



Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2019



THEME: We celebrate the promise and fulfillment of the virgin birth of Immanuel.

HYMN 19: *“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”*

THE COMMON SERVICE –Page 15

PRAYER OF THE DAY: 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.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-14 (EHV) (sermon text)

The Lord gives a remarkable sign – the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. The fact that this was given to an unbelieving king simply underscores God’s grace to sinners. May we, by faith, receive the miracle of the virgin birth of Christ.

7:10 The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, 11 “Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above.”

12 But Ahaz responded, “I will not ask. I will not test the LORD.”

13 So Isaiah said:

Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you. Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 24 (p.73) (sung in unison)

Psalm 24 presents a “last call for readiness” in Advent. “Lift up your heads” and be ready to receive “the King of Glory.”

SECOND LESSON: Romans 1:1-7 (EHV)

Paul affirms the two natures of Christ – true man, the descendant of David, born of Mary; yet “declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead.” As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the God-man, we rejoice that he came to live, die, and rise again that we may be saved by grace.

1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised in advance through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. This gospel is about his Son—who in the flesh was born a descendant of David, who in the spirit of holiness was declared to be God’s powerful Son by his resurrection from the dead—Jesus Christ, our Lord. Through him we received grace and the call to be an apostle on behalf of his name, to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, including you, who were called by Jesus Christ.

To all those loved by God who are in Rome, called to be saints:

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

CHOIR: *“On This Christmas Night”*

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25 (EHV) (Please Stand)

Mary, the virgin chosen by grace, fulfills the sign of God given through Isaiah as she miraculously conceives and bears the Savior. Matthew presents the birth of Jesus from Joseph’s perspective. His example urges us to live in obedient faith to the One who comes.

1:18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 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.”

All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,” which means, “God with us.”

NICENE CREED – Page 18

HYMN 5: *“As Angels Joyed with One Accord”*

SERMON THEME: Advent - A Special Time

1. The Promise of a Special Sign.
2. The Promise of a Special Son.

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART – Page 20

OFFERING HYMN 485 Verses 1 & 2: *“We Give Thee but Thine Own”* (Please Stand)

RESPONSIVE ADVENT PRAYER-Page 123

LORD’S PRAYER- Page 20

ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION – Page 21

INSERT: *“Christmas Caroling”*

SONG OF SIMEON – Page 24 (Please Stand)

BENEDICTION

HYMN 21: *“Hosanna to the Coming Lord”*

SILENT PRAYER & ANNOUNCEMENTS



Serving Us Today ~December 22, 2019

Altar Guild: Dave & Faye Leatherman & Ruth Reiter **Organist:** Marge Schroeder
Ushers: Karl Luft, Jim Daubert, Marty Waite & Tom Gregory
Communion Assistant: Doug Zellmer



During Our Worship Service this morning we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper. Non-members are asked to speak with Pastor Seelman before the service prior to communing.

Reminder: Our services are taped to go on our website, however, you can also have your own copy upon request. Ask Pastor, Ruth Reiter or Timothy Krause for details.

Pastor & Gloria Page have sent a Christmas letter to Immanuel. Please see our bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank You to All Members and Visitors that attended our Advent soup suppers and services as we prepared ourselves for the coming of our Lord Jesus and Savior. Join us again for Christmas Eve & Day Worship.

2020 OCM Cards can be obtained from Ruth Reiter. The cost per card is still \$10.00. They make a great last minute Christmas gift. Proceeds assist the WLA-Oshkosh bus fund. Thank you!

2020 Offering Envelopes Are Available In the Fellowship Hall. Please do not begin using 2020 envelopes until after the new year as your number probably has changed.

Christmas Poinsettias: Sign-up sheets are in our Fellowship Hall for anyone wishing to sponsor a plant this Christmas Season. There are still a few orphans with no owner. The cost is \$15 per plant. (We pre-ordered 20 plants).

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF GIFTS		Office Hours this week:	
Budgeted Need per week	\$3,379.00	Monday & Friday 8:00 a.m. - Noon	
Budgeted Rec'd 12-15-19	\$4,345.50	Worship Attendance 12-15-19	90
Budgeted Rec'd 12-18-19	\$521.00	Doctrine Study Hour 12-15-19	10
Budgeted Need to date	\$168,950.00	Tuesday Bible Class 12-17-19	10
Budgeted Rec'd to date	\$157,738.56	Advent Soup Supper 12-18-19	24
		Advent Service 12-18-19	39



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