



*<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"*

*Matthew 1:23*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013

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Rev. Mark Bringman, Pastor

John Thickey - Organist

We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an \*, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.

**HOLY COMMUNION**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2013**

Today Isaiah prophesies that a young woman will bear a son and name him Emmanuel. The gospel is Matthew's account of the annunciation and birth of the one named Emmanuel, God-with-us. During these final days of Advent we pray, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," a beloved hymn based on ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday in Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

**PRELUDE**     *'Hark a Thrilling Voice is Sounding'* – Malcolm Archer

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

*Song - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257, st. 1*

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

***Refrain***

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

*Pastor:* At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming. O Emmanuel,

**Prepare us for your coming.**

*Assisting minister:* We gather together to let God's good news reorient our lives. O Emmanuel,

**Prepare us for your coming.**

*Pastor:* We wait for the day when all the world will see the sign that God is with us. O Emmanuel,

**Prepare us for your coming.**

*Assisting Minister:* We are shocked by how God comes close, even at this very moment. O Emmanuel,

**Prepare us for your coming.**

*Pastor:* Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope. **Amen.**

*Song - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel ELW 257, st. 5 and 7*

4 O come, O Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. ***Refrain***

8 O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one;  
Refresh the hearts that long for you;  
Restore the broken, make us new.

***Refrain***

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

**\* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our life, our mercy, our might. **Amen.**

As we await the day of the Lord, let us confess our sin.

Great and Holy One,

**in this time of waning daylight, we confess the shadows of sin in our lives. We build ourselves up at the expense of others. We rely on our own efforts to make our lives secure. Yet you, O Lord, are the potter, and we are the clay. Come to restore us in your image, remake us into your people, and rebuild what sin has broken, that we and the whole creation may rejoice. Amen.**

Fear not, people of God: the Almighty has done great things for us. God casts away our sin from us and makes of us a new creation. In + Jesus Christ, God comes to set you free. Take heart in the tender compassion of our God. **Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #242: - *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn***

**\*GREETING** From the one who is and who was and who is to come, and from Jesus Christ, the first fruits of the resurrection, grace and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

**KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



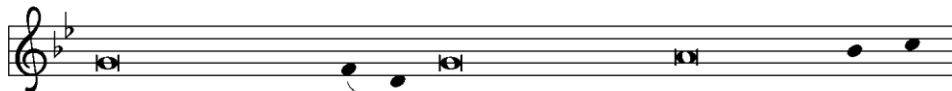
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



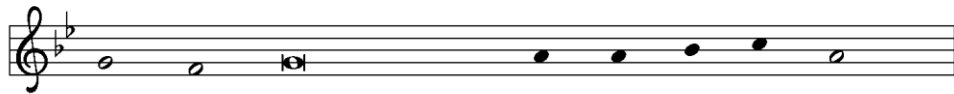
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

#### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10–16**

*An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking refuge in Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign of Immanuel that is the only source of true safety: God is with us!*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 80:1 – 7**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. O Shepherd, like a flock you lead<br/>Your people Israel; hear our prayer;<br/>Enthroned upon the cherubim<br/>In glory, shine on our despair.</p> <p>2. Before Manasseh, Benjamin,<br/>And Ephraim, Lord, grant us your grace;<br/>Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;<br/>Show us the glory of your face.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tune: <i>Canonbury</i></p> | <p>3. How long will you be angered, Lord,<br/>Although we kneel before your feet?<br/>You give us bowls of tears to drink,<br/>Provide us bread of tears to eat.</p> <p>4. Our enemies laugh us to scorn,<br/>Our neighbors witness our disgrace;<br/>Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;<br/>Show us the glory of your face.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">From <i>A New Metrical Psalter</i> by Christopher Webber</p> |
|--|--|

**SECOND READING: Romans 1:1 -7**

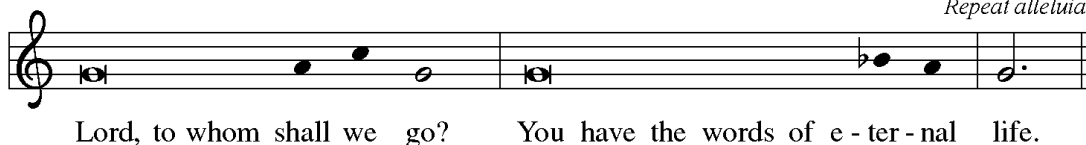
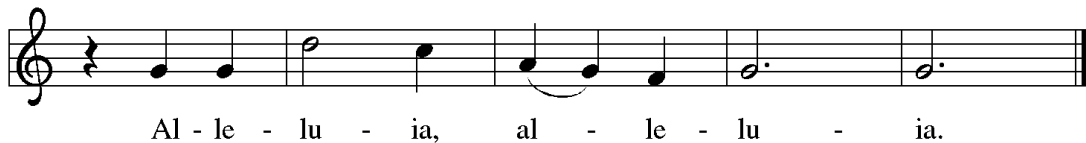
*Most of the Christians in Rome do not know Paul. In this letter's opening he introduces himself as an apostle divinely appointed to spread God's gospel. The gospel's content is the promised coming of Christ, and Paul's mission is to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations, including his Roman audience.*

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18 - 25**

*Matthew's story of Jesus' birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means "God saves."*

The gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph,

but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do 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 as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #263: *Savior of the Nations Come***

### **\* APOSTLES CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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**

In hope and anticipation, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Continually restore and give life to the people of your covenant established in Christ. Use our presence in the world to reveal your salvation for all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Reveal your light to those who dwell in darkness during this season. Awaken all creation to the hope of new life through your promised coming. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Secure your grace and your peace among the nations. Lead us in ways of unity and justice to work with one another for the sake of all people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Deliver the hope of Emmanuel, God with us, to all who suffer loneliness and despair. Send your Spirit to accompany

those who long for your healing especially Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Prepare a way of safety and security for children to grow up free from fear or threat. Establish prosperity in every land, that no child may go hungry. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks that you welcome the saints into your eternal dwelling place. Train us to look forward to the day when you come to dwell among all your people for all time. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Almighty God, we entrust to you all for whom we pray, confident that you fulfill your promises through Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY #248: People, Look East**

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **\*DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you. **And al - so 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.**

### **\*PREFACE**

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer through whom you will also make all things new, in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
 might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty. When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was handed over,  
 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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both 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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table  
where Christ comes to make a home in you.

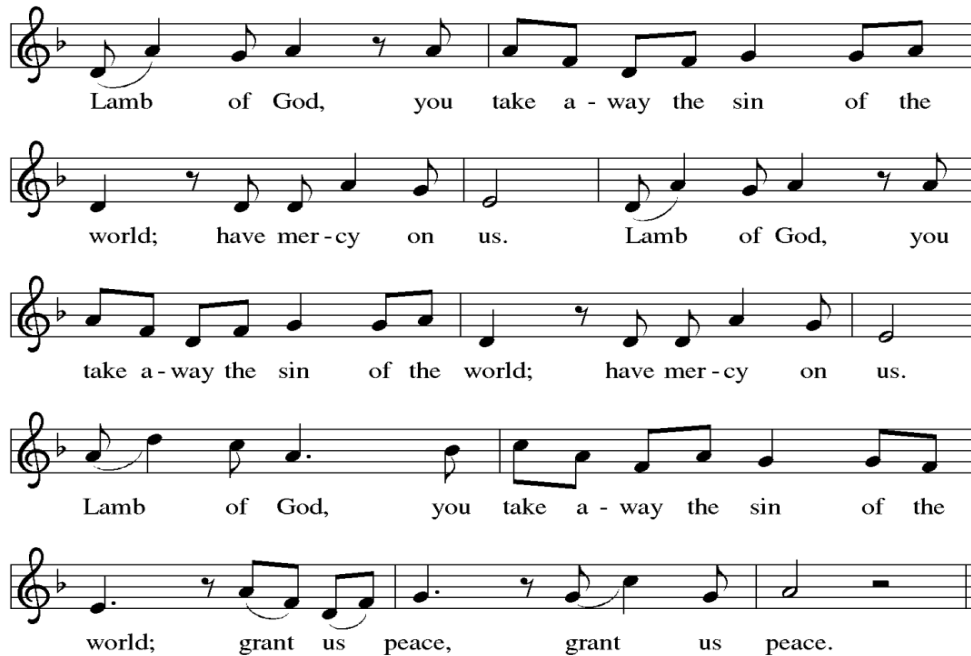
### COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

*In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of individual cups on the platter, surrounded by green tape, contains grape juice.*

### COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### **\*COMMUNION HYMN #266: *All Earth is Hopeful***

#### **\*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace. **Amen.**

#### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

God of wonder, we give thanks that you have fed us once again with this foretaste of the feast to come. Strengthen us through this gift to serve our neighbor with joy, that all may come to see your glory reflected in the lives of your people; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

The God of hope, through Christ our peace, in the power of the Holy Spirit, + bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #267: *Joy to the World*****\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Bring good news to the poor.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *'Rejoice, Rejoice Believers'* – Paul Manz

**8:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Christine Dishong  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Acolyte:**  
**Usher:**  
**Attendance Last Week:** 77  
**Weekly Budgeted Need:** \$ 2,669.62  
**YTD Budgeted Expenses:** \$128,141.54  
**YTD Actual Expense:** \$ 128,649.30

**10:30 am**

**Assisting Minister:** Sally Foster  
**Communion Assistant:**  
**Acolyte:** Madison Cardinal  
**Lector:** Valerie Cardinal  
**Usher:**  
**Attendance last year:** 74  
**Last Week's Giving:** \$ 2,822.00  
**Year to Date Receipts:** \$151,114.26

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