

# Fourth Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 18, 2016



## Christ Lutheran Church

(Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod)

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

# Forth Sunday in Advent

## Sunday, December 18, 2016

**HYMN** "What Hope! An Eden Prophesied" ..... LSB 342

**DIVINE SERVICE:** Setting Three ..... page 184

### **INTROIT**

*Ps. 130:5–8; antiphon: Is. 64:1*

*P: Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at Your presence.*

**C: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His Word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**

*P: O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.*

**C: And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

**GLORIA & KYRIE**..... page 186

*(The GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is omitted for Advent)*

**SALUTATION & COLLECT**..... page 189

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Isaiah 7:10–17*

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." <sup>13</sup> And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when He knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. <sup>17</sup> 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*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup> which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, <sup>7</sup> 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.**

**ALLELUIA AND RESPONSES** ..... page 190

**THE HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 1:18–25*

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.

**NICENE CREED** ..... page 191

**HYMN** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” ..... *LSB 341*

**SERMON**

**OFFERTORY** ..... page 192

**GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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.

**SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT** ..... page 194

**SANCTUS** ..... page 195

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PAX DOMINI & AGNUS DEI** ..... page 197

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN** “Savior of the Nations, Come” .....LSB 332 vs. 1-7

**NUNC DIMITTIS** ..... page 199

**SALUTATION – BENEDICTION** ..... page 201

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

**Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book  
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**READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK**

**The Nativity of Our Lord**

Isaiah 52:7–10

Hebrews 1:1–6 (7–12)

John 1:1–14 (15–18)

**THIS WEEK— (December 18th –25th)**

**Sunday:** Worship/HC, 9:00am; Christian Ed, 10:30am

**Tuesday: JANUARY 2017 CROSSWALK ARTICLES DUE**

**Wednesday:** Bible Study, 8:30am; CLC Quilters, 9:30am;  
Little Lambs Christmas Program, 5:30pm;

**No Confirmation Classes Tonight**

**Thursday:** Bethesda Work Day, 1:00pm;

Worship/HC/Advent, 6:30pm; Bible Class, 7:30pm

**Saturday:** Christmas Eve/Worship/HC, 6:30pm

**Sunday:** Christmas Day/Worship/HC, 9:00am

**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD’S LOVE (Week ending 12/11/16)**

General Fund: \$3688.99; Building Fund: \$20.00;

Seasonal: \$825.00; Blessings: \$25.58; Memorial: \$150.00;

Miscellaneous: \$1.26

Total Attendance: 178 (Midweek: 55; Sunday: 123)

**CLC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

**IT’S A WONDERFUL LIFE :** The conclusion of our Advent series will be on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30pm.

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR’S SERVICE SCHEDULE:**

Christmas Eve 6:30 p.m. (Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>)

Christmas Day 9:00 a.m. (Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>)

New Year’s Day 9:00 a.m. (Sunday, January 1, 2017)

**2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES** will be available for picking up starting Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> on the large table near the mailboxes.

**LITTLE LAMBS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** will be held on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm in the lower level Fellowship Hall.

**VOLUNTEER GREETERS ARE NEEDED** for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. If you are available to greet for one of the Christmas services, please call Linda Benda at 715-359-5396 or the church office at 715-848-2040. Thank you.

**THE LAST WEEK OF DECEMBER, THERE WILL BE:**

**No midweek service** on Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>.

**No New Year's Eve service** on Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES** on December 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Will resume on January 4, 2017.

**HUMAN CARE FOR DECEMBER:** The items needed include: instant oatmeal packets, soft breakfast bars, fruit & applesauce cups, peanut butter & jelly, powdered creamer/sugar. Thank you for donating to the Wausau Community Warming Center!

**TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY** ... Have a very merry Christmas as you celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior, and a blessed New Year 2017.

## **“LIFE QUOTES” from Lutherans For Life**

“As Christmas approaches, I’m reminded of another man more than 2,000 years ago who also made a difficult choice about a mother and a baby. Joseph could have cut and run, but he didn’t. When men commit themselves to stand for life and for their families, they experience blessings far greater than wealth and fame.”

— *Bradley Mattes, executive director of Life Issues Institute*  
([www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org))