



## **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**December 22, 2024**

**Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran  
Church & School**

*growing in faith and knowledge of our Savior Jesus  
making Him known to others  
sharing in the joy Jesus won for all*



## **Advent Theme: A Real Christmas**

I want a real Christmas. In the season of Advent, Christians ponder what that means. The first time Christ came to earth it was to save and the second time will be when He comes here to judge. How does one get ready for the Creator to come? How do we prepare our hearts to celebrate God's real Christmas?

## **Today's Theme: A Real Christmas Watches His Plan Play Out**

How can I have a real Christmas? Sin, guilt, loneliness, doubt, death, fear — My sin is what messed up God's creation, not someone else's sin. The cry of Advent is to turn away from sin and run, amazed, to Christ Jesus. God's plan worked! God restored everything with His work of salvation in Jesus Christ, born of Mary.

### **Prayer before worship**

*Lord Jesus Christ, what surprising love You have! You did not reject sinners; You rescued sinners. And what a rescue plan You created! With Your Word, please restore the joy of our salvation. Fill these moments of worship with Yourself. Let all who join to worship here rejoice at Your great return in glory. Amen.*

## **Welcome**

We are happy you are here! Ask an usher if you have questions or need assistance.

The **order of service** is printed in this worship folder. Please take it with you. You can use the scripture readings during the week or share with a friend.

**Assisted hearing** devices are available. Ask an usher if you would like one.

**Parent-room.** If you have a nursing infant or small child in need of a quiet -room, you will find it off of the hallway entrance to the sanctuary. If you need more space, each of the rooms in the education wing also has a speaker.

## **ORDER OF SERVICE**

## Welcoming Song

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* | 333



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

Shout praise to God, all the earth! Make music to the glory of *His* name! Make *His* praise glorious!

**Say to God, "How awesome are *Your* deeds!" All the earth bows down to *You*.**

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit,

**For the LORD, who is high and lifted up, looks upon the humble, but the proud He does not know.** *Philippians 2 and Psalm 138*

Dear friends, let us continue to prepare our hearts to meet God our Father and humbly seek His forgiveness.

**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature. I have sinned against You in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved You with my whole heart; I have not loved others as You want. I deserve Your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with His innocent suffering and death. I trust in Him, so I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.**

If You, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

**But with You there is forgiveness, so that You may be revered. Though Christ was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor, so that we through His poverty might become rich.**

*Psalm 130, 2 Corinthians 8*

Even as we await Christ's second coming, He comes to us here and now in the words He gives His messengers to speak: Trust Him when He says, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**


*The congregation sings The Song of Mary during the lighting of the Advent Wreath*



C: My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-



joic - es in God my Sav - ior, for he has looked with fa - vor



on his low - ly ser - vant. From this day all gen - er - a - tions




will call me bless - ed. The Al - mighty has done great



things for me, and ho - ly is his name. He has mer - cy on



those who fear him in ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion.



He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the



proud in their con - ceit. He has cast down the might - y



from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.



He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich



he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the



help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his



prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,



to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

## Scripture Readings

### MICAH 5:2–5A EHV

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the Ruler for Me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity. Therefore the LORD will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a Child. Then the remaining survivors from His brothers will return

to the people of Israel. He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. They will dwell securely, for at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth. This One will be their Peace.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM OF THE DAY

### PSALM 85:1-8A EHV

#### *PAST RESTORATION*

For the choir director. By the Sons of Korah. A psalm. <sup>1</sup>You showed favor to Your land, O LORD. You restored Jacob. <sup>2</sup>You removed the guilt of Your people. Interlude. You covered all their sin. <sup>3</sup>You put away all your wrath. You turned from Your burning anger.

#### *PRESENT DESPAIR*

<sup>4</sup>Restore us, O God who saves us.

Put an end to Your indignation with us. <sup>5</sup>Will You be angry with us forever? Will You extend Your

anger through all generations?

<sup>6</sup>Will You not turn and revive us, so that Your people may rejoice in You?

#### *FUTURE PEACE*

<sup>7</sup>Show us Your mercy, O LORD, and give us Your salvation. <sup>8</sup>I will hear what the true God, the LORD, will say. He indeed speaks peace to His people, to His favored ones.

### LUKE 1:39–55 EHV

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. <sup>40</sup>She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>She called out

with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored that the mother of my LORD should come to me? <sup>44</sup>In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my

womb leaped for joy!

<sup>45</sup> Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the LORD will be fulfilled!"

<sup>46</sup> Then Mary said, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the LORD, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> because He has looked with favor on the humble state of His servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, <sup>49</sup> because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with His arm. He has scattered those

who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones. He has lifted up the lowly. <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich He has sent away empty. <sup>54</sup> He has come to the aid of His servant Israel, remembering His mercy, <sup>55</sup> as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and His offspring forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to You, O Christ!**

**THE APOSTLES' CREED** *The Explanation to the 2nd Article of the Creed*

**I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord.**

**He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.**

**All this He did that I should be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness, just as He has risen from death and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.**

 **VICTORY SONG OF THE DAY**    *THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME* | **328**

Text: Luke 1:54-55    **Ready For The LORD's Mercy?**  
**It's Designed, Declared & Delivered by the LORD**

| **OFFERINGS GIVEN** | **PRAYERS GIVEN** | **COMMUNION GIVEN** |



Reflecting the first time Jesus Christ instituted His Supper, we also offer His Supper to those who are publicly united with us in the profession of the Christian faith. If you are visiting from another church body, it would be wise to speak with your pastor about the differences that still separate our church bodies. Continue to ask Jesus to unite His people around His Word and Sacraments.

If you are a communicant from one of our W/ELS sister congregations, Jesus has already united us in the Word proclaimed. Please come and receive His Supper with us.

We sing and pray these songs from the blue song books as the Lord's Supper is distributed



**312 COMFORT, COMFORT ALL MY PEOPLE**

**327 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL**

**524 REJOICE THE LORD IS KING**

**324 O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU**

| **BLESSING GIVEN** |

 **PARTING SONG**    *Angels From The Realms of Glory* - | 315 stanzas 1, 6



Our Called Workers: Pastor Paul A. Tullberg, Pastor John T. Melke  
Educator/4K-5 Principal Hannah Cook  
ECM Teacher/Director Amanda Irwin  
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# WELCOME TO GOOD SHEPHERD

## OUR WEEK WITH JESUS

<b>Sunday 22</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> 10:15 am 2:00 pm	<b>Worship Service with Holy Communion</b> Sunday School and Bible Study on the “stand-in” father Cable TV of <b>Last week’s service</b> <u>Solarus Ch 3 &amp; Spectrum Ch 985</u> Choir
<b>Monday 23</b>	6:30 pm	<b>Christmas Eve Children’s Program</b>
<b>Tuesday 24</b>	<b>6:30 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Day Service</b>
<b>Wednesday 25</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
<b>Sunday 29</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	

Worship Online 24/7 at [live.1goodshepherd.org](http://live.1goodshepherd.org)

**Birthdays & Anniversaries this week:** Kirsten Metzger, Scott Davis, Gary Heiman  
Tyler and Deirdre Timm (7)



### **Our Extended & Growing Family of Faith remains in our prayers to God our Father.**



Pat & Ed Tesch, Family of Jon Haag, Becky Thorpe, Brad Roberts, Andy Hogan, Emily Erwin, Lauren Holberg, Connie Heitl, Pat & Al Rozelle, Lynn & Deb Ives, Jerry & Donna Marks, Jerry & Marci Wiessinger, Dianne Lau, Bill & Elaine Harrington, Betty Havlik, Gloria Walters, Mandy Ehlke & Family, Family of Pastor–emeritus Mike Wolff, Pat Hunziker, Sam & Becky Piper, Dr. Rev. Karl & Karen Kuenzel, Sonia in India Melissa in England, Junita in Hong Kong, Forrest & Elizabeth, Tammi– a friend of the congregation, Julie Bunt, Roger and Karen Deglow, Jenna Kammuller, Chris Rhein, Tammi Paul



The 2025 Sunday coffee and treats sign up list is in the narthex on the sign-up table. The Ladies Group takes care of providing this fellowship opportunity twice a month. Please consider partnering up with someone to provide either purchased or homemade treats. It is an easy way to serve and get to know people.



### **GOOD SHEPHERD Evangelical Lutheran Church and School**

10611 Hwy 13 South Wisconsin Rapids, WI, USA

Pastor Paul A. Tullberg | Pastor John T. Melke

3K-8 Educator/Principal: Hannah Cook | ECM Director/Teacher: Amanda Irwin

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# WE'VE ORDERED THE NEW ORGAN!

## Organ Fund Update!

The December donations to the Organ Fund have made it possible to place the order for the new organ. It has to be built, but we hope to have it in house around February. Thanks to all those that gave so generously!



*God sets the standard for generosity. He gives, not just enough, but abundantly, lavishly, extravagantly! In Ephesians chapter 1, these blessings include adopting us, making us holy and promising us an inheritance!*

*The Ladies Group THANKS the members who GENEROUSLY purchased Christmas gifts for the children and families of Wood County. We truly know the gift of generosity. Merry Christmas!*



**YOU'RE INVITED**  
**CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US!**

*Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran Church & School*  
 www.1goodshepherd.org  
 715-325-3355  
 10611 State Hwy. 13 S. Wis. Rapids

**Christmas Eve**  
 Tuesday, December 24  
 6:30 PM

**Christmas Day**  
 Wednesday, December 25  
 9:00 AM

10611 State Hwy. 13 S  
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI

1goodshepherd.org




Scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to discover the gift of God!

**Our mission is simple and bold:**

We seek to *grow in faith and knowledge* of our Savior Jesus.

We want to *make Him known to others* so they, too, might share in the joy Jesus won for them.

