



Saint Peter's Lutheran Church
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Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024

**Indicates to stand as you are able. P=Pastor, C=Congregation, A=Assisting Minister, L=Lector*

Welcome to the waiting room that we call Advent. And congratulations! Apparently you are expecting! In some strange turn of events you are going to become God's parent. Try explaining that one to your friends or family members. Try explaining that one to your church. Sounds like a scandal to me. But your wait is almost over. It's time to enter the worship space. Welcome to the scandal that is Advent.

ENTRANCE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257, st. 1

Litany

L1: At every beginning there is a yearning
for the one who is coming.

O Emmanuel,

Surprise us by your coming.

L2: We gather together to let God's good news
reorient our lives.

O Emmanuel,

Surprise us by your coming.

L1: We wait for the day
when all the world will see the sign
that God is with us.

O Emmanuel,

Surprise us by your coming.

L2: We are shocked by how God comes close,
even at this very moment.

O Emmanuel,

Surprise us by your coming.

L1: Jesus, we welcome your presence now
with the lighting of these candles,
whose flames bring warmth to winter
and fill this place with the glow of hope.

Amen.

Light all four candles.

Song

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257, st. 5

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world,
reviving creation, arriving soon.

***C: Amen.**

*P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another. God of mercy,

***C: we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority
alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

*P: God of might,

***C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.**

*P: God in our midst,

***C: we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

*P: A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have
forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and
forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

***C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel st. 1&7

ELW 257

APOSTOLIC 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might,
free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always,
for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

***C: Amen.**

GOD SPEAKS TO US

First Reading.....Isaiah 7:10-16

L: A reading from Isaiah the 7th chapter.....(Lector: Sierra Pressley)

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

² Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³ **With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

⁴ And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name is
exalted.

⁵ **Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading.....Romans 1:1-7
L: A reading from Romans the 1st chapter.....(Lector: Sierra Pressley)
L: The Word of the Lord. *C: **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 1st chapter.
*C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**
*The Holy Gospel.....Matthew 1:18-25
*P: The Gospel of the Lord. *C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon

Sermon.....Pastor Sue Lynn White

HYMN OF THE DAY **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** **ELW 254**

EXPERIENTIAL STATION: Cradle Our Hopes

*P: Oh Emmanuel, cradle our fragile hopes as we place our trust in you. Are you willing to lay your hopes on this child born of scandal? It seems like a lot for just a little baby. But this is no ordinary child. So what are your hopes for the world, for this church, for your family, for your life? You are invited to write down your greatest hopes and place them in this little cradle. It might not look like much, but looks can be deceiving.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSIONS

A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence.

A brief silence.

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical

message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities (*local preserves, parks, or sanctuaries may be named*). Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill *especially* Marlene Shue, Phil & Carol Boyette, Ernie & Linda Cooper, Guy & Betty Puckett, Lynn DeBerry, John Trexler, Marcia Ritchie, Kathy Brown, Nancy Blackwelder, Debbi Duke, Nancy Monroe, Thelma Barger, Lucy Shue, and those we hold in our hearts and lift before you now. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PEACE

*P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

***C: And also with you.**

*P: Let us share the peace with one another.

THE OFFERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anthem

Offering Hymn..... Praise God From Who All Blessings Flow.....ELW 884

OFFERING PRAYER

*A: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*C: Amen.

MEAL PREFACE DIALOGUE

*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 our thanks and praise.**

*P: It is indeed our duty and our joy... and join their unending hymn:

*C: **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san - na. 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

LORD'S PRAYER

*P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught.

*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.**


INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*P: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

***C: Thanks be to God.**

DISTRIBUTION

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 sin of the
world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION BLESSING

*P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*A: Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

***C: Amen.**

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

BLESSING

*P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

***C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

THE DISMISSAL

*A: Rooted in the love of Christ

***C: We grow in grace and joyfully branch into a broken World!**

*P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

*C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Silent Prayer and Chiming of the Trinity
Postlude*