



FOURTH SUNDAY

OF

Advent

New Life Ev. Lutheran Church

Lake Zurich, IL

...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world.

Pastor Andrew Bauer
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www.newlife-wels.org

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Fourth Sunday in Advent **December 18, 2022**

A warm welcome to those who are visiting us today. You may hang your coat in the entry way of the church or on the coat rack downstairs. The bathrooms are located in the lower level of this building. Before you go home today, please sign our guest book located on the podium in the entry way. Also, refreshments are served in the fellowship hall after our service this morning. We invite you to join us for something to eat and drink.

Our lower level is wired for sound. If you need to take your child out during the service, you won't miss any of the sermon. The service is also simulcast on the church's Facebook page.

In the unlikely event of an emergency during this morning's service, you can exit the building using the main entryway or the exit to the right of the chancel. Our building does have a fire alarm system which is wired directly to the fire department. Remember, we follow the "Run, Hide, Fight" response in an emergency.

Before Service Prayer: Dear Lord of promise, as Your Old Testament people yearned for forgiveness, deliverance, and salvation, You promised a Savior. He has come! My world is so filled with sin, death, sorrow, and pain that I too yearn for forgiveness, deliverance, and salvation. You have forgiven me and promised to come again to deliver me forever from all these troubles. During this Advent season, fill me with the hope and joy found in the birth of my Savior. Provide consolation and comfort for me through the words and actions of my fellow believers. Amen.

Today's Service: "Divine Service II CWS" NPH, reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-800156 and under CCLI license #1132777.

Today's Theme: **COME, LORD JESUS! - AS IMMANUEL**

This time of year it is so easy to get caught up in the beautiful trappings of Christmas and forget why this birth had to take place. Mankind fell into sin. Sin brings an awful burden. Hatred and oppression. Suffering and pain. Guilt and shame. The devastation of death. These are all natural consequences of sin. And what can we do about any of it? Nothing of substance. We can numb ourselves to pain, but we cannot avoid it. We can fill our life with distractions in an attempt to forget about our guilt. But our conscience is always nagging. And death...no one avoids that.

Man can do nothing to shake off the burden of sin. Therefore, the Church prays that God would come in power to remove that burden for us. Since the Garden, there has been only one plan to do that: God would take on flesh and blood. To do what mankind could not do—remove all the burdens of sin—God became man. When

you look into the manger, what do you see? A baby? Yes. But, more. That is Immanuel, “God-with-us.” The Son of God became Mary’s son, so that He could do for us what we could not do for ourselves.

Pastor’s Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes our patient anticipation of Christ’s coming which draws nearer and nearer.

P: We light four candles.

C: And we pray for salvation.

P: We light four candles.

C: And we seek to be saved from the bondage of our sin.

P: We look to the One Joseph will name Jesus.

C: Come to us, O Savior of the world.

P: We dream of the day when the words of the prophets will be fulfilled.

C: Come to us, O God with us, our Lord, Immanuel.

P: We see the dawn of a new day in the tiny town of Bethlehem.

C: Help us to live in the light of Your grace. Amen.

Four Advent candles are lit during the Opening Hymn.

Opening Hymn: "We Light the Advent Candle" (tune, CWS 702)



1 We light the Ad-vent can - dle And wait for Christ to
2 We light the Ad-vent can - dle And thank the Lord for
3 We light the Ad-vent can - dle And sing with cheer-ful
4 We light the Ad-vent can - dle And share the won-drous



come. — With hope, we trust the pro - mise That
rest. — With peace, we know our Je - sus Has
heart. — With joy, we spread the mes - sage That
Word. — With love, we tell of Je - sus Till



He will bring us home. Our hope is in our
come to be our guest. This peace be - yond all
God would us im - part. — Our joy is nev - er
all a - round have heard. God's love is for all



Sav - ior Who wins for us — God's fav - or.
know - ing With - in our hearts is glow - ing.
end - ing; The Son to us — is send - ing.
na - tions Through - out His whole cre - a - tion.



We wait with grow - ing light — Till



God makes all — things right! —

Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.

C: **Eternal God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and that sin is ever-present in our lives. O God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin. Redirect and renew us, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins and, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, guide us in ways of compassion and love.**

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

C: Amen.

Song of Praise

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord. (CW320 vs. 1,2,4,7--CW93 5)

**As angels joyed with one accord upon the advent of our Lord,
So let us gladly praise the name of Him who from the Father came.**

**He came, not clothed in majesty nor pow'r that suits His deity.
In lowly state He walked till He in dying set us captives free.**

**In ev'ry age—let praise abound—He comes; we hear His voice resound.
His glorious gospel does not cease to bring us comfort, joy, and peace.**

**Lift up your heads! All grief and pain shall vanish when He comes again.
Where we shall see Him face to face, there joy alone shall have a place.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come among us with Your abiding presence. By the power of Your Spirit, direct our lives to expressions of repentant joy. Bless our devotion and our prayers, and lead us in ways of faithfulness as we await Your final coming in glory; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: **Isaiah 7:10-14** – The Lord promised that deliverance would come through the gift of Immanuel. And how would we recognize Him? He would be born of a virgin.

¹⁰ Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹ "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

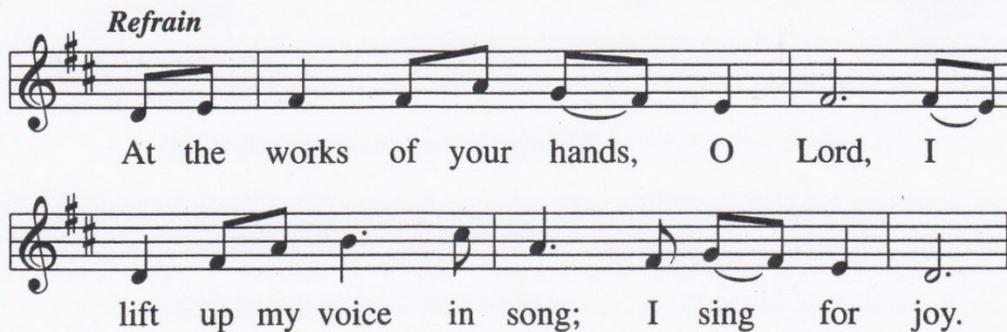
¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test."

¹³ Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel. (NIV 2011)

P: The word of the Lord.

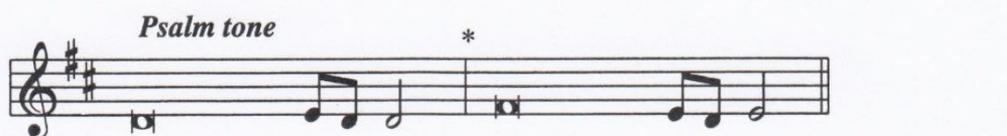
C: Thanks be to God!

Refrain



At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone



I will sing of the LORD's great love forever,*
I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

I will declare that your love stands firm forever,*
that you established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,*
your faithfulness too, in the assembly of the holy ones.

Refrain

O LORD God Almighty, who is like you?*

You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you.

Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,*
who walk in the light of your presence, O LORD.

They rejoice in your name all day long;*
they exult in your righteousness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

The Second Lesson: **Romans 1:1-7** – After thousands of years of God’s promises, St. Paul sees them all fulfilled in Christ. Jesus is Immanuel, true God and true man.

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—² the gospel he promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures³ regarding His Son, who as to His earthly life was a descendant of David,⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.⁵ Through Him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for His name’s sake.⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be His holy people:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. (NIV 2011)

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia. The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel. Alleluia.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Faith comes from hear - ing the mes - sage, and the

mes - sage is heard through the Word of Christ. Al - le -

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a C-clef and a common time signature. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Stand

The Gospel Lesson: **Matthew 1:18-25** – In faith, Joseph accepted that within the womb of his bride-to-be was Immanuel—the very Son of God, the promised Savior from sin.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave Him the name Jesus.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: **CW 327** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (CW93 22)

The Sermon

The Apostle’s Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Offering

The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



The Offering Hymn: *(Sung as the offering is brought forward.)*

**In Bethlehem's manger God gave us His gift,
A child to redeem us, our hearts to uplift.
This gift let us cherish, this present so dear,
And praise Jesus' goodness throughout the new year.**

**Our own gifts we lay now before the Christ-child
To worship in wonder the one Undefined.
The richest of treasures would not be enough
To thank Him for giving His own gift of love. *(tune "Away in a Manger)***

The Prayer of the Church

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For faith and humility to receive the virgin-born Son of God in the signs where He is promised to be found: His Holy Word and Sacraments, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the apostolic Gospel and its ministers, that the name and resurrection of Jesus would be proclaimed among all the nations, including among us, to bring about the obedience of faith in every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all couples engaged to be married, that they may come to their wedding day chastely and without fear, shame or disgrace; that they may know that Immanuel is the one who saves His people from their sins; and that God would clothe all brides and grooms in the forgiveness of Christ, by which all can stand before Him cleansed and confident of His blessing, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our nation and its rulers, that the Lord would bear patiently with this land despite its tiresome flattery and unbelief; that God would clear away all empty shows of piety; and that He would renew genuine faith in the virgin's Son, that His return may not be a sign against us, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For penitent hearts, that God would preserve us from temptation and abuse of His name by seeking our own way, and instead move us to confess our sins and rejoice in Jesus, our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the sick and those in any need, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For all the faithful, that they may celebrate the birth of Christ by hearing the Word and singing His praises, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, we give You thanks for Your Son, Jesus Christ, who is truly Lord and ruler of the house of Israel. With the Holy Spirit, You spoke to Moses out of the burning bush and gave the law in terror to test Your ancient people, that the fear of You would be before them. As Moses stretched out his arm at Your Word to bring Israel out of bondage, and as he stood in the breach against Your wrath, so You have given Christ to redeem us with His arms outstretched on the wood of the cross. Grant that, as we recall with thanksgiving His advent in the flesh, we may always confess Him and remain watchful for His advent in glory at the Last Day. Hear us now as we lift our voices together to pray the prayer Your Son taught us to pray....

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

P: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on Your faithful people. Keep us strong in Your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us Your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Blessing

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

The Closing Hymn: CW 330 "Peace Came to Earth" (CWS 707)

Announcements

Our Father's Business in the Coming Week

Cleaning this Week: Berg / Bolzman

Today— Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship Service at 9:30 AM

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

Sunday School and Bible Class in the Café at 10:45 AM

German Christmas Service at Christ the King in Palatine at 4:00 PM

No Confirmation Class

Thursday—Rehearsal for the Christmas Eve Service from 6:30-8:00 PM

Saturday—Christmas Eve Candlelight service at 6:30 PM

Sunday—Christmas Day Christmas Carol Communion Service at **10:30 AM**

Fellowship at 10:30 AM

No Sunday School or Bible Class

CHANGE IN SERVICE TIME

Please note that the Christmas Day service and New Year's Day service will be at 10:30 AM, an hour later than the normal Sunday service time.

365 DAY BIBLES

The start of a new year is a good time to start a "read through the Bible" program. There is one remaining 365 day Bible on the table in the entryway you can use to assist in this effort.

POINSETTIA SIGN UP SHEET

If you'd like to purchase a poinsettia to adorn the Lord's chancel at Christmas, you can use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. A poinsettia costs \$8. Today is the last day to sign up to purchase a poinsettia.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Christ the King in Palatine invites the members of New Life to a German Christmas service today at 4:00 PM. After the service you are invited to stay for a fellowship meal. Christ the King is located at 100 W. Michigan Ave., Palatine, IL.

FELLOWSHIP SIGN UP SHEET

If you'd like to bring something to eat and drink for after the Sunday service, please indicate that on the fellowship sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.

THANK YOU REV. PRANGE

Thank you to Rev. Paul Prange for conducting today's service. Rev. Prange serves as the administrator for Ministerial Education in our Synod. Rev. Prange will give a presentation today on some fascinating aspect of synod work during Bible class hour in the New Life café. Pastor Bauer will be returning from Germany on Tuesday.

FELLOWSHIP SIGN UP SHEET

If you'd like to bring something to eat and drink for after the Sunday service, please indicate that on the fellowship sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall.