



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Ministering to All in the Heart of Superior

Introduction and Announcements

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

L: Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bone.

C: As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you.

L: Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek.

C: Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears.

L: We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior. **Amen**

Light One Candle

ELW 240

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Gathering Song

People, Look East!

ELW 248

Gathering

ELW p.147

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

ELW p.147

Canticle

This is the Feast

ELW p.149

Prayer of the Day

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

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you in love, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Message

Readings

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Colleen Elonen

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

Psalm 80:1-7

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶ **You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

Gospel Acclamation

ELW p.151

Gospel: Luke 1:39-55

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke. **C: Glory to you, O Lord**

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

The Creed

ELW p.104/105

Prayers of the People

P: Lord, in your mercy, **C: receive our prayer.**

Peace

Offering

Special Music

Offertory

He Came Down

ELW 253

He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
Hallelujah forevermore!

Offering Prayer

Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving at the Table (*sung*)

ELW p.152

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 God thanks and praise.**

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p.153

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory; Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

ELW p.154

All are welcome at God's table of grace. Today we will receive communion via intinction. At the usher's direction, come forward and receive the bread, then dip your wafer into the red wine or the white grape juice. Gluten free elements are available. You may also come for a blessing – simply cross your arms over your chest when you come forward.

Communion Music

Lamb of God
Lost in the Night
O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW p.154

ELW 243

ELW 279

Blessing of the Meal

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Benediction and Dismissal

Sending Song

Fling Wide the Door

ELW 259

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This QR code will bring
you right to our Website.



Welcome to worship today! We're so glad you're here. If you are new or a visitor here today, please take a moment to fill out the info card in the pew and drop that into the offering plate as it comes by. You can also use this card to submit any prayer requests you have.

Check it out during fellowship time the archive team will have a set up that you can view past pictures from previous Lesson & Carols services.

A reminder: If you or someone you know is in the hospital and you'd like Pastor Tanner to visit or call, please let the church office know. Federal law prohibits hospitals from calling the church and letting us know that you are ill, even if you've indicated who your church is on your forms. Thank you!

PrayGround: Here at Pilgrim, everyone is welcome and wanted in worship. We love having children in worship, and we delight in their ability to see and experience all that is happening in the worship space. We invite you to sit anywhere you are comfortable. There is a special place in the front of the sanctuary on the right side that is our designated PrayGround, where kids can worship, wiggle, play, color, learn, and grow as part of our faith community. Adults are encouraged to sit where children can see them while they are using the PrayGround, in case they need assistance.

Coins for the Community. For October – December we will be collecting for The Superior Area Ministerium's Good SAMaritan fund.

Also on the table by the coins we are collecting pop tops. They will be going to the Ronald McDonald house in Duluth. These go to the funding of having families stay with their kids while they are in the hospital. It means so much to be able to have your family with you when you are going through medical things. Let's fill up the jars.

**The ABCs
of Christmas**

An All Ages Christmas Eve Service
December 24th at 4:00
Pilgrim Lutheran Church

**FREE COMMUNITY
CHRISTMAS DAY
dinner**

December 25, 2024
1:00pm—3:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church
2022 East 2nd Street, Superior WI

All are welcome!

This Christmas Zion Lutheran Church will be serving a free sit-down community meal, December 25, 2024, 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Our meal will include ham, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, cranberries, pickles, rolls, and Christmas cookies. Served with punch, coffee, decaf coffee, hot apple cider, and a goodie bag filled with a popcorn ball, an orange or apple, and candies.

COME AND JOIN US!

Christmas Eve

A service of
Carols ~ Candlelight ~ Communion
December 24th at 10:00 p.m.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
820 Belknap St. | Superior, WI

You are welcome here!

Sunday Evening Prayer: Can't make Sunday mornings? A Sunday night service here at Pilgrim just for you. It's a great way to start your week with a calming and peaceful service to quiet your mind and talk to God. Sunday's at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

Walk the Talk Campaign - We are currently at \$5,070 towards our goal of \$5,000. Awesome job!!! Thank you !!

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 820 Belknap St., Superior, WI 54880 ~ 715- 392-4731

Church email – officemgr@plcsuperior.org www.plcsuperior.org

Rev. Tanner Howard, Pastor (email – tanner@plcsuperior.org)

Custodian: Anna Johnson

Pianist: Lorelei Holland

Violinist: Eliza Wilson

Choir Director: Curt Hanson

High School Youth Leader: Noah Holland

SAM – Jenny Dudderar

Helpers for Today, December 22

Ushers – Team 4: Tyler Austreng, Capt.; Greg Peterson, Rich Garay, Tim & Julie McLaren

Sound system – Jamie

Worship Asst. – Colleen Elonen

Altar Guild – Laura and Greg

Hospitality – Jamie Peterson

Greeter - Eileen Ward

This week at a glance:

Tuesday – 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday – Merry Christmas to Everyone!!

Thursday – 8:45-10:15, 3:30-6:30 Eliza's classes
No Bible Study

Friday - 11:012:00, 2:00-8:30 Eliza's classes

Next Sunday – 9:30 Worship
No Sunday School
10:45 Bell Practice
11:00-11:30, 1:00-2:00 Eliza's classes
4:00 NA Group
6:30 Evening Worship

Helper for Christmas Eve, December 24th 4:00 p.m.

Ushers – Team 1: Ted Nelson, Capt.; Greg Elonen, Elaine Arnovich, Dean & Katherine McCall and Team 2: Tad Matheson, Capt.; Clyde Johnson, Mary Matheson and Joan Altman
Sound system – Tyler Worship Asst. – Jenny Dudderar
Altar Guild – Laura
Hospitality – Julie & Tim McLaren Greeter - anyone?

Helper for Christmas Eve, December 24th 4:00 p.m.

Ushers and Sound– Jeff Gronski and Tyler Austreng
Worship Asst. – Noah Holland Altar Guild – Laura

Helpers for next week, December 29

Ushers – Team 3: Jeffrey Gronski, Capt; Roger Breitzmann and Gary Blaisdell
Sound system –Greg Worship Asst. – Sue Connolly
Altar Guild – Rachel and Colleen
Hospitality – Julie & Tim McLaren Greeter - Sandy Breitzmann

Have you connected with us online? Be sure to 'Like' us on Facebook and 'Subscribe' to our YouTube channel. Just jump on those platforms and search for 'Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Superior'. You can also visit our website for updates and events: www.plcsuperior.org

December 22, 2024

Colleen Elonen

Please Read:

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7

¹ Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

² **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴ **O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people
pray?**

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and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be
saved.

December 22, 2024

Colleen Elonen

Please Read:

Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

***Please Read:** Please stand for the Gospel as you are able

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.

And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.