

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 23rd, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Theme: The Gift of LOVE

8:30 a.m. Service

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

Gathering

Call to Worship

The King Shall Come arr. by John Behnke

The EmBELLishments

(Please stand as you are able)

Advent Proclamation

- ❏ A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." As we worship today, let us prepare to welcome God's dramatic work in our midst, in our hearts, in our community, and in all of creation. Let us worship God. Advent is a time of waiting.

(Take a moment of Silence)



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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An Order of Confession & Forgiveness

- ❏ Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- ☩ **Amen.**
- ❏ The Sun of righteousness shall rise with shining beams of healing, hope, peace, joy, and love.
- ☩ **Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.**

P We are people of faith who wait in the darkness of sin and the light of hope and peace. We wait for Christ. Christ has come! Christ is coming! Christ will come again!

C **Advent is a time of waiting...**

(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

P Almighty God,

C **we confess that we have sinned against you, and against our sisters and brothers. Our words and deeds have not proclaimed your reign of justice and truth. We have failed to watch and pray for the signs of your advent among us. Forgive our sin, and come quickly to save us.**

P In the advent of Christ, the dawn from on high breaks upon us with light and peace. Remember the gift of baptism: your sin is washed away in the name of Jesus; you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve. Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.

C **Amen.**

Gathering Song

#263 Savior of the Nations, Come

Advent Greeting

P May the love of this season embrace you with God's grace.

C **And also with you.**

(Please be seated)

Advent Candle Lighting – The Gift of LOVE

A On this Advent journey, we are mindful of the brokenness of the world that surrounds us.

C **Help us mend the brokenhearted with your LOVE.**

A As we look around us, we see the hostility that exists between neighbor and nation.

C **We long for your peace and LOVE.**

A As we look within ourselves, we confess the reconciling words we have yet to speak and restoring deeds we have yet to do.

C **Today we strive for the LOVE that surpasses all understanding.**

Prayer of the Day for the Advent Season

P Let us pray. O Lord our God, you break into our world with messages of hope, peace, joy, and **love**. Renew our strength as we wait for your coming. Shine your

light for those who live in darkness. Establish your **love** throughout the earth. Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all.

C Amen.

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.

Text & Music: Bob McGee Copyright © 1976 C.A. Music [Division of Christian Artists Corp.] All rights reserved.
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Word

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. [Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.] This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalmody

Psalm 80:1-7

L Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,

C **you who lead Joseph like a flock!**

L You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

C **Stir up your might, and come to save us!**

L Restore us, O God;

- C** let your face shine, that we may be saved.
L O Lord, God of hosts,
C how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
L You have fed them with the bread of tears,
C and given them tears to drink in full measure.
L You make us the scorn of our neighbors;
C our enemies laugh among themselves.
L Restore us, O God of hosts;
C let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Second Reading

1 Samuel 2:1-10 (alternate text)

1: Hannah prayed and said,
 'My heart exults in the Lord;
 my strength is exalted in my God.
 My mouth derides my enemies,
 because I rejoice in my victory.
 2 'There is no Holy One like the Lord,
 no one besides you;
 there is no Rock like our God.
 3 Talk no more so very proudly,
 let not arrogance come from your mouth;
 for the Lord is a God of knowledge,
 and by him actions are weighed.
 4 The bows of the mighty are broken,
 but the feeble gird on strength.
 5 Those who were full have hired themselves out
 for bread,
 but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
 The barren has borne seven,
 but she who has many children is forlorn.

⁶ The Lord kills and brings to life;
 he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
⁷ The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
 he brings low, he also exalts.
⁸ He raises up the poor from the dust;
 he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
 to make them sit with princes
 and inherit a seat of honour.
 For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,
 and on them he has set the world.
⁹ 'He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
 but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;
 for not by might does one prevail.
¹⁰ The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered;
 the Most High will thunder in heaven.
 The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;
 he will give strength to his king,
 and exalt the power of his anointed.

- A** Word of God, word of life.
C Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! The Lord Will Come

1. Al - le - u - ia! The Lord_ will come; God's spir - it hov - ers nigh.
 2. E - ven so, come, O Son_ of God, whom Mar - y did_ con - ceive.

"Be - hold,___ a vir - gin shall___ con -
 Be - hold,___ as ser - vants of___ the

ceive. The Son___ of God___ most high!
 Lord, your pro - mise we___ be - lieve!

Tune: Chesterfield, CM. Music Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820. Text: Arden Mead. Copyright © 1999 Creative Communications. Used by permission. All Rights Reserved.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

☐ The holy gospel according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

We are presented with Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, as two women who are filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

☐ The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Matthew Schlake-Kruse

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

(Prayer cards will be collected during the Hymn)

(Please stand as you are able)

The Nicene Creed

Inside back cover of the Hymnal

(Please stand as you are able)

Prayers of Intercession

- P** Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new. Especially we thank you—
 for the sustaining goodness of your creation...
 for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness...
 for the gifts of relationship with others...
 for the communion of faith in your church...

We pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

- P** Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. Especially we pray—
 for those who govern nations of the world...
 for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare...
 for all who work for peace and international harmony...
 for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction...
 for the church of Jesus Christ in every land...

We pray to the Lord.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

- P** O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrdden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Musical Offering

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head arr. by Cathy Moglebust
The EmBELLishments

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory

What Shall I Render to the Lord?

What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all the gifts to me?
I will lift up sal - va - tion's cup and praise God thank - ful - ly.
For God's a - bun - dant bless - ing in grat - i - tude we sing.
I pay my vow in God's house now, my gifts I glad - ly bring.

Tune: Forest Green, CMD. Music: English Folk Tune

Text: Arden Mead, Copyright © 1999 Creative Communications for the Parish. Used with permission.

Offertory Prayer

Offering Prayer

- A** Let us pray. Creator God, you called upon simple folk to join your holy family; young Mary, quiet Joseph, and elderly Elizabeth. Despite their human frailties, you accepted them. Accept now these gifts of ours even as you have accepted us into your holy family. Through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

G Amen.

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 is 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.

The Lord's Prayer

page 112 (Traditional Version)

Invitation to Communion

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God

#195 Lamb of God

Communion Hymn

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and

peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us
yet a king, born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy

find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it

hope of all the earth thou art; dear de - sire of
rule in all our hearts a - lone; by thine all - suf -

ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Tune: Hyfyrdol, 87 87D. Rowland H. Prichard, 1830. Text: Charles Wesley, 1744.

(Please stand as you are able)

Post-Communion Response

- P** May the body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in God's light and grace.
- C** **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

- A** Let us pray. O Lord, Micah sensed your presence and proclaimed your coming with boldness.
- C** **May we, too, sense your nearness here.**
- A** Elizabeth felt her leaping child and sang in joyful celebration.
- C** **May we, too, sing in happy joy.**
- A** Mary believed you were growing within her and gave voice to her faith.
- C** **May we, too, know that you are God.**
- A** Through the saving power of this holy sacrament you come into our midst.
- C** **Come still once more! Come quickly, Lord!**

Sending

(Please be seated)

Today's Highlights

For more information on the church's activities, please pick up the bulletin announcements from the Welcome Center, ask an usher or go to our website, www.stmattslutheran.org.

(Please stand as you are able)

Three-Fold Benediction

- P** Believe that God came to us in Jesus Christ, and look for him to come again. May the advent of his coming bring you comfort, hope and joy.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Jesus is the Word made flesh in our midst. May his incarnation fill your hearts with joy, peace and love.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Light and peace are yours through Jesus Christ. May your light so shine before others, that they see your works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

Dismissal

- A** The coming of the Lord is near. Go in peace, prepare the way.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Your presence has blessed our worship service. May you be strengthened by the strong word of God expressed through music and worship today. The peace of the Lord be with you as you go.

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1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

December 23rd, 2018

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Theme: The Gift of LOVE

11:00 a.m. Service

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Gathering

(Please stand as you are able)

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(Take a moment of Silence)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second staff contains the melody for the second line: 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!' The notes are simple, using quarter and half notes.

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- ☑ **Amen.**
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(Silence for reflection and self-examination)

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- C** **Amen.**

Em-man - u - el, Em-man - u - el, his name is called
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L You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.
C **Stir up your might, and come to save us!**
L Restore us, O God;

- C** let your face shine, that we may be saved.
L O Lord, God of hosts,
C how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
L You have fed them with the bread of tears,
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³ Talk no more so very proudly,
 let not arrogance come from your mouth;
 for the Lord is a God of knowledge,
 and by him actions are weighed.

⁴ The bows of the mighty are broken,
 but the feeble gird on strength.

⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves
 out for bread,
 but those who were hungry are fat with
 spoil.
 The barren has borne seven,
 but she who has many children is forlorn.

⁶ The Lord kills and brings to life;
 he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

⁷ The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
 he brings low, he also exalts.

⁸ He raises up the poor from the dust;
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 to make them sit with princes
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 The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;
 he will give strength to his king,
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Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! The Lord Will Come

1. Al - le - u - ia! The Lord_ will come; God's spir - it hov - ers nigh.
 2. E - ven so, come, O Son_ of God, whom Mar - y did_ con - ceive.



"Be - hold,___ a vir - gin shall___ con -
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ceive. The Son___ of God___ most high!
 Lord, your pro - mise we___ be - lieve!

Tune: Chesterfield, CM. Music Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820. Text: Arden Mead. Copyright © 1999 Creative Communications. Used by permission. All Rights Reserved.

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P The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Matthew Schlake-Kruse

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#251 My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness*(Prayer cards will be collected during the Hymn)*

(Please be seated)

Baptisms

page 227

Lucia June Boer

Emerson René Whitnell

John Murphy Zwaska

(Please stand as you are able)

The Apostles' Creed

page 229

(Please be seated)

Congregation's Welcome to the Baptized

- ☐ **Lucia, Emerson and John, we receive you as our own, and as God's own children. We promise to pray for you, care for you and speak God's Word to you. We promise to support your parents as they set about the holy task of raising you up in Christ. Welcome to God's Family!**

(Please stand as you are able)

Prayers of Intercession

- ☐ Mighty God of mercy, we thank you for the resurrection dawn, bringing the glory of our risen Lord who makes every day new. Especially we thank you—
 for the sustaining goodness of your creation...
 for the new creation in Christ and all gifts of healing and forgiveness...
 for the gifts of relationship with others...
 for the communion of faith in your church...

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- ☐ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- ☐ Merciful God of might, renew this weary world, heal the hurts of all your children, and bring about your peace for all in Christ Jesus, the living Lord. Especially we pray—

 for those who govern nations of the world...
 for the people in countries ravaged by strife or warfare...
 for all who work for peace and international harmony...
 for all who strive to save the earth from carelessness and destruction...
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- ☐ **Lord, hear our prayer.**

☐ O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☑ **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace of Christ

page 218

Thanksgiving

(Please be seated)

Musical Offering

My Soul Gives Glory to the Lord arr. by Carl Schalk
Senior Choir

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory

What Shall I Render to the Lord?

What shall I ren - der to the Lord for all the gifts to me?
I will lift up sal - va - tion's cup and praise God thank - ful - ly.
For God's a - bun - dant bless - ing in grat - i - tude we sing.
I pay my vow in God's house now, my gifts I glad - ly bring.

Tune: Forest Green, CMD. Music: English Folk Tune

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Thanksgiving for the Word

page 220

The Lord's Prayer

page 221 (Contemporary Version)

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.

Sending

(Please be seated)

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(Please stand as you are able)

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- C** Amen.
- P** Light and peace are yours through Jesus Christ. May your light so shine before others, that they see your works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- C** Amen.
- P** Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
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Dismissal

- A** The coming of the Lord is near. Go in peace, prepare the way.
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Postlude

Your presence has blessed our worship service. May you be strengthened by the strong word of God expressed through music and worship today. The peace of the Lord be with you as you go.