

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield

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The Fourth Sunday in Advent December 18, 2022



Color of the Day: BLUE-the color of the sky-helps convey that powerful message. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky he ascended long ago. Advent, a preparatory time of waiting and watching, communicates the message of hope.

Opening Hymn #354 - Arise, O Christian People

Confession and Absolution. Page 184

☒ ☒ ☒ Service of the Word ☒ ☒ ☒

Introit Page 186

Ps 71:30: 5-8; antiphon: Is. 64:1

Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,*
that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

I wait for the LORD, my | soul waits,*

and in his | word I hope;

my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the | morning,*

more than watchmen for the | morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is | steadfast love,*

and with him is plentiful re- | demption.

And he will redeem | Israel*

from all his in- | iquities.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Oh that you would rend the heavens | and come down,*

that the mountains might quake at your | presence.

Kyrie Page 186

Gloria In Excelsis (Omitted during Advent). Page 187

Salutation & Collect of the Day Page 189

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Old Testament Reading Page 190

Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also?

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

Gradual. Page 190

Zech 9:9; Ps. 118:26, alt.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of | Zion.*

Shout aloud, O daughter of Je- | rusalem.

Behold, your king is com- | ing to you,*

righteous and having sal- | vation.

Blessèd is he who comes in the name | of the Lord.*

From the house of the Lord we | bless you.

Epistle Reading Page 190

Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Choral Anthem

Alleluia Page 190

Holy Gospel Page 190

Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Creed Page 191/192

Children’s Message

Hymn of the Day #357 – *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

The Sermon The Promise Beforehand ~ Romans 1:1-7

Want to read along, miss a sermon, need some inspiration, need a review of church doctrine? Check out Pastor Bogs’ blog at: rabswritings.blogspot.com or Pastor Mendez’s blog at: pastormendez.blogspot.com.

Introduction

Today is the _____.

Paul

Paul begins by _____.

Paul says that he was _____.

Paul’s Gospel

Paul sets out to briefly _____.

Paul speaks of the Holy Scriptures _____.

Paul explains that the One _____.

Paul continues explaining _____.

Finally Paul explains the Gospel _____.

Our Calling

Paul begins concluding his introductory word _____.

God calls to life, to faith _____.

Paul says that God calls us to be _____.

Grace and Peace

Paul concludes his introduction with words of _____.

And peace, _____.

What Does This Mean?

Paul begins his letter _____.

Because of our fallen nature _____.

As we approach our Christmas celebration _____.

What an awesome God we have. _____.

Other Notes or Questions for Pastor:

Offertory Page 192

Offering & Prayer of the Church Page 193

Our First Fruits and Tithes are our regular, top priority, proportionate, grateful gifts to the Lord for the work of the Gospel. Our Offerings are special gifts for special causes over and above our tithes. This is an act of worship for members and friends of St. Matthew who are moved by God’s love to respond to the Gospel. Guests should not feel obligated to participate.

⌘ ⌘ ⌘ *Service of the Sacrament* ⌘ ⌘ ⌘

Preface Page 194

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus Page 195

Lord’s Prayer Page 196

The Words of Our Lord & Pax Domini. Page 197

Agnus Dei & Distribution. Page 198/199

Before partaking of the Lord’s Supper, we ask that you read our communion statement on the pew insert behind the Bible. Thank you.

Distribution Hymns #350 – *Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*

#621 - *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep*

Silence #398 - *Hail to the Lord’s Anointed*

Nunc Dimittis Page 199

Thanksgiving Page 200

Salutation & Benedicamus Page 201

Benediction Page 202

Closing Hymn #341 - *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*