

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church

1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 17th, 2023

8:30 & 11:00 Services

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Gathering

Prelude

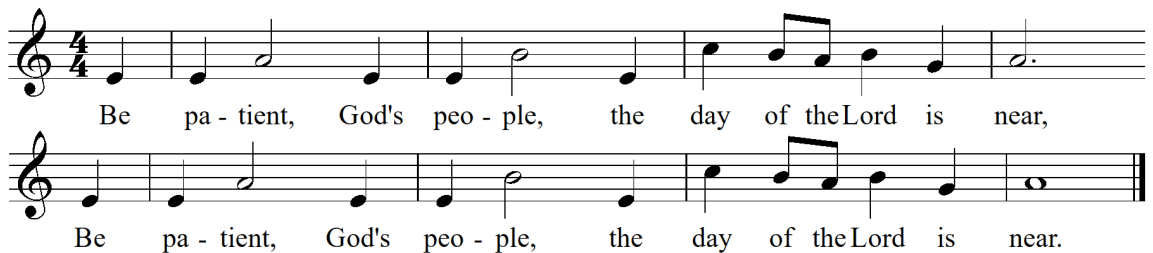
Welcome and Announcements Pastor Karen Natterstad

Call to Advent (8:30) *Of the Father's Love Begotten* arr. Jason W. Krug
– The EmBELLishments

Please stand as you are able.

Call to Worship

Be Patient, God's People



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Confession and Forgiveness

We confess our sins before God and one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Ever-present God,

We come before you in need of grace. Too often our thoughts are judgmental and condemning of others. Too often our words are sarcastic or harsh, as harmful as weapons. Too often our actions are motivated by selfishness, and we do not recognize the hurt or need in others. Forgive us, O God, and draw us back into right relationship with you, our neighbors, and your creation.

The promise is sure: Christ's advent is near, and in Christ we are forgiven all our sin.
 Know that you are a beloved child of God and be strengthened in all goodness.
Amen.

Gathering Song **#242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn**

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Savior, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with
 you all.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

God of all,
**You call us into one Body of Christ for the good of the world. Strengthen us
 through your word and meal, that we might support and sustain one
 another in all that you call us to do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Please be seated.

Advent Candle Lighting - The Candle of Love

Advent is a time for waiting. Waiting for the Messiah; waiting for love.

We wait for the Lord; our souls wait.

With the birth of the Christ child comes the rebirth of love for all the world.

Teach us the way to love.

Isaiah tells us a young woman shall have a child and his name will be called Emmanuel.

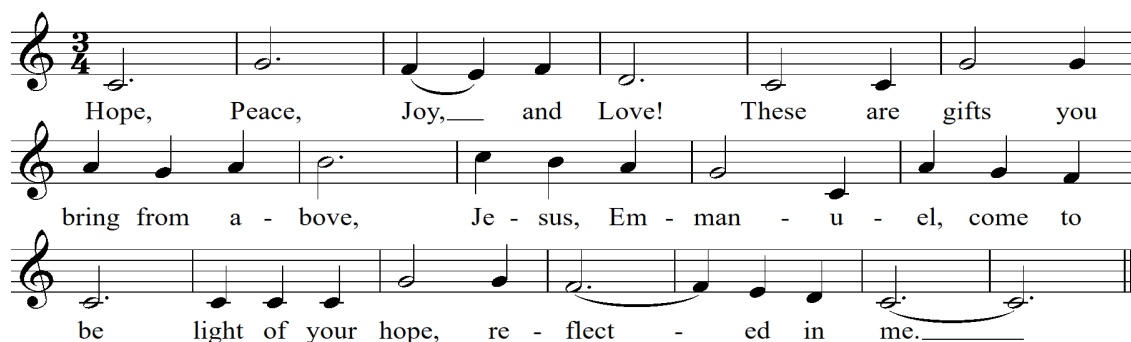
O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. In your Son, Emmanuel, you
 have shown the light of your countenance, and saved us from our sins. Bless us
 as we light the candles on this wreath. Increase our longing for your presence,
 that at the celebration of your Son's birth, his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst,
 for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever. *(All four candles are lighted.)*

Advent Response (Sung Twice)



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Word

Today's Bible readings can be found in your pew bible; Luke 1:5-13, 57-80 on page 43 of the New Testament.

Call to Listen to the Word of God

God of love and power, you are revealed to us in your Word, in accounts of prophecy and fulfillment that direct our attention to Jesus Christ.

Illumine us now as we hear your Word proclaimed, that we may open our hearts to him, yearn for his coming in glory, and serve him with joy. Amen.

Reading

Luke 1:5-13, 57-80

God promises Elizabeth and Zechariah a child in their old age. But not just any child—one who would prepare the world for the coming of the messiah.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

We Raise a Song of Advent Praise

1. We raise a song of ad - vent praise, ex - pect - ant hope pro - claim,
 2. Sing al - le - lu - ia, O my soul, sing praise to God a - lone,
 for God who has in Christ once come, comes to us yet a - gain.
 for in the ad - vent of the Lord, cre - a - tion is made whole.

Tune: Consolation [Morning Song], CM. Kentucky Harmony, 1816. Text: Flora Litt and Wayne Irwin, Copyright © 1994.

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Sermon

Pastor Karen Natterstad

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

#248 People, Look East

(Prayer Cards, which can be found in the pew racks, will be collected during the Hymn of the Day)

Profession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,
 Light from Light, true God from true God,
 begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
 and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
 he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the
 Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,**

who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

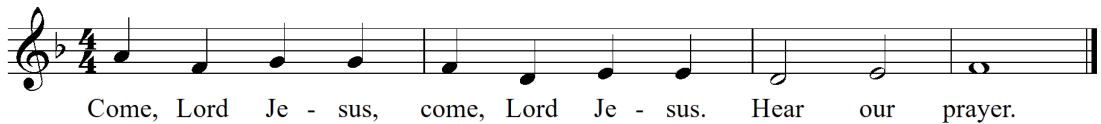
Usher Volunteers gather for Offering Collection at the Welcome Center.

Prayers of Intercession

In anticipation of the coming messiah, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Call to Prayer

Come, Lord Jesus. Hear our Prayer



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...God of Promise,
In mercy, hear our prayer.

We lift all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, into your loving arms, trusting in your love
 and mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

Meal

Offering	8:30	<i>Go, Tell it on the Mountain</i> arr. Bill Ingram – The EmBELLishments
	11:00	<i>O Come, Emmanuel</i> arr. Jason W. Krug – Bells Angels

Please stand as you are able.

Offertory

With Joy, O Lord, Our Gifts We Bring

1. With joy, O Lord, our gifts we bring, A tri - bute
 2. Em - ploy, O God, the gifts here shared That in the
 to our Ad - vent King, Who comes with - in our midst to
 world may be pre - pared The way of Christ, whose name we
 dwell As God with us, Em - man - u - el.
 bless, Who comes, the Lord our right - eous - ness.

Tune: Puer Nobis, LM. Music: Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621. Text: Arden Mead, Copyright © 2000 Creative Communications for the Parish. Used with permission.

Offertory Prayer

With Elizabeth and Zechariah, we rejoice in all that God has given to us. Accept, O God, our gifts in response, of our resources, our time, and our skills, and dedicate them to the service of all the world. Amen.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving - Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Eucharistic Prayer - Words of Institution

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty, and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your saving justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal the entire suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death and resurrection, we await his coming with righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

As promised, God raised up for us a savior, Jesus Christ, by whose death and resurrection we have been freed and united with him and one another.

We come to share in Christ's body and blood in remembrance of him.

Please be seated.

Fruit juice is offered as an alternative to wine. Juice is in the center of the communion tray.

Call to Communion

Emmanuel

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el, his name is called

Em-man - u - el. God with us, re-veal'd in

us, his name is called Em-man - u - el.

Communion Hymn

#266 All Earth is Hopeful

Please stand as you are able.

Communion Response

May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his light and grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

SendingSending of Communion (*Home Communion*)

O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless all those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table with our sisters and brothers who are sick, homebound, or imprisoned. May the all the givers and the receivers be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ☩ now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

#239 Hark, the Glad Sound

Dismissal

Go in peace. The coming of the Lord is near. Prepare the way.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude