



# DECEMBER 24, 2023 | *Fourth Sunday in Advent*

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## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome to our worship service today! We are glad to have you with us as we gather before our almighty and saving God to hear His holy and powerful Word and celebrate His life-giving Sacraments, offering our prayers and praises as He strengthens our faith and brings us ever closer to our eternal home with Him.

## SERVICE NOTES

**The fourth Week of Advent is the week of Love.** This verse tells us that Jesus came because God loves us so much that he doesn't want any of us to miss out on spending eternity (forever) with him. All we have to do is believe that Jesus is the Son of God who came to save us from sin.

**If you need any assistance,** please ask any of our ushers for help. In inclement weather, or if walking from your car is difficult, please make use of the carport. The ushers will gladly park and/or retrieve your car for you if needed.

**If you are a visitor with us today,** please sign the Guest Book before you leave today. If you would like to learn more about our church or are interested in church membership, please speak with the Pastor or one of the Elders.

**If you have small children,** please note there is a Parents' Room at the rear of the sanctuary if you need to temporarily calm a child, but we are caring, loving and happy to hear your child/children. From the Parents' Room you can still see, hear, and participate in the worship service.

**For your convenience** today's order of service is printed on the following pages. It is based on the Order of Morning Service, found on p. 5ff. in *The Lutheran Hymnal*.

## SERVING IN WORSHIP

Minister

Rev. Michael Dietz

Organist

Deb Meyer

Elder on Duty

Sunday: Paul Koch

Ushers on Duty

David Diestler, Charles Hartwig, Rick Schnese

Altar Guild

Lila Barlament & Jan Johnson

# The Order of Morning Service

*Please stand.*

## OPENING HYMN

*Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love | 114*

## INVOCATION AND CONFESSION OF SINS

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.



**M:** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord.



**M:** I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.



**M:** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C:** O most merciful God, You have given Your only-begotten Son to die for us; have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You, and of Your will, and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

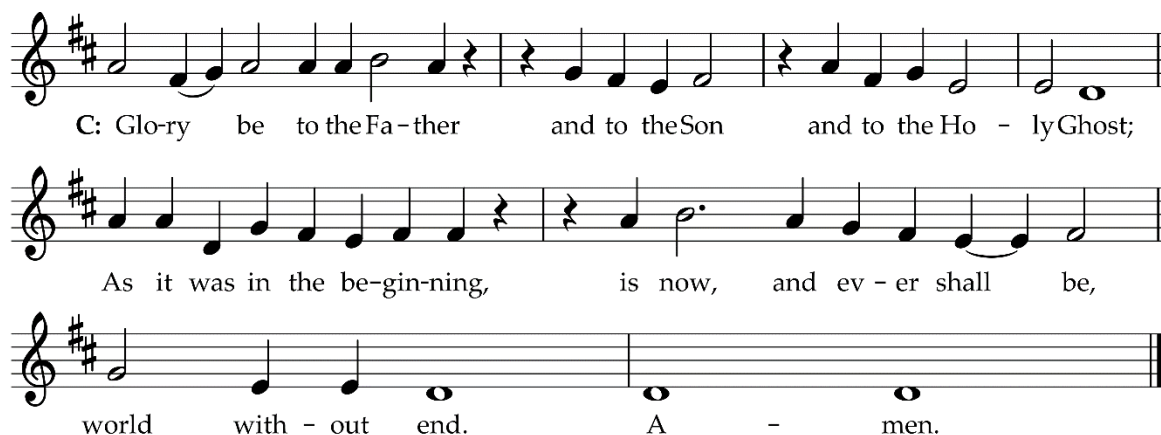
**M:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only-begotten Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To all who believe on His Name He gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all!



*You may be seated.*

## THE INTROIT & GLORIA PATRI

**M:** Rain down, you heavens from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness. Let the earth open, and bring forth salvation. The heavens declare the glory of God, And the firmament shows His handiwork.



## LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

**M:** We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

**C:** **We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save His people from their sins.**

**M:** We hear His call to give Him a place in our hearts.

**C:** **We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

**M:** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C:** **Through Your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*The fourth Advent candle is lit.*

# THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

## THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

**M:** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And with thy spir - it.

*Please stand.*

**M:** Let us pray: Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, 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.



**C:** A - men.

*You may be seated.*

## FIRST LESSON: 2 SAMUEL 7:8-16

<sup>8</sup> "Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup> I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. <sup>10</sup> And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning <sup>11</sup> and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders[a] over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

"The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: <sup>12</sup> When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with

floggings inflicted by human hands. <sup>15</sup> But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me[b]; your throne will be established forever.’”

## SECOND LESSON: ROMANS 16:25-27

<sup>25</sup> Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, <sup>26</sup> but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from<sup>[a]</sup> faith— <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

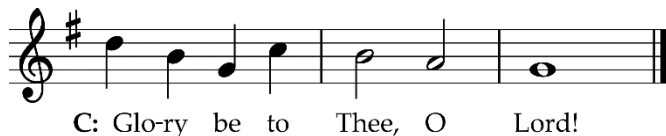
## GRADUAL

M: Alleluia. Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies: for they have been from of old. Alleluia!



*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL LESSON: LUKE 1:26-28



<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



## THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C:** I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; The holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; The forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.**

*You may be seated.*

## CHOIR

*The Snow Lay on the Ground*

## HYMN

*Of the Father's Love Begotten* | 98

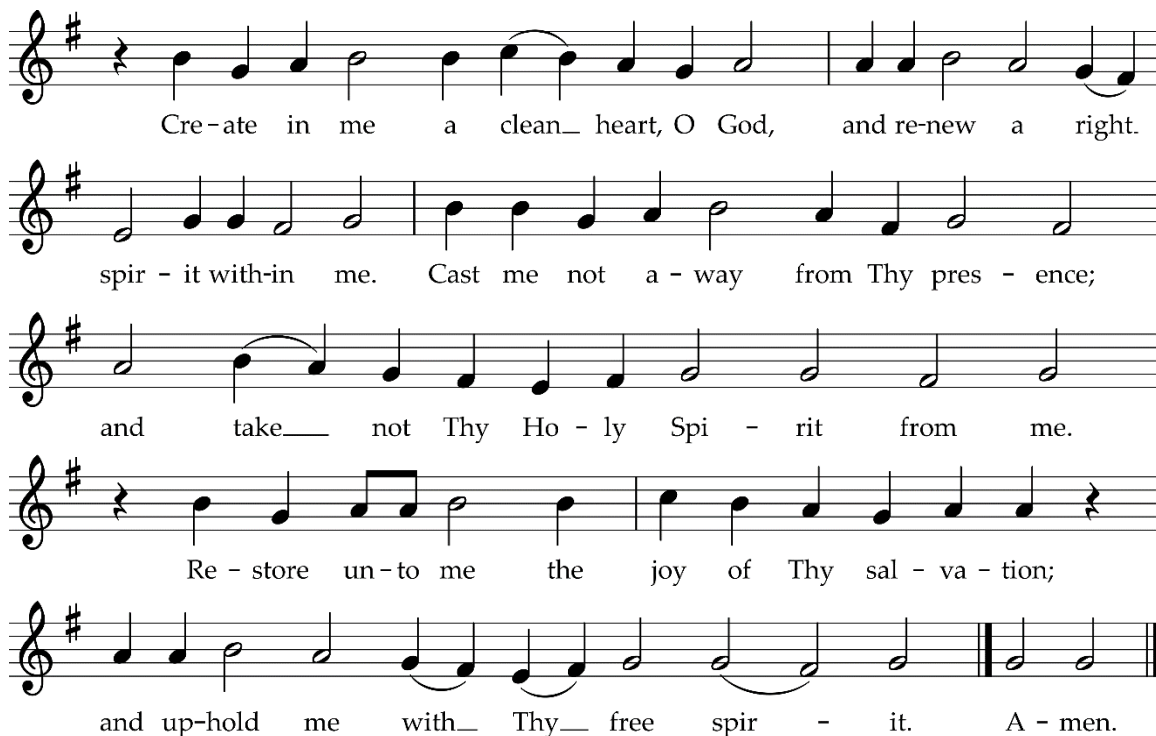
*Please stand for the singing of the final stanza.*

## SERMON – LUKE 1:26-28

The Best Way to Prepare for  
the Fulfillment of His Coming!

*Please stand.*

## THE OFFERTORY



Cre-ate in me a clean\_ heart, O God, and re-new a right.  
spir - it with-in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres - ence;  
and take\_\_\_ not Thy Ho - ly Spi - rit from me.  
Re - store un-to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;  
and up-hold me with\_ Thy\_ free spir - it. A - men.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean\_ heart, O God, and re-new a right." The second staff continues: "spir - it with-in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres - ence;" The third staff continues: "and take\_\_\_ not Thy Ho - ly Spi - Rit from me." The fourth staff continues: "Re - store un-to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion;" The fifth staff concludes: "and up-hold me with\_ Thy\_ free spir - it. A - men." The score ends with a double bar line.

*You may be seated.*

## THE OFFERING

*Please stand.*

## THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL:** 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 forever and ever. Amen.

*You may be seated.*



*Please stand.***COLLECT OF THE WORD**

**M:** Blessed Lord, since You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart, that by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

**THE BENEDICTION**

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**CLOSING HYMN***Now Are the Days Fulfilled* | 99

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

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**ALTAR FLOWERS** - If you are interested in sponsoring altar flowers, please sign up on the flower chart in the fellowship hall.

**SNACK SPONSORS** – If you're interested in sponsoring and serving snacks, please sign up on the sheet in the fellowship hall!

**THANK YOU** – Thank you, Pastor Dietz, for conducting our service today.

**PASTOR TRENT SAARI** – At our call meeting, voting members selected Pastor Saari of Western Koshkonong Lutheran Church of Cottage Grove, WI. Please keep Pastor Saari and his family in your prayers as he considers this Divine Call. Pastor Saari would like your input and prayers. Email: [pastorsaari@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorsaari@hotmail.com) OR 608-208-3188.

**LIVESTREAM VOLUNTEERS** – The sign-up sheet for January and February 2024. Please sign up for a Sunday(s) you are available. Thank you!

**BIBLE STUDY** – Due to the Christmas and New Year's holiday services, we will not have Bible Study until the first Sunday in 2024, January 7.

### **CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S EVE SCHEDULE**

- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service—Sunday, Dec. 24, at 5:30 pm
- Christmas Day Festival Service—Monday, Dec. 25, at 9:00 a.m.
- New Year's Eve Service - Sunday, Dec. 31, at 5:30 pm

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** – Thank you to all who donated Christmas poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!

Dennis and Lila Barlament

Jay and Jill Brown

Brian and Julie Busse

Donna Carter

Dave and Jeanette Diestler

Sharon and John Dunbar

Sue Engberg

Sandra Gillaume

Charles and Barbara Hartwig

Phil and Janet Heuser – In Memory of Janet and

Sandra's Mom and in memory of Phil's Mom

Allen and Janice Johnson

Ardis Junco

Marilyn Leitzke

Joe Massie

Rick and Barb Schnese

Peter and Terri Tilkens

Sandra VanderHeyden

Sue Wallenfang

## THIS WEEK AT CHRIST THE KING

SUNDAY (12/24)

Christmas Eve

**Divine Service, 9:00 a.m.**

**Candlelight Service, 5:30 p.m.**

MONDAY (12/25)

Christmas Day

**Divine Service w/Comm., 9:00 a.m.**

WEDNESDAY (12/27)

**Emerald Bay Service, 4:00 p.m.**

SUNDAY (12/31)

New Year's Eve

**Divine Service, 9:00 a.m.**

**Divine Service w/Comm., 5:30 p.m.**

## OUR MISSION

*Christ the King Ev.  
Lutheran Church gives all  
praise and thanks to the  
Triune God for His grace  
received through Word and  
Sacrament by sharing the  
saving Gospel of Christ  
with the people of this  
community and the world.*