



December 18, 2022

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-0620

Fourth Sunday in Advent

To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .

. . .we **Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship

. . .we **Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life

. . .we **Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love
Youth & Education DirectorPam Williams
Audio/Video Techs:Justin Brown & Zach Hereza
Pastor's email:.....prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
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Introduction to the day

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 the O Antiphons, ancient prayers appointed for the seven days preceding Christmas. On this final Sunday of Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of the one born to save us from the power of sin and death.

PRELUDE

“He Is Born”

(Cynthia Dobrinski)

Faith Bells

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God’s name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.

Let us confront our sins,

and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire

and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch,

a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on ✝ Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



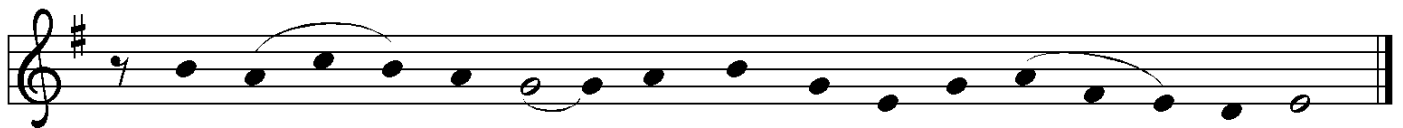
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie Eleison

Lord Have Mercy

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" ELW 276

Leader
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son
Lord have mer - cy on__ us, Lord have mer - cy on__ us

All
Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son
Lord have mer - cy on__ us, Lord have mer - cy on__ us

Chri - ste e - le - i - son, Chri__ ste e - le - i - son
Christ have mer - cy on__ us, Christ have mer - cy on__ us

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son, Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Lord have mer - cy on__ us, Lord have mer - cy on__ us.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
In your Son, Emmanuel,
You have shown us your light
And saved us from the power of sin.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

**Increase our longing for your presence,
that at the celebration of your Son's birth
his Spirit might dwell anew in our midst,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.**

Amen.

(We light the first, second, third & fourth Advent candles)

Gloria

"The First Noel" ELW 300



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 Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask 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. ¹³Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore 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. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For 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.**

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.

A reading from Romans.

¹Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and

apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To 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.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

The Pantry Ministry & the Parish House Ministry are an important and vital part of our community. Today we will be taking an offering for the Pantry Ministry.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Gospel Acclamation

"Creator of the Stars of Night" ELW 245

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare our hearts, our minds, our souls

To hear your word, to know your truth, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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 holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁸Now 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. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But 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. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but 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.**

SERMON



TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET.

Matthew 1:22, ESV

HYMN OF THE DAY

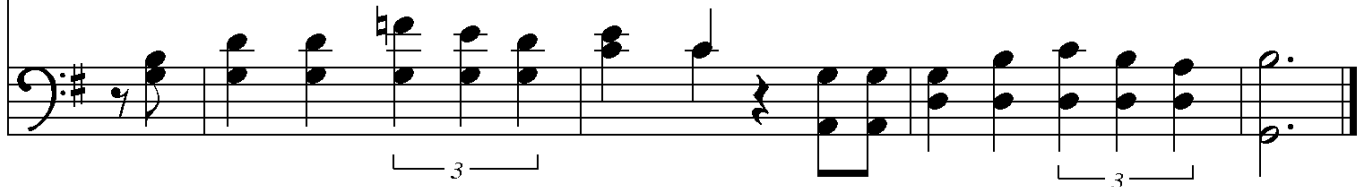
He Came Down



1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;



Text: Cameroon traditional

Music: HE CAME DOWN, Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949

Arr. © 1986 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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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

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

Prayers of intercession are prayed. To each petition, the assembly responds: Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The presiding minister concludes the prayers, and the assembly responds:

God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

"O Come, Lord Jesus, Come"

(David Angerman)

Chancel Choir

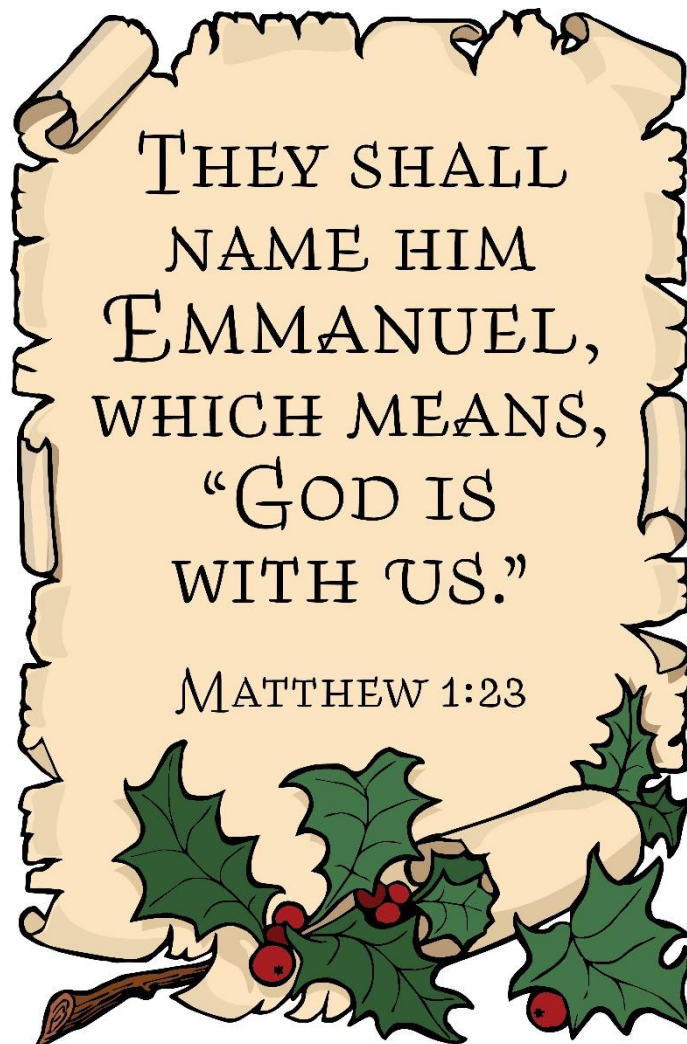
Please stand if you are able.

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 also 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 the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

"In the Bleak Midwinter" ELW 294



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. 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 betrayed, 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

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kin-dom 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION SONG

Agnus Dei

"'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" ELW 284



O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

O Lamb of God you take a - way the sin__ of the world.

Have mer cy on us O Lord. Grant us__ peace. Grant us__ peace O Lord.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

arr. Johannes Brahms

Please stand if you are able.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



SENDING SONG

Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his rich - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

arr. Jan Sanborn

Offerings

11/27

Loose Cash	\$ 28.00
General Fund	\$ 8,945.00
Memorials	
Mead	\$10,180.00
Rush	205.00
Kinawa Family Donation	\$ 100.00
Poinsettias	\$ 140.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 219.00
Parish House	\$ 105.00
World Hunger	\$ 5.00
Youth	<u>\$ 300.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 20,227.00
Vanco	
General Operating	<u>\$ 1,136.00</u>
Total	\$ 21,363.00

12/4

Loose Cash	\$ 45.00
Loose Checks	\$ 20.00
General Fund	\$ 2,611.00
Memorials	
Hugh Mead	\$ 50.00
Parish House Gifts	\$ 50.00
Kinawa Christmas Gifts	\$ 100.00
Christmas Food Baskets	\$ 50.00
Staff Appreciation	\$ 250.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 50.00
Parish House	\$ 180.00
Sunday School	<u>\$ 10.50</u>
Subtotal	\$ 3,416.50
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 4,207.00
Building	\$ 25.00
Pantry	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Total	\$ 7,698.50

12/11

Loose Cash	\$ 84.00
Loose Checks	\$ 25.00
General Fund	\$ 3,215.00
Memorials: Mead	\$ 200.00
Parish House Gifts	\$ 75.00
ELCA Good Gifts	\$ 30.00
Kinawa Families	\$ 50.00
Christmas Food Baskets	\$ 175.00
Poinsettias	\$ 140.00
Pantry Fund	\$ 1,545.00
Parish House	\$ 575.00
Staff Appreciation	<u>\$ 1,135.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 7,249.00
Vanco	
General Operating	\$ 735.00
Staff Appreciation	<u>\$ 50.50</u>
Total	\$ 8,034.50

Year to Date	1/1/22 -11/30/22
Income	\$278,077.00
Expenses	<u>\$291,035.00</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$(12,958.00)

Altar Care: Heidi Bowers
Lay Assistant: Paul Hereza
Nursery: Jennifer Coe
Coffee Hour: Laurie Hereza

Reader: Alexa Warwick
Ushers: McCracken/Milne
Greeter: Rich Weingartner
Acolyte: Open

Upcoming Events:

Sunday, December 18
Saturday, December 24
Sunday, December 25

4 P.M. & 8 P.M.

Stuff the Stocking Food Delivery
Christmas Eve Services
No In-Person Worship

Advent

Christmas Eve Services this year will be held at 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM. There will NOT be a late service this year. We invite you to join us to celebrate Christ's birth among us at 4:00 PM or 8:00 PM. The choir and brass quartet will participate in the 8:00 service. The nursery will be available at the 4 P.M. Service only.



There will be NO in-person service on Christmas Day, December 25. On that day, we invite you to access the Synod's 2022 offering of Lessons & Carols. This service will be posted on our Facebook site for access that morning.