

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

December 22nd, 2019
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Theme: The Gift of LOVE
8:30 a.m. Service

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

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.

Gathering

(Please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

#257 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel [Stanzas 7-8]

**7. O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

**8. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Text: Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710.. Tune: Veni, Emmanuel 88 88 88. Music: French Processional, 15th Century.

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, the God of goodness and lovingkindness, whose Son was sent to save us and whose Spirit is poured out on us and renews us. As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sins and seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Righteous and merciful God,

we confess that we have strayed from your ways and walked our own paths. We fall asleep to the needs around us, yet our anxieties jar us awake. We are bound up in systems of unrighteousness and injustice. Restore your people, O God; renew your creation; and have mercy on us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Listen to what God is saying, speaking **love** to those who turn their hearts: the night is far gone, the day is near. All who have a fearful heart, be strong, do not be afraid! God comes in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May the Spirit of holiness fill you with wisdom and might, so that you shall delight in God's ways.

Gathering Song
Advent Greeting

#263 Savior of the Nations, Come

May the hope, peace, and joy of this season embrace you with God's grace.

And also with you.

Advent Candle Lighting – The Gift of LOVE

We light four candles.

And we wait for love.

We look to the One Joseph will name Jesus.

Come to us, O God with us - our Lord, Emmanuel.

We now are ready to celebrate your birth.

Brighten our world with hope for the future, O Lord.

This morning we light four candles. The first candle is the light of **hope** for those in times of waiting. The second candle is the light of **peace** for those who are wearied by the circumstances of life. The third candle is the light of **joy** for those eagerly watching for God's promised glory. The fourth candle is the light of **love** for those who carry the wounds of life. As the light shines, we turn to the Savior who came to rescue the lost, to help the hurting, and to bind up the broken.

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. Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all.

Blessed be God forever. Amen.

(The fourth Advent candle is lit)

Advent Response

Christ Be Our Light

1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your ho - ly
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone has pow'r to

peo - ple, light for the world to see.
save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gath - ered to - day.

Tune: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT 98 96 & Refrain. Music & Text: Bernadette Farrell. © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net #A-703603.

Word

(Please be seated)

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decides to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking refuge in Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign of Immanuel that is the only source of true safety: God is with us!

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus

Al - le - lu - ia! Come, Lord_ Je - sus! Hear your peo- ple as they_ pray,
 Grant us grace to hear thy__ mess - age and the wis- dom to ob - ey.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! An - xious - ly we wait the__ day!

Tune: Picardy, 87 87 87. Music: French Folk tune, 17th Century. Text: Arden Mead, Copyright © 2000 Creative Communications for the Parish. Used with permission.

Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

In the beginning was the Word,

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A reading from the book of Matthew.

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Ann Williams

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#250 Blessed Be the God of Israel*(Prayer cards will be collected during the Hymn)*

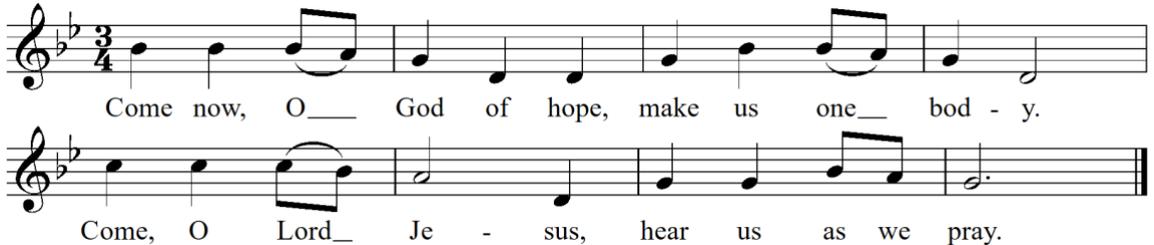
The Nicene Creed

Inside back cover of the Hymnal

Prayers of Intercession

Waiting and watching for our sure and certain **love**, let us pray for the world redeemed, the church reformed, and for all people restored in the coming one.

Prayer Response



Come now, O God of hope, make us one bod - y.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, hear us as we pray.

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Feel free to respond to each petition out loud or in your own hearts.

During these weeks of waiting and expecting, we pray for people we know living in fear of the unknown...

We pray for peace.

Receive our prayers, O God.

We pray for others and ourselves, who are confused about your will for their lives or for the world...

We pray for clarity.

Receive our prayers, O God.

We pray for all who feel doubt about your presence and your word...

We pray for trust.

Receive our prayers, O God.

We pray for all among us who are
hopeful anticipation...

We pray for wonder.

curious, and those awaiting the future with

Receive our prayers, O God.

We pray for all we know suffering in the shadows of this season; for all weighed down
with heavy burdens; and impacted by trauma...

We pray for wholeness.

Receive our prayers, O God.

Most of all, when the world longs for you, we pray you help us respond with glad tidings
of comfort and joy. We pray all these things in the name of Jesus, our long-expected
Savior.

Amen.

[Repeat music prayer response]

Sharing the Peace of Christ

God, our hope, peace, joy, and love, we rejoice always that you became flesh and made
your dwelling among us, even as we long for your return. Let us share that peace
of the Lord with all this day and always. Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Thanksgiving

(Please be seated)

Musical Offering

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child arr. by Anna Laura Page
The EmBELLishments

(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: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621. Text: Arden Mead, Copyright © 2000 Creative Communications for the Parish. Used with permission.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you accepted Mary, a daughter who lived out her faith.
 You accepted Joseph, a son of gentle obedience. Please accept these gifts. They
 are signs of our faith. They are examples of our **love**. Through Jesus Christ our
 Lord.

Amen.

Words of Institution page 108

The Lord's Prayer page 112 [Traditional Version]

Invitation to Communion

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you.

Let us share in the feast of salvation.

*(Please be seated)***Lamb of God**

1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
 2. Lamb of God, you give us hope as we wait for you: have
 3. Lamb of God, you are the way of Jus - tice and peace: have
 4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love: have

mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:
 grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

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Communion Anthem

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen arr. by Linda Lamb
 The EmBELLishments

(Please stand as you are able)

Post-Communion Response

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which you have now just received,
 strengthen you and keep you in God's love and grace.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Your kingdom, O Jesus, is at hand we have tasted its bounty. We have
 touched our Lord. Empower us, by this meal, to proclaim your Gospel to all who
 will hear, "Emmanuel! God is with us!" You are the Lord forevermore.

Amen.

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)

Blessing

Isaiah says, "*The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.*" May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in **love** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

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

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.

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
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December 22nd, 2019
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11:00 a.m. Service

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(Please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

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Amen.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, the God of goodness and lovingkindness, whose Son was sent to save us and whose Spirit is poured out on us and renews us. As people called out of darkness, let us confess our sins and seek mercy from the God of justice and righteousness.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

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Gathering Song
Advent Greeting

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And also with you.

Advent Candle Lighting – The Gift of LOVE

We light four candles.

And we wait for love.

We look to the One Joseph will name Jesus.

Come to us, O God with us - our Lord, Emmanuel.

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Brighten our world with hope for the future, O Lord.

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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. Prepare our hearts for the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, the Savior of us all.

Blessed be God forever. Amen.

(The fourth Advent candle is lit)

Advent Response

Christ Be Our Light

1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for

truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your ho - ly
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone has pow'r to

peo - ple, light for the world to see. _____
save us. Make us your liv - ing voice. _____

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your Church gath - ered to - day. _____

Tune: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT 98 96 & Refrain. Music & Text: Bernadette Farrell. © 1993 Bernadette Farrell, admin. OCP Publications. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net #A-703603.

Word

(Please be seated)

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

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Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

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Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus

Al - le - lu - ia! Come, Lord_ Je - sus! Hear your peo- ple as they_ pray,

Grant us grace to hear thy__ mess - age and the wis- dom to ob - ey.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! An - xious - ly we wait the__ day!

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Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

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And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

A reading from the book of Matthew.

Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."

The Gospel of the Lord for you this day.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Ann Williams

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#250 Blessed Be the God of Israel*(Prayer cards will be collected during the Hymn)**(Please be seated)*

Baptism

page 227

Patrick Henry Noll*(Please stand as you are able)*

The Apostles' Creed

page 229

(Please be seated)

Congregation's Welcome to the Baptized

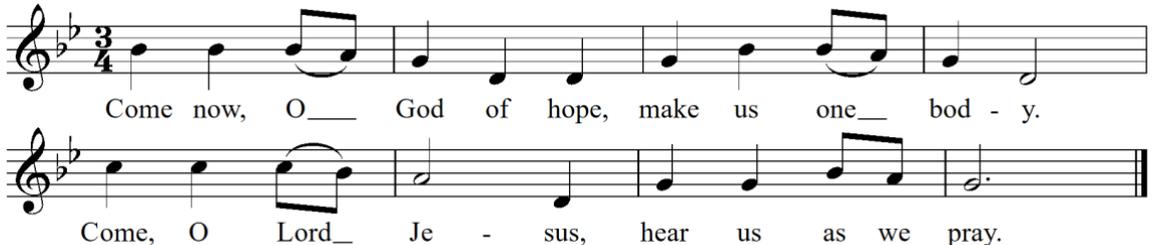
Patrick, we receive you as our own, and as God's own child. We promise to pray for you, care for you and speak God's Word to you. We promise to support your parents as they set about the holy task of raising you up in Christ. Welcome to God's Family!

(Please stand as you are able)

Prayers of Intercession

Waiting and watching for our sure and certain **love**, let us pray for the world redeemed, the church reformed, and for all people restored in the coming one.

Prayer Response



Come now, O God of hope, make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, hear us as we pray.

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Feel free to respond to each petition out loud or in your own hearts.

During these weeks of waiting and expecting, we pray for people we know living in fear of the unknown...

We pray for peace.

Receive our prayers, O God.

We pray for others and ourselves, who are confused about your will for their lives or for the world...

We pray for clarity.

Receive our prayers, O God.

We pray for all who feel doubt about your presence and your word...

We pray for trust.

Receive our prayers, O God.

We pray for all among us who are curious, and those awaiting the future with hopeful anticipation...

We pray for wonder.

Receive our prayers, O God.

We pray for all we know suffering in the shadows of this season; for all weighed down with heavy burdens; and impacted by trauma...

We pray for wholeness.

Receive our prayers, O God.

Most of all, when the world longs for you, we pray you help us respond with glad tidings of comfort and joy. We pray all these things in the name of Jesus, our long-expected Savior.

Amen.

[Repeat music prayer response]

Sharing the Peace of Christ

God, our hope, peace, joy, and love, we rejoice always that you became flesh and made your dwelling among us, even as we long for your return. Let us share that peace of the Lord with all this day and always. Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Thanksgiving

(Please be seated)

Musical Offering

In Silent Slumber Angels Come

arr. by Alan Hommerding

Senior Choir, Amy Hartman, Flute

In silent slumber, angels come, God's voice aloft, on wings. They, as for Joseph long ago, help dreamers know the things that God Most High requires of them: the will divine to hear. Thus Joseph learned the way his life the Word of God would bear.

Good Joseph honored laws he knew, that town and faith impart. Yet, bold with sureness born of trust, took angel words to heart: "Fear not! take Mary as your wife, for in her womb now dwells the Spirit's child, whom you shall call your Lord, Emmanuel."

Another angel came to speak when evil powers planned [Nails, spear shall pierce him through,] to slay the innocent and foil salvation from God's hand. [Myrrh is mine its bitter perfume.] So Joseph, with new Moses, fled his home and shop, exiled [The cross be borne for me, for you.] braved living in an alien land, [Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying.] to guard the promised child.

As Jesus grew in years and grace, Saint Joseph daily strove to shepherd him in rite and craft, to hew his life with love. At Seder table Joseph stood, recalled Egyptian days, he broke the bread and blessed the cup to give God thanks and praise.

God once called Joseph in his dreams, gave angel guides through strife, we now are called to dream for God, then live a herald life. God made this good and upright man example for his Son, and for us, too, so as through Christ through us, God's will is done.

(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: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621. Text: Arden Mead, Copyright © 2000 Creative Communications for the Parish. Used with permission.

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you accepted Mary, a daughter who lived out her faith.
 You accepted Joseph, a son of gentle obedience. Please accept these gifts. They
 are signs of our faith. They are examples of our **love**. Through Jesus Christ our
 Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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)

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)

Blessing

Isaiah says, "*The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.*" May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in **love** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Song

#248 People, Look East

Dismissal

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

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.