



CHURCH AND SCHOOL

1417 Parkview Drive PO Box 44 Kewaskum, Wisconsin www.stlucaswels.org

Third Sunday in Advent

December 21st and December 22nd, 2023

The Season

Advent is Latin for "coming." In the season of Advent, Christians observe the connection between the first time the Son of God came into our world as the Savior and the second time he will come as the Judge. Advent prepares our minds and hearts, so that we might soon celebrate a real Christmas.

The Sunday

We have heard the voice of John the Baptist calling us to repentance this Advent season. We have been made painfully aware of our shortcomings. We have been humbled. Being made aware of our weakness does not disqualify us from God's care. It does the opposite. It is what prepares us for the work he does best. He is a God who lifts up the lowly.

The Service

Today we celebrate the Sacrament of the Altar in which we joyfully receive Christ's body and blood, in, with, and under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins. As we celebrate the Sacrament we also give public confession of our complete unity in the Christian faith. We invite communicant members of St. Lucas Lutheran Church, or of another congregation in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) to commune. If you are a guest visiting with us today, please refrain from communing until you have spoken with our pastor. The congregation reads the potions in bold print.

Prayer before Worship

"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord." Give me joy, dear Jesus, as I prepare to worship you today. Make me understand what my life would be like without you so that I long to hear about your grace and compassion. Help me participate in a way that honors you and builds up all who worship with me, and let their worship strengthen and encourage my faith.

Serving in Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Denis Lemke Organist: Coralee Henning



Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent., alt
Text and tune: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confession CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just

and will forgive us our sins

and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates

CW 305 sts. 1, 5



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Georg Weissel, 1590–1635 Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, Halle, 1704, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt. Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

The lowly little town of Bethlehem would be lifted up.

²"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

⁵And he will be our peace

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 85A

Sung responsively between Pastor & congregation





LORD, in your mer - cy hear my prayer; your good-ness nev - er fails.

Tone



You, LORD, forgave the iniquity of your / people and covered / all their sins.

You set aside / all your wrath

and turned from your fierce / anger.

Show us your unfailing / love, LORD, and grant us your sal- / vation. *Refrain*

I will listen to what God the $\mbox{/}$ LORD says;

he promises peace to his / people.

Surely his salvation is near those who / fear him,

that his glory may dwell / in our land.

Love and faithfulness meet to- / gether;

righteousness and peace kiss each / other.

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. Refrain

Text: Hal H. Hopson Tune: Hal H. Hopson Setting: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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Christ has lifted up the lowly.

⁵Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.

⁷Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.'"

⁸First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

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

We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

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

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.

Four Advent candles are lit.

Stand

Gospel Luke 1:39–55

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

⁴⁶And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

51He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

55to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

Be seated

O Little Town of Bethlehem





- 1 O lit tle town of Beth le hem, how still we see thee lie!
- 2 For Christ is born of Mar y, and, gath-ered all a-bove
- 3 How si lent ly, how si lent ly the won drous gift is giv'n!
- O ho ly Child of Beth le hem, de scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by; while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love. So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless-ings of his heav'n. cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light. O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth, No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin, We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night. and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth. where meek souls will re-ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893, abr., alt. Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Micah 5:2-4 Let's Go Home for Christmas

Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Offering: God's people offer their first and best to the Lord in response to the Lord's blessings to them. The offering is gathered in a basket in the church entrance before or after the service. If you prefer to give electronically, you may scan this graphic to access www.stlucaswels.org/donate.



The Sacrament

Stand

Preface CW 165

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

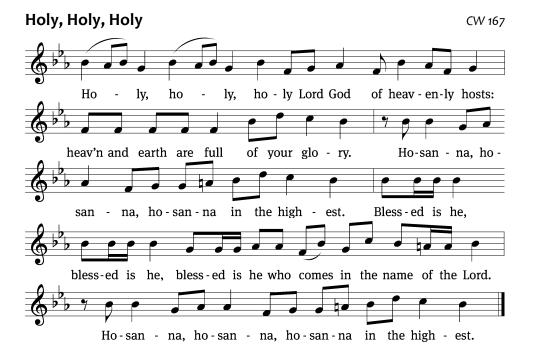
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

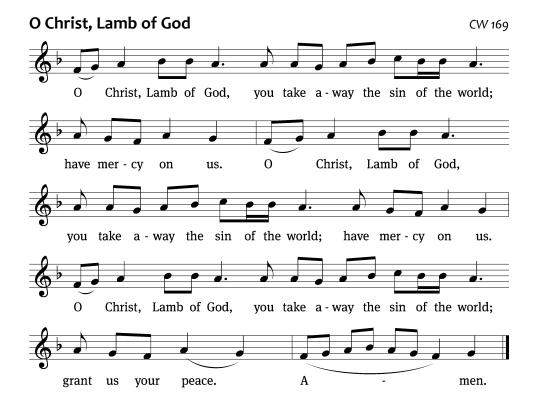
Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.



Be seated

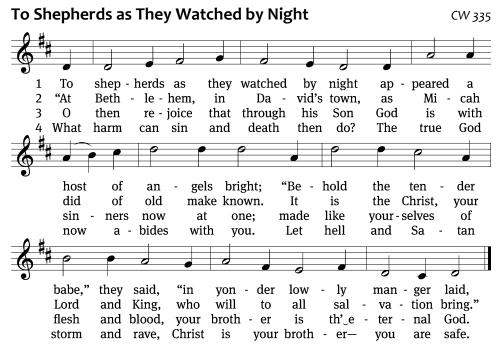
Distribution

Personal Prayer before Communing

Lord Jesus, you have invited me to come and receive your holy Sacrament. I believe that in the bread and wine you give me your true body and blood to eat and drink. Forgive my sins and nourish my faith through this precious meal. I long for the comfort that comes with your promises; I yearn for the assurance of your faithful love. Bless me now as I receive you by faith.

Personal Prayer after Communing

Thank you, dear Savior, for nourishing my faith with the Sacrament of your body and blood. Lift my heart with your forgiveness, renew my confidence in your grace, empower my love for others, and lead me to long for the eternal banquet of heaven.



Not one he will or can forsake; his promise he will never break. Let ev'ry scheme the tempter try, you may his utmost pow'rs defy. You shall and must at last prevail; God's own you are, you cannot fail. To God forever sing your praise with joy and patience all your days.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt. Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621
Text and tune: Public domain

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

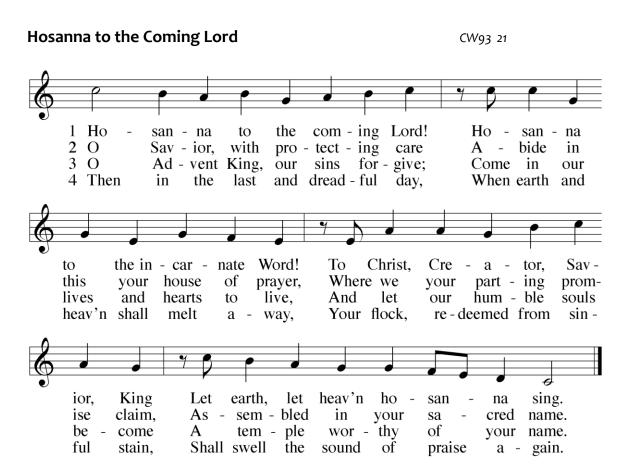
Blessing

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.

Amen.



Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, abr., alt.

Tune: VOM HIMMEL HOCH (LM) Schumann, Geistliche lieder auffs new gebessert, Leipzig, 1539.

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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Church Resources

Family Devotions: Get your family into God's Word during the week! Our church body has short devotions available for the entire family. Each devotion comes with a Set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken. Please visit **wels.net/family-devotions** to get your weekly devotions.

Marriage Moments: Every marriage has its "moments". That's why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. *Marriage Moments* are short, weekly videos highlighting one biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Couples may subscribe to receive the videos directly through email at <u>welscongregationalsevices.net/marriagemoments</u>.

Connecting WELS Members: Connection is more important now than ever. Our church body offers many ways for WELS members to connect through social media. Join the WELS online community at facebook.com/welslutherans, twitter.com/welslutherans, twitter.com/welslutherans, and vimeo.com/welslutherans, and vimeo.com/welslutherans, twitter.com/welslutherans, <a hre

WELS Together e-Newsletter: Stay in the loop! Subscribe to the WELS Together e-Newsletter to stay connected with the people of your synod and the ministry they serve. Also, don't miss the twice-monthly videos that cover important and exciting synod news. Please visit **wels.net/together** to read and subscribe.

Baptism: If you or a loved one had not yet been baptized, and are interested in more information, please contact Pastor Henning.

Church Membership Starting Point If you're interested in becoming a member here at St. Lucas, we would love to share with you a few Bible studies to introduce you to the biblical teaching here at St. Lucas. We are willing to set up these classes in any setting most comfortable for you, and can always find time that will work for anyone and everyone. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Henning, whose contact info can be found on the final page of this bulletin, underneath the church calendar.

Celebrating God's blessings

Birthdays:

Ranen Enright

22 Tracey Schaub

28 Brian & Teresa Dreher

26 Catherine Osier

26 Pastor Tim & Coralee Henning

27

Announcements

Upcoming Worship Schedule:

Tuesday 12/24	4:00 pm		Lutheran Elementary School
	6:00 pm	Christmas Eve Sunday School	
	10:00 pm		Candlelight Service
Wednesday 12/25	9:00 am	Christmas Day	Service with Holy Communion
Tuesday 12/31	6:00 pm	New Year's Eve	Service with Holy Communion

A Big Thank you: Thank you to everyone for making the groundbreaking service and celebration such a great day. Thanks be to God for his blessings on the building process and giving us a beautiful day to celebrate.

Call Acknowledgements:

Dear members of St. Lucas,u

I am writing to acknowledge and inform you that, on December 9, I received a divine call to teach kindergarten at St. John's in Milwaukee beginning in the 2025-2026 school year. Please feel free to reach out to me over the next few weeks as I deliberate these two calls, both to St. Lucas and St. Johns. I look forward to conversations discussing these two calls and where my gifts can best be used to serve our Lord and the little lambs that he has given to us to teach. In His Service,

Jennifer Trimmer

Dear members of St. Lucas Lutheran Church,

I am truly humbled and blessed that the Holy Spirit has led you to call me this past Sunday to be your ECM Director and 4K Teacher. This Divine Call that you have extended to me I will prayerfully and diligently consider as to where the Lord can best use me to serve him and his Kingdom. I sincerely ask that you keep both my family and I in your prayers as I deliberate the Divine Call your congregation has extended to me along with the current call I also hold. May God continue to shower his blessings upon your congregation during this Christmas season and into the new year ahead. I look forward to reaching out to members of your congregation in the next few weeks to gather more information to make my decision one made in the best interest of both congregations to which I hold Divine Calls.

"For I know the plans I have for you" Jeremiah 29:11. Yours In Christ, Joy Young

CALENDAR



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			MERRY CHRISTMAS
Worship w/ Communion 8 am Sunday School 9:15 am Bible Study 9:15 am Worship w/ Communion 10:30 am		No Bible Study Worship - Lutheran Elementary School - 4:00pm Worship - Sunday School - 6:00 pm Worship - Candlelight Service - 10:00 pm	Worship 9:00 am
Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
No Fuel for Moms No Bible Study		Worship 6:00 pm	Worship 8 am
			Worship 10:30 am
		St. Lucas Lutheran Church st is always inviting, always ed www.stlucaswels.org	rives to be a congregation that ifying, and always equipping.
		Contact Information Pastor Timothy Henning (262) 707-6984 - thenning@stlucaswels.org Principal Mark Hesse (202) 215 1130 - mbassa@stlucaswels.org	

(920) 915-1130 - mhesse@stlucaswels.org **School/Church Office** (262) 626-2680 - <u>church@stlucaswels.org</u>