Grant us peace!**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN "Of the Father's Love Begotten" *LSB 384* vs. 1-4

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that in our Baptism You adopted us as Your sons and daughters; now in this Sacrament we pray that You would strengthen us to follow our Savior as heaven's gates rise to let us be with You forever; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

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

C: Amen.

HYMN "People, Look East" Tune: *LSB 481*

**People, look East. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth, and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today;
Love the Guest is on the way.**

**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Rose is on the way.**

**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Star is on the way.**

**Angels, announce to man and beast
Him who cometh from the East.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.**

Public Domain

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1. Copyright © 2019 Concordia Publishing House.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House.

THIS WEEK AT CLC — (12/22/19-12/29/19)

Sunday: Worship/HC, 9:00am

Tuesday: Christmas Eve Worship/HC, 4:00pm

Wednesday: Christmas Day Worship/HC, 9:00am

Sunday: Worship/HC, 9:00am

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE (Week ending December 15, 2019)

General & Building Funds: \$8499.12; Blessings: \$81.00;

Giving Tree: \$250.00

Attendance: Thursday: 26; Sunday: 136

CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUESTS AND VISITORS: We are glad you are here! We invite you to join us for fellowship following the service. Bathrooms are located upstairs on each end of the fellowship/Bible study area.

CHRISTMAS WEEK SERVICE TIMES: Tuesday, December 24, 4:00pm; Wednesday, December 25, 9:00am; No worship Thursday, December 26

THANK YOU to all who participated in the Giving Tree collection this year!

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL AND BOARD MEMBERS will take place on Sunday, January 5.

NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES until Wednesday, January 8.

NO SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS until January 5.

NO THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE December 26.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS FOR CHURCH SERVICES /

ACTIVITIES: Please check the Channel 7 or Channel 9 websites, the CLC website or Facebook page, or call the church at 715-848-2040 and press option "6".

"LIFE QUOTES" from Lutherans For Life

"Mary, like us, had her problems and her sinful nature to deal with, but in Spirit-worked faith she gave us a wondrous example of living faith, placing her Savior first. As we once more celebrate the day of our Savior's birth, let us follow Mary's example in celebrating the Christ Child with faith, humility, and joy! Have a Mary Christmas!" *Daily Devotions, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, Michigan – (www.lutheransforlife.org)*