

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024

9:30 a.m.



We Gather in Jesus' Name

Prelude (a time for silent meditation)

Announcements

Confessions and Forgiveness

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.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

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.**

Gathering Song: "My Lord What a Morning"

WOV 627

Refrain

My Lord, what a morning;
my Lord, what a morning;
oh, my Lord, what a morning,
when the stars begin to fall.

1 You will hear the trumpet sound,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. **Refrain**

2 You will hear the sinner cry,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. **Refrain**

3 You will hear the Christian shout,
to wake the nations underground,
looking to my God's right hand,
when the stars begin to fall. **Refrain**

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Candle: Advent 4

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. **Amen.**

Light the fourth candle.

"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

4 Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel.

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.

The Reading of God's Word

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

²But 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.

³Therefore 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.

⁴And 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.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55

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

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will 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.**

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 promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

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.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

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

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.”]

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: “Once in Royal David’s City”

WOV 643

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Once in royal David's city
 stood a lowly cattle shed,
 where a mother laid her baby
 in a manger for his bed:
 Mary was that mother mild,
 Jesus Christ, her little child.</p> | <p>3 And our eyes at last shall see him,
 through his own redeeming love;
 for that child so dear and gentle
 is our Lord in heav'n above;
 and he leads his children on
 to the place where he is gone.</p> |
| <p>2 He came down to earth from heaven
 who is God and Lord of all,
 and his shelter was a stable,
 and his cradle was a stall;
 with the poor and meek and lowly,
 lived on earth our Savior holy.</p> | <p>4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
 with the oxen standing by,
 we shall see him; but in heaven,
 set at God's right hand on high;
 there his children gather round,
 bright like stars, with glory crowned.</p> |

Apostle’s Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe In the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of Intercession

(Each petition ends with... Lord, in Your Mercy, The congregation responds: **receive our prayer.**)

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you

The Offering (Please leave your offering on our website: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJ34/home>)

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray...

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.**

Sacrament

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word
dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and
resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel,

Word of God incarnate,

Power of the Most High,

one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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,
forever and ever.**

Amen.

Distribution

The body of Christ, given to you
The blood of Christ, shed for you

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.**

Sending/Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "Joy Has Dawned"

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1 Joy has dawned upon the world
Promised from creation
God's salvation now unfurled
Hope for ev'ry nation
Not with fanfares from above
Not with scenes of glory
But a humble gift of love
Jesus born of Mary</p> | <p>3 Shepherds bow before the Lamb
Gazing at the glory
Gifts of men from distant lands
Prophecy the story
Gold a King is born today
Incense God is with us
Myrrh His death will make a way
By His blood He'll win us</p> |
| <p>2 Sounds of wonder fill the sky
With the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life
Shelters in a stable
Hands that set each star in place
Shaped the earth in darkness
Cling now to a mother's breast
Vulnerable and helpless</p> | <p>4 Son of Adam Son of heaven
Given as a ransom
Reconciling God and man
Christ our mighty Champion
What a Savior what a Friend
What a glorious mystery
Once a babe in Bethlehem
Now the Lord of history</p> |

Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

OUR MISSION – FAITHFUL IN THE WORD

- + To **gather** as God’s people and nurture one another
- + To **know** the Word of God
- + To **grow** in faith, love, and service
- + To **go** into the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ



SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor
Music Director
Lay Reader
Communion Assistant
Fellowship Time

The Rev. Matthew E Ollikainen
Michael Dettra
Gail Oines
Joyce Heiss
Open

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Sunday, December 15: 8:00 a.m.- 12+2=14; 9:30 a.m.- 45+0=45; SS-8 **TOTAL- 67**



COMMUNION REMINDER

The Worship and Music Committee would like to remind the congregation that those going forward to the altar for communion have a few options. There is gluten-free bread in the small clear glass bowl, and white grape juice for those who prefer. Just let the Pastor or assistant know your preference. Thank you.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2025 Offering envelopes are on the table in the narthex for pickup. If you did not receive envelopes and would like to have them, please contact Cindy Frey or Tony Gryszka.

2025 FLOWER CHART

The 2025 Flower Chart to dedicate altar flowers each Sunday is on the table in the narthex. The cost is \$25 per bouquet, and you are welcome to take them home following the late service.

DONATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIP TIME



If you are looking for a way to assist with Fellowship Time but do not have the time or ability to bake or shop for snacks, please consider donating a few dollars. All those hungry snackers will appreciate it!

DRIVE in AND DROP off FOOD COLLECTION

If you have food for the Warminster Food Pantry and the church is not open, just drive into the parking lot and drop off the food inside the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

Advent Lutheran Church wants some new faces/voices helping before and during the services! We want you, in other words. Please consider sharing your gifts with us as an **Usher/Greeter**, **Lay Reader**, or **Communion Assistant**. We are also looking for young people who may be interested in being an **Acolyte**. Please see Gail Oines for more details and training information.



PRAISE BAND and VOCAL CHOIR SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

Advent's Praise Band and Vocal Choir invite you to join them during the Advent season! Praise Band practices from 6:30 to 7:15 pm, Vocal Choir from 7:15-8:00 pm on Wednesday evenings. Please see Mike Dettra, Music Director for more details.

ADVENT LADIES LUNCH GROUP

- ❖ The next lunch meeting will be **Tuesday, January 7** at noon in Advent's multipurpose room. BYO lunch.
- ❖ There is an outing scheduled to the Michener Art Museum in Doylestown on Sunday, **January 12**. Timing and transportation will be discussed at the January 7 lunch.

If you have any questions, please contact Fran Zanis, 267-847-5098, email Ftkelly30 @gmail.com, or join us at the lunch scheduled for Tuesday, January 7.

MEN'S BREAKFAST



The next Men's Breakfast will be held on **Saturday, January 11 at 8:30 a.m.** Coffee will be ready at 7:30 a.m. If you are looking forward to new cuisine in the new year, prepare to be disappointed.

PLEASE GIVE TO THE REBUILDING OF OUR CHURCH'S WEBSITE

Please help support the website rebuild through a financial gift, which will defray the costs totaling \$14,535 (for the rebuild and web hosting for one year). To date, over \$5,700 has been donated. Thanks to all who have made and will be making a financial gift in support of the appeal. Checks can be made out to Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church (memo line: Electronic Service Appeal).

PASTOR MATT'S END OF YEAR SCHEDULE

Pastor Matt will be out of the office from Wednesday, December 25 until Wednesday, January 1. Pastor will return to the office on Thursday, January 2.

While Pastor is on vacation, please reach out to Pastor Nathan Krause in the case of a pastoral emergency. Pastor Nathan's cell phone number is 267-884-1198.

HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Church Office Hours for the week of Christmas and New Year's

Monday, December 23: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tuesday, December 24: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesday, December 15: CLOSED
Thursday, December 26: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Friday, December 27: CLOSED

Monday, December 30: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Tuesday, December 31: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesday, January 1: CLOSED
Thursday, January 2: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Friday, January 3: CLOSED

NOVEMBER FINANCIAL REPORT

Financial Report For November 2024		
	Rec'vd for Nov 2024	Budget for Nov 2024
General Fund	\$21,192.27	\$17,482.00
Mortgage	\$1,601	\$1,898.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$25	\$75
Other Benevolence	\$385	
Insurance Settlement		
Web Upgrade		
Total	\$23,203.27	\$19,455.00
Financial Report For November 2024		
	Recv'd YTD 1/1-11/30/24	Budget YTD 1/1-11/30/24
General Fund	\$131,228.66	\$192,302.00
Mortgage	\$18,553.00	\$20,878.00
Bene. - Synod Only	\$560.00	\$825.00
Other Benevolence	\$5,980.00	
Insurance Settlement	\$87,496.69	
Web Upgrade	\$5,780.00	
Total	\$249,598.35	\$214,005.00



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24, at 7:30 p.m.

The single Christmas Eve service with Holy Communion will be at 7:30 p.m. Dedication poinsettia plants may be picked up after the conclusion of the service.

Zoom Information

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87061719177>

Meeting ID: 870 6171 9177

SINGLE SUNDAY SERVICE ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 29 at 9:00 a.m.

A Lessons and Carols Service with no Communion will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 29. Sunday School and Bible Study are both cancelled and will resume in the new year.

Zoom Information

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85487465469>

Meeting ID: 854 8746 5469

THIS WEEK AT ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am Traditional Holy Communion
9:30 am Contemporary Holy Communion
No Sunday School
10:30 am Fellowship Time: Open

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:30 pm A.A. Open Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
with Holy Communion

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS – THE SAVIOR IS BORN!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

7:30 pm A.A. Step Meeting

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

9:00 am Service of the Word – No Holy Communion
10:00 am Fellowship Time: Gail Oines