

December 22, 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:30 AM Worship

First Lutheran Church 709 5th Ave. – P.O. Box 218 Washburn, North Dakota 58577 www.flcwashburn.com 701-462-3775

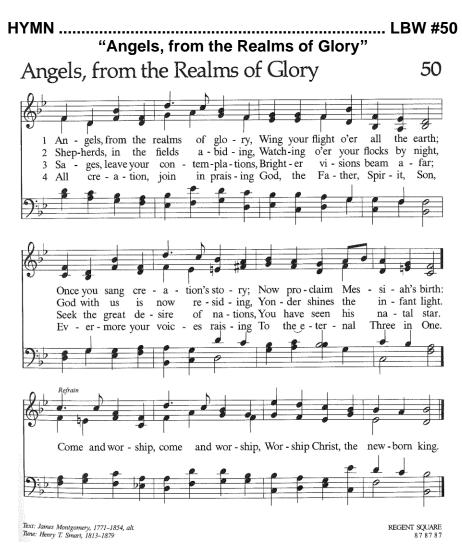
PRELUDE AND BELLS

AS WE GATHER

(In a world where power and might are treasured, the coming Savior was not what the world expected. God's son came as an infant to put an end to sin and death and to restore mankind's broken relationship with God. Today we celebrate the Savior's coming and look forward to His return. Welcome to God's house!)

WELCOME

(put prayer requests on yellow cards)



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESSp. 56

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ♣ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ♣ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

THE LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

- L: Once God's plan was a mystery, hidden from our sight. Now God, with the sending of His Son, has disclosed what was kept secret for so very long. In the brighter light on this fourth Sunday in Advent, may we see more clearly the glory of God in Christ and sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever.
- C: "With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I will declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens" (Psalm 89:1b-2).

We Sing: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel Verse 4

Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer
Our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloom-y clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

All four Advent candles are lit.

- L: Light four candles, see them glow
 Brightly, so that all may know
 How four candles show the way
 Making our darkness bright as God's day.
- C: "With my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. I will declare that your steadfast love is established forever; your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens" (Psalm 89:1b-2).

Together We Pray:

Dear God, your faithfulness has been great, leading us to this day of anticipation and celebration. May the glorious light of your steadfast love shine brightly in us and through us, that all may give you praise and glory. In the Savior's name we pray. Amen.

We sing: Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel Verse 5

Oh, come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way the leads on high, And close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel.

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

PSALM (Read responsively)Psalm 80:1-7 (The Psalmist records the lament of God's people, "Restore us God of hosts, let your face shine so that we might be saved." This promised salvation is given through His son!)

- ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- ² Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!
- ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- ⁴O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- ⁶ You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book." ⁸When 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), ⁹then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ALLELUIA



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st chapter.



GOSPEL READINGLuke 1:26-38 (The birth of Jesus is foretold to Mary as the angel announces the miracle of His coming.)

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON Pastor Paul Krueger "Trust God, and Start Living Again!" - Luke 1:26-38

HYMN (vs 1-4, 14)..... LBW #51 "From Heaven Above"

51

From Heaven Above



- 11 For velvets soft and silken stuff You have but hay and straw so rough On which as king so rich and great To be enthroned in humble state.
- 12 O dearest Jesus, holy child, Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled, A holy shrine, within my heart, That you and I need never part.
- 13 My heart for very joy now leaps; My voice no longer silence keeps; I too must join the angel-throng To sing with joy his cradle-song;
- 14 "Glory to God in highest heav'n, Who unto us his Son has giv'n." With angels sing in pious mirth: A glad new year to all the earth!

[©] Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; hymnal translation, 1978 Tune: V. Schumann, Geistliche Lieder, 1539

OFFERTORY



OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

Do this for the remembrance of me.

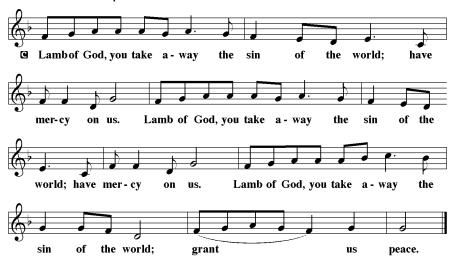
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

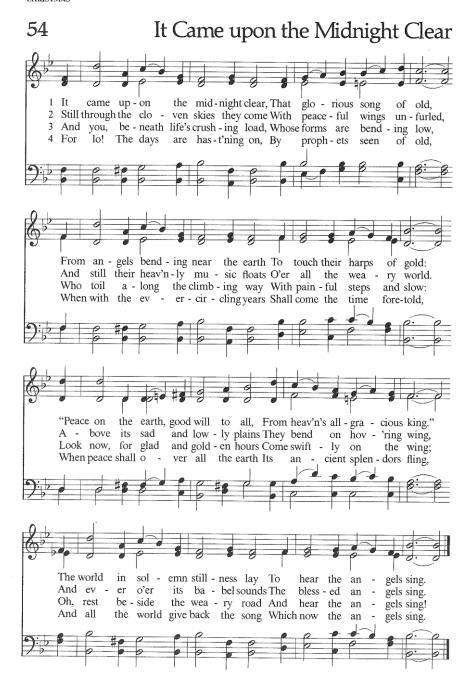
COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION (2 Aisle Floor Stations)

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION:

Lamb of God - p. 72



LBW #54 – "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" LBW #56 – "The First Noel" LBW #197 – "O Living Bread from Heaven"



Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876, alt. Tune: Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900





Text: English carol, c. 17th cent. Tune: English carol, c. 17th cent.

Full rev'rently upon their knee,

And offered there in his presence Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

THE FIRST NOWELL irregular

197

O Living Bread from Heaven

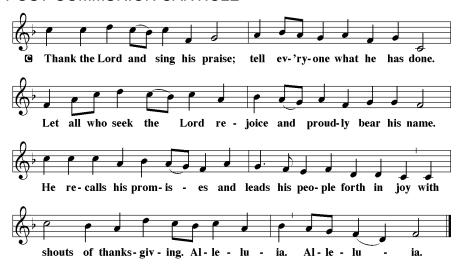


Text: Johann Rist, 1606-1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt. Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

BENEDICTION

Psalm 32:10

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

Numbers 6:24-26

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

C: Amen.

HYMN LBW #221 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Sent Forth by God's Blessing 221 1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, Our true faith con - fess - ing, The 2 With praise and thanks-giv - ing To God liv - ing, ev er peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take leave. tasks of our 'ry day life will face. ev we The sup - per end - ed. Oh, now ex - tend - ed is be The Our faith ev er shar - ing, In love Em ev car - ing, fruits of this all ser - vice in who be - lieve. The chil - dren brac - ing his of each tribe and With race.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us for fellowship/coffee hour after worship.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Today's Worship Leaders & Volunt	<u>eers – Thank You!</u>
PASTOR	Pastor Paul Krueger
USHERS/GREETERS	Jeff Schmidt Family
READER	Jeff Schmidt
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Randy Hanson
	Randy & Gwen Hall
ORGANIST	LeAnn Richard
ALTAR GUILD	Theresa Petersen
FELLOWSHIP/COFFEE HOUR	Sandy Schell
	Brittany Hoffert
SERVICE GROUP COORDINATORS	Larry & Kathy Keller
E	ric & Sarah Rosenquist

First Lutheran Church 709 5th Ave. - PO BOX 218 Washburn ND 58577 701-462-3775

PASTOR: Paul Krueger email: revpaulkrueger@gmail.com

Cell phone: 701-240-4712

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY: Jeannette Rost

Church Office: 701-462-3775

Email: <u>flc@westriv.com</u> Website: <u>www.flcwashburn.com</u>

COORDINATOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES: Melissa Rothe

Email: fly@westriv.com

OFFICE HOURS: T-T-F 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

W - 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

ORGANISTS: Theresa Petersen and LeAnn Richard

CHOIR DIRECTOR: Randy Hall

BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR: Gwen Hall

CUSTODIAN: Jeff Schmidt

Our Mission

"Working hand in hand to know Christ and make Christ known through Worship, Christian Education, Evangelism, Fellowship, Caring Ministries, and Service."

Welcome to all who have come to worship.

Welcome to worship. Like Mary and Elizabeth, we share the anticipation of what God is birthing – through Jesus, and in all our lives always.

Visitors

We welcome all visitors to First Lutheran today and ask that you sign our guest book in the narthex.

Nursery

The nursery, located beside the narthex, is available for use for any parent feeling the need to use it during worship services with their child.

Thank you for your giving

Sunday, December 15 Attendance – 247 Online Viewing – 44 General Fund & Plate Giving - \$7,880.67

Hearing Assist

First Lutheran has hearing assist systems to be used during the worship services. If you feel you could benefit from this or want to try it, please see the ushers in the narthex.

Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Receive the bread into your open, flat palm. Ask if you wish to receive grape juice or a gluten free wafer. Alert an usher if you, or someone you know, needs communion served in the pew.

Pastoral Care

Please call Pastor Paul (701-240-4712) or the church office (701-462-3775) if you or a loved one are in the hospital or know you will be going to the hospital. The church does not get informed of your stay by any of the hospitals even if you are registered under our congregation's name. We want to make sure you get pastoral care. Thank you!

This week we pray for:

This Week's New Prayer Requests:

Prayers of Christian Sympathy:

Long Term prayer requests:

Members: Alton Krebsbach, Howard Johnson, Karen Goehring

* The person in parenthesis is who the person is related to or friends of. Please feel free to ask these individuals how best you can pray for their family/friend.

This month we pray for:

Members: Tom Merkel, Bob Weisgarber, Joan Zimmerman

Friends & Family: Roger Holznagel

This Quarter we pray for:

Members and Nonmembers: Corrine Kerzmann (Donna Gunderson), Marion Narum (Peggy Moran), Ty Brown (Jody & Nicole Brown), Alice Richard, Jackie Olson

Military Prayer and Card List

We pray for the Men & Women in our Military who protect our country, especially those assigned to serve overseas or away from home.

 Members of First Lutheran on Active Duty in the Military and the National Guard:

SGT Bryce Rost - Army National Guard

SPC Olivia Retterath – National Guard - Deployed

SPC Cassidy Sommer - National Guard

SGT Jonathan Melvard - Army National Guard

 Friends and Family on Active Duty in the Military and in the National Guard:

SGT Dustin Enockson - National Guard

Emily Johnson – Air Force

Bryar Anderson – Marines

1SGT Jordan Ternes - Army National Guard

Tech. SGT Andre Austin - Air Force

Hunter Feigum - National Guard

Morris Duffy - Medical Air Guard

Adam Walsvik - National Guard

SGT Tom Heidelberger – Army

2LT Tony Heidelberger – Air Force

Notice of Prayer List Policy

We have a monthly/quarterly prayer list cycle. When you add someone to our prayer list the request will remain on our monthly list for four weeks and then be removed. If you would like to have the request moved to our quarterly list, please contact the office and the request will be added to our "This Quarter we pray for:" list for the next three months. Please help us keep our prayer list current by communicating updates to the office at 701-462-3775. Thank you all for your faithful prayers for all of God's people.

Large Print Bulletins

We have large print bulletins for those wanting or needing larger print. Ask the ushers for one.

Lefse Fundraiser

Lefse orders are available for pick up and must be picked up by 11:30 am today.

Office Hours

Jeannette will be in the office this week Monday all day, Tuesday until around 1, all day Thursday and Friday.

2025 FLCW Booklets

The 2025 FLCW Booklets are in your mailbox ready to pick up. Take it home with you and see what is happening throughout the year with our First Lutheran Women and join us for meetings and events.

2025 Offering Envelopes

The 2025 offering envelopes are in the narthex. Please pick yours up to use next year if you have not already done so. If you don't see one for yourself and would like one, please talk to Jeannette.

Virtual Services

Virtual services can be found on the church website <u>flcwashburn.com</u>. To watch services later, they will be found in the archive on the church website. More detailed instructions can be found in January's newsletter. If you need support, please contact Melissa Rothe and her "FLY Tech Support" can help you!

Connections Magazine

The November/December issue of *Connections* is in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy today to read updates on LCMC, NALC and other interesting articles.

Our Daily Bread and Portals of Prayer

The December/January/February issue of *Our Daily Bread* and the January – March 2024 issue of *Portals of Prayer* are in the magazine racks in the narthex. Pick up a copy to use with your daily devotions.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN

TODAY 9:30 AM Worship w/Holy Communion

10:30 AM Fellowship/Coffee Hour

10:45 AM Sunday School

Fireside Bible Study

7:00 PM AA Meeting

Al-Anon Meeting

TUES.

December 24 - Christmas Eve 4:30 PM & 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship w/Holy Communion

WEDS. MERRY CHRISTMAS

SUN. 9:30 AM Worship

10:30 AM Fellowship/Coffee Hour

Fireside Bible Study

7:00 PM AA Meeting

Al-Anon Meeting

Listening for the Promise

Sola Publishing - Weekly Devotions

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22, 2024

SOWeR Site — Weekly Devotional © Sola Publishing: www.solapublishing.com, 2024, written by Peggy Hoppes. Scripture taken from ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

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"His mercy is for generations and generations on those who fear him." - Luke 1:50 –

Just Like Mary

God chose Mary to bear the baby Jesus in her womb and in her arms, but Mary's story is not about a woman of sinless perfection. She didn't need to be. She was chosen by God to bring the good news of salvation into the world.

Her life was not pain free. She was just a child when she became pregnant. She was mistreated as a whore. She gave birth in a cold stable, and then went on the run with her husband and young child to save his life. When Joseph died, her position as a widow in society was quite low. She deeply loved her son, but at times he seemed to disregard and disrespect her. Think about the stories: the day they could not find him because he went to the temple, the wedding at Cana where He told her that it wasn't time, the time she and Jesus' brothers went to talk to Him and He told her that those listening were His mother and brothers. And then, after all this, Mary watched her son die a horrible death: execution on the cross.

Mary deserves to be remembered not because she is greater than you and me, but because she is just like us. Her story as a sinner and saint is just like ours. There were times when she was an obstacle to His ministry, but she remained humble and faithful to the God she loved. We are just like Mary, blocking Jesus' work in this world, and yet God is able to use us to bear the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world.

Mary knew that Jesus offered a life-changing gift, the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. True faith comes to those with a humble heart. It comes to those who recognize their need for mercy and grace which Jesus won for us in His life, death, and resurrection. Despite her moments of failure, Mary knew Jesus came to do God's will and she humbly accepted His call on her life. Jesus calls us to share the good news of His salvation with the world, just like Mary.