

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

630 Adams St Wausau, WI 54403

Phone: (715) 842-3644

<http://www.immanuelwausau.org>

Sunday, December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C



***Please welcome Kathy Robinson and Pastor Doug Helling as they lead
as they lead us in Worship with Holy Communion today.***

Prelude

Announcements

Introduction

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

Please stand if able.

Hymn

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#254

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P: God of might,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

P: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through ✝ Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Lighting the 4th Candle. The fourth candle represents peace and the Angels singing Peace on Earth.

Hymn

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

#240 vs. 4

Greeting: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

C: And also, with you.

Gathering Hymn
Prayer of the Day

“Joy to the World”

#267

P: 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.

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

R: Word of God. Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

R: Please read responsively to Luke 1:46b-55

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness ^l of the Lord,

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in ^l God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your ^l lowly servant.**
From this day all generations will ^l call me blessed:

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me
and holy | is your name.

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on | those who fear you,
from generation to | generation. R**

⁵¹ You have shown strength | with your arm
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

⁵² **casting down the mighty | from their thrones
and lifting | up the lowly.**

⁵³ You have filled the hungry | with good things
and sent the rich | away empty.

⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**

⁵⁵ the promise made | to our forebears,
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever. R

Hymn

“What Child Is This”

#296 v1,3

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,
“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ 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).”

⁸ 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), ⁹ then he added, “See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

R: Word of God. Word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia”

pg. 142

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” [

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

]

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

Kathy Robinson

Silence for reflection.

Hymn of the Day

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#257

Please stand if able.

Apostles’ Creed

See the yellow sheet in the back of your hymnal.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: I invite you to share the Peace however you feel comfortable.

Please be seated for the Prayers.

Prayers of Intercession

Read by our Lector today:

Doug Helling

Challenged by God’s Word in Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and the whole creation.

After “Lord, in your mercy,”, please respond with “receive our prayer.”

A brief silence.

Offertory Hymn

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

#244

The usher will bring up the offering plate, bread and wine.

Please stand if able.

Offering Prayer

P: 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.

Holy Communion

Holy Communion

Pastor Doug Helling

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

pg. 144B

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.
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

Please be seated.

All are welcome at the Lord's table. We believe Christ is truly present in the bread and the wine, that is his body and blood are given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. If you do not wish to receive communion but wish to receive a blessing, please come forward during the distribution of communion. If you are unable to come forward during distribution and wish to receive communion, please let the usher know and the pastor will come to your seat.

Invitation to Communion

God feeds us with tender mercy.
Come to the table.

Lamb of God

pg. 146

Communion Hymn

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

#283

Blessing after Communion

P: The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.

Prayer after Communion

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.

Blessing

God of endings and beginnings,
God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey,
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn **“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”** **#288**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Attendance on 12/15/2024: 27

Prayer Concerns: Judi McGill and Bob Henning for medical challenges. Leora Mitchell, Joan Winterhoff, Mary Ann Klinker, and Frank Lewitzke. (For updates, please contact the ILC Office)

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Our Sister Church is the Lobatla Parish. Pastor Elijah Lekwate. Email for Justice Pule: pulejustice74@gmail.com

Volunteers needed to Host Coffee Hours. The sign-up sheet is in the kitchen.

Serving us Today

Leader: Kathy Robinson

Organist/Pianist: Karen Z.

Reader: Doug Helling

Usher: Dan Westaby

Altar Guild: Kathy Knox, Joanne Distelhorst, Pattie Bricko and Holly Westaby

The mitten tree is set up in the Narthex. You may bring donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and sweaters to put on or under the tree.

Mark Your Calendar!

The last day to submit items for the January 2025 Newsletter is December 23, 2024.

Join us at Immanuel Lutheran Church on December 24, 2024, at 4:00 PM for a special Christmas Eve Service! Celebrate the birth of our Savior with a beautiful worship experience featuring the Hand Bell Choir Ensemble. There will be cookies and coffee afterwards. All are welcome – bring family and friends to share in the joy and peace of this holy night.

We have been invited to the following Christmas Services:

- **December 25, 2024**, Combined Christmas Day Service (10am) at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 930 Edgewood Rd, Wausau, WI 54403
- **December 25, 2024**, Christmas Day Service (9am) at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 709 Weston Ave, Wausau, WI 54403

Please note: The Church Office will be open on Monday December 23, 2024, and Tuesday December 24, 2024. The Church Office will be closed **Wednesday, December 25, 2024, and Thursday, December 26, 2024.** Thank you!

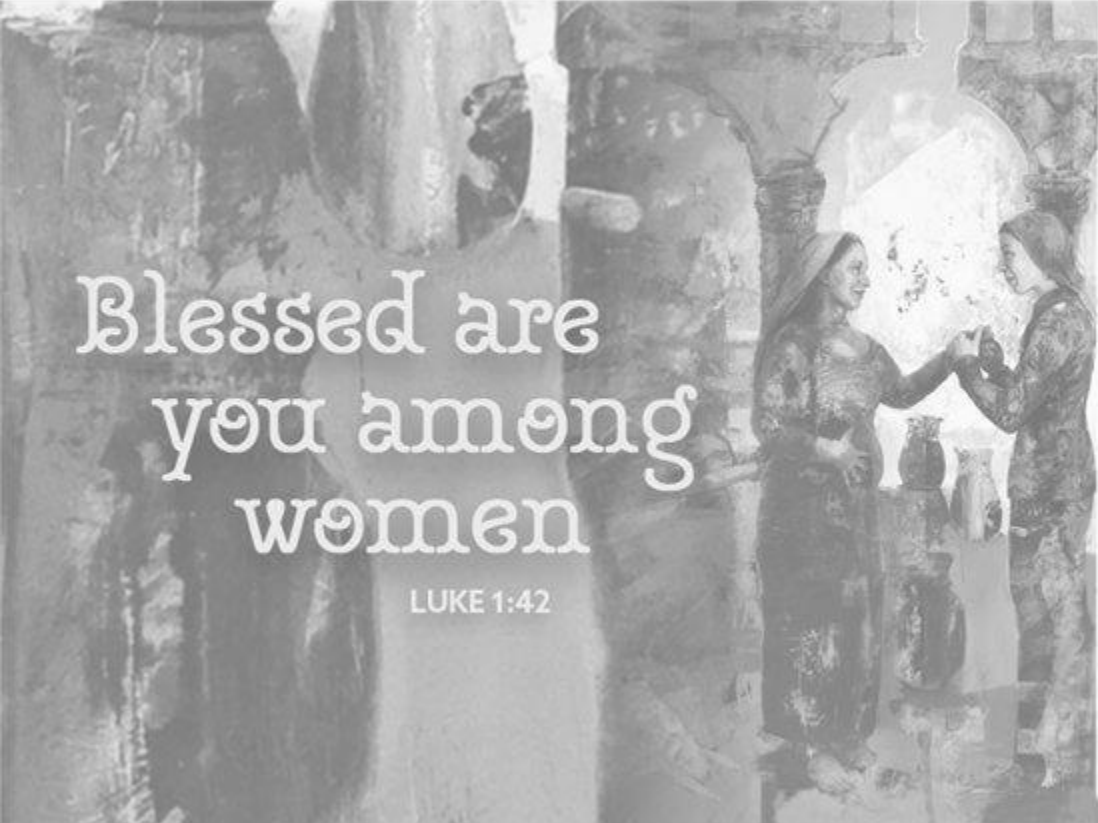
The Men's Discussion Group meets Thursdays at 7:30 am, in the Koinonia room. New participants are always welcome.

Strong Bones Senior Exercise Group meets every Tuesday and Thursday in the old Nursery at 10:30 am. The class is open to anyone wishing to improve balance and maintain strength to prevent falls. New faces are happily welcome.

Food Pantry Donations for the Neighbors' Place

Place your items on the black cart next to the pew near the Gathering Room and they will be delivered to the Neighbors' Place.

Notes



Blessed are
you among
women

LUKE 1:42