



Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 22, 2024

WELCOME TO ZION

PRELUDE — Jill Sousek [5 PM/8 AM] and **Joyful Ringers** [10:30 AM]

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come with wonder in our hearts at the mystery that God's grace is for us.
We wonder if God can really do all the work.

We come with wonder in our hearts at the mystery that God is for us.
We are focused on getting everything accomplished by a deadline.

During this season of Wonder, let us remember that God, in love, brought salvation to us. **God's grace is for us.**

HYMN #265 — *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

ADVENT WREATH

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel.
God brings us joy.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
God brings us joy.

God has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty.
God brings us joy.

We light the fourth candle to declare to everyone that grace brings us joy.

HYMN #239 — *Hark, The Glad Sound* [VERSE 4]

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Holy God, you gather us together as your people. Help us! Remind us of your grace and mercy. Help us each day to see your grace-filled beginnings. Hear us as we confess to you:

A time for silent reflection and self-examination.

For times when we fail to recognize that your grace is for us.

Forgive us.

For days when we forget that you not only love us, but also that you love all people.

Forgive us.

For the days when we fail to share your love and grace.

Forgive us.

For the times we are afraid to tell our own story or listen to someone tell theirs.

Forgive us.

For the times we exclude people from the community into which you draw us.

Forgive us.

For the times we are afraid to follow you.

Forgive us.

Dear friends, God is at work in our lives though it might be difficult to see some days. God's grace will continually claim, restore, and remind us once again that we are loved. In the name of Jesus [†] your sins are forgiven, and you are set free to love. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. Amen.

W O R D

FIRST READING — *Micah 5:2-5a*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

SECOND READING — *Hebrews 10:5-10*

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

GOSPEL — *Luke 1:39-55*

In those days, Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SPECIAL MUSIC — *Little Drummer Boy*
by the **Youth Contemporary Choir** [10:30 AM]

CHILDREN’S SERMON

THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

HYMN #257 — *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* [VS. 5-8]

APOSTLES’ CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

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. Amen.

OFFERING VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek [5 PM & 8 AM]

— *Silent Night* by **Claire Schroeder** on the piano [10:30 AM]

COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY — Jill Sousek [5 PM & 8 AM]

— **Joyful Ringers** [10:30 AM]

BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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. Amen.

SENDING

BENEDICTION

HYMN #439 — *Soon and Very Soon*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek

*Christ
IS Coming!*



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

1254 S. Union Street, Shawano, WI 54166

715.526.2017 • zion@shawanozion.org • www.shawanozion.org
A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

