

## Advent 4

## The Prayers of Advent: Praying God's Will

Good Morning!



If there was not already enough happening around the Christmas holidays, now we have to talk about doing God's Will! Ha! The plate is already full, how are we going to have time to do that?

The season of Advent serves to help us prepare, shake off the dust, dig out the decorations, and make some space for God. In the midst of doing all of that,

we recall if we have been paying attention, that all along God has had a plan.

I believe that as the angel chased Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, God's plan was already taking shape. God had given man a free will, and the first man and first woman were able to make choices. They were also able to be gullible and fooled by the first sales tale spun by the master deceiver. "You could be like God...with the knowledge of good AND evil" Some bargain!

Ever since then, we have struggled as the human race with our next step. Should we pray, should we ask God's guidance? Perhaps we can think "I got this" and simply run with it without asking for help. Just as no man likes to ask for directions to get someplace from another human, so we as humans don't "like" to take advice, directions, whatever you choose to call it-from God.

Ignoring that direction might prove unwise if not downright unhealthy. Yet look across history, and you will find a God who keeps chasing His people and offering them forgiveness and a new way of life. Perhaps this year we can act on that offer, and give up our way, to follow His.

Might just be time to ask Him for directions.....

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

## OUR WORSHIP TODAY

### GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music

Welcome and Announcements

### CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

Pastor: In this season of Advent, our senses will be overwhelmed and we will be bombarded with all manner of distractions that will work against our true observance of the significance of the season. We will find ourselves being more concerned about less important things, and we will neglect the things that we should truly be about. This morning, we realize the difficulties that we face, and the poor job we have done with our response to the Word of God. For that, dear Lord, we make our confession to you this day.

**ALL: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

### ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our Lord hears our prayers this day, and has offered to give us the grace of forgiveness. As a result of the love of God, the work of Jesus, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray and celebrate this morning in His Holy Name, **Amen.**

**Amen.**

**HYMN 93 "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing 1,2,3**

**THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**Alleluia. The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel. Alleluia.**

**Special Music: Frank Pierce and Jeff Cisco**

*The congregation is invited to sing along with the musicians:*

**Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child. Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born

Silent night, holy night! Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face With dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

**Oh Come, All Ye Faithful**

Oh Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant  
Oh come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
Oh come, let us adore him; Oh. come, let us adore him;  
Oh come, let us adore him; Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, Glory in the highest;  
Oh come, let us adore him; Oh. come, let us adore him;  
Oh come, let us adore him; Christ the Lord.

**White Christmas**

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas Just like the ones I used to know  
Where the tree-tops glisten and children listen To hear sleigh bells in the snow

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas With every Christmas card I write  
"May your days be merry and bright And may all your Christmases be white"

**FIRST LESSON : Isaiah 7:10-17**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

Later, the Lord sent this message to King Ahaz: “Ask the Lord your God for a sign of confirmation, Ahaz. Make it as difficult as you want—as high as heaven or as deep as the place of the dead.”

But the king refused. “No,” he said, “I will not test the Lord like that.”

Then Isaiah said, “Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn’t it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well? All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’). By the time this child is old enough to choose what is right and reject what is wrong, he will be eating yogurt and honey. For before the child is that old, the lands of the two kings you fear so much will both be deserted.

“Then the Lord will bring things on you, your nation, and your family unlike anything since Israel broke away from Judah. He will bring the king of Assyria upon you!”

**THE SECOND LESSON: Romans 1:1-7**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David’s family line, and he was shown to be[a] the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.

And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ. I am writing to all of you in Rome who are loved by God and are called to be his own holy people.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

**THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25**

**New Living Translation (NLT)**

This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

P: The Gospel of our Lord:  
**PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

SERMON            **"Praying God's Will"**

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

**SERMON HYMN: 97    "The First Noel" 1,2,4**

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE OFFERING:

*After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE  
THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

-PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION BLESSING

**HYMN 99 "Angels We Have Heard On High 1,3,4**

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. **Thanks be to God**

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**WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN!** Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! As a kindness to one another, ***please place your cell phones on muted*** for the time we are together in worship. If you are a visitor, let us know you are here!

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** It is our joy and our privilege to share in these petitions to Almighty God. If you have them ready before the service, hand them to Pastor when you have them completed, otherwise Pastor will specifically ask for the requests, as well as any updates on prior prayer requests.

**A FRIENDLY REMINDER:** Our Sunday morning offering counters have a tough job each week, making sure the offering is counted and recorded in the perfectly correct manner. Interruptions make this almost an impossible task to complete. Please do not interrupt their work while they are doing it, so that they can get things done quickly and correctly. Thanks!

**THANKS** to all who work hard each week making sure everything is set up for us to worship and who also make sure the right things are in the right places each week. We appreciate all the hard work! Thanks again, everyone!

**YEAR END & SPECIAL GIFTS** must be received no later Sunday December 25th for inclusion on this year's giving statement.

**THANKS TO JEFF CISCO AND FRANK PIERCE** for leading us in song with special musical accompaniment this morning. Thanks, guys!

**JOIN US CHRISTMAS EVE** Plan to join us in the celebration of Christmas with our Christmas Candlelight Eucharist on Christmas Eve, December 24, at 6:00 PM. Plan to join us on Christmas Morning, December 25th, for our Sunday celebration of the Word made Flesh!



**Our Savior Lutheran Church, LCMC**

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Website: <http://www.oslc-lcmc.com>

Worship Time: Sunday 10 A.M.

Bible Study Twice Monthly, Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

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