



December 21, 2025, 10:00 am  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent



## GATHERING

*The Spirit Calls Us Together*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

"Away in a Manger"

Bell Choir

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

We light these four candles as we yearn for Immanuel, God with us.

**In the midst of any and all darkness we continue to long for Jesus' arrival.**

The light of these candles reminds us that the full light of Christ is almost here.

**We yearn for that light to brighten our darkness and show us God's way.**

O God of faithfulness, as we watch and wait,  
**keep the light of hope alive in us.**

Advent Hymn

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

ELW 240

Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.

Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.

He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**



## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Now 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. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But 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. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

Pastor Jim Killough

## Hymn of the Day

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

ELW 257 vs 1-2, 6-7

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

*(Refrain:)* Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay; teach us your will and guide our way. *(Refrain)*

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer; O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. *(Refrain)*

O come, O King of nations, come, O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you; restore the broken, make us new. *(Refrain)*

Text: Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

## Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' 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.

## Special Music

"Riu Riu Chiu"

Choir

## The Prayers of the People

As petitions conclude: "God of grace," please respond "**hear our prayer.**"

## Sharing of God's Peace

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

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus*

## Offering & Offering Prayer

## Great Thanksgiving

Presider: Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Presider: Congregation: Presider:

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give

Congregation:

thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider: It is our duty and delight...and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might;  
heaven and earth are filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in your name.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

### Words of Institution

#### Lord's Prayer *(Please feel free to pray your preferred version of the 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### Communion

#### Communion Blessing

**SENDING** \_\_\_\_\_ *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

#### Blessing

#### Sending Hymn

*"All Earth Is Hopeful"*

ELW 266 vs 1-2, 4

All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God's creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God's truth and justice set ev'rybody free.

*Toda la tierra espera al Salvador y el surco abierto, la obra del Señor;  
es el mundo que lucha por la libertad, reclama justicia y busca la verdad.*

People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";  
she conceived him, "God with us," our brother, whose birth  
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live  
in our world; he is present, in neighbors we see  
our Jesus is with us, and ever sets us free.

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*(Setup for Sunday Supper, takes place following worship in the Fellowship Hall.)*

### **We Hold in Prayer this Week**

Those Grieving: Family and friends of Olena Cates, Debbie's MIL; family and friends of Larry Bielser, friend of Debbie; family and friends of Jan's granddaughter, Jennifer; family and friends of Jack Johnston; family and friends of Roy Wenzel.

God's Healing Presence: Kathy Trosvig; Steve Olsen; Mary Beck; Pat Krassin; Sheryn Todd; Elizabeth Ritchie; Gayle & Dave's grandson Liam and niece Amanda; Beth's friend Kamm & sister-in-law, Megan; Debbie's friend Larry & cousin David; Surridges' friends Barby & Larry & Marc Walkden; Ed & Evie Bishop; Peggy & Dave's friend Kevin; Joan's father; Debbie's Aunt Jennie & Uncle Bill; Julie Bolser, friend of Dave F.; Leile Defolo, niece of Dave F.

Prayers for our world, nation, and communities: For immigrants living in fear. For nations and peoples in the midst of warfare. For refugees seeking safety.

## Announcements

Christmas Eve Worship We gather this Wednesday, December 24, at 7:00 pm as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Our worship will include Christmas Carols, Communion and candlelight.

Collaboration Sunday On January 4, we will have a combined worship service with Trinity Lutheran and The Gathering (Zion Lutheran Church). Worship takes place at 10:00 am at Zion Lutheran Church (4634 Alger Ave.).

Pastor Jim will be on vacation December 25 through January 3.

Personal Hygiene Drive We are having a personal hygiene drive during December. Items to be collected are: toothpaste, toothbrushes, brushes/combs, hand sanitizer, small bottles of lotion, shampoo, liquid soap, small carb bars/ granola bars, hats, and gloves. Items can be placed in the bin in the sanctuary. Next Sunday following worship, we will assemble them in the Fellowship Hall.

Mission of the Month: Sunday Suppers Each Sunday evening the homeless, the under-resourced, or the just plain hungry gather in our Fellowship Hall for a free meal. Our congregation hosts Sunday Suppers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month, volunteers from other local churches host on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Between 60-120 people on average are served each Sunday. You can help support this vital ministry with financial donations or by helping serve the meals.

Sewers Needed The quilting group is looking for help sewing down the binding on the quilts. The quilts are tied together, and the binding is pinned down and ready to be sewn. If you would like to help, please contact Jean Lilley or the church office.

Sunday School meets at 9:15 am. in the Nursery and adjoining room. Toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary age children are welcome.

## This Week at Central

Montessori Academy M-F, 7:30-4:30

### Sunday, December 21

- 8:45 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:15 am Sunday School
- 9:30 am Friends Worship
- 10:00 am Central Lutheran Worship
- 1:00 pm Looking for Jesus Prayer Group
- 2:30 pm Marshallese Worship
- 5:00 pm Sunday Supper
- 7:00 pm Marshallese Fellowship

### Monday, December 22

- 9:30 am Quilters

### Tuesday, December 23

- 5:00 pm Academia Latina

### Wednesday, December 24

- 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
- 8:45 pm Marshallese Fellowship

### Thursday, December 25

- 10:00 am Marshallese Fellowship

### Sunday, December 28

- 8:45 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:15 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Central Lutheran Worship
- 1:00 pm Looking for Jesus Prayer Group
- 2:30 pm Marshallese Worship
- 5:00 pm Sunday Supper
- 7:00 pm Marshallese Fellowship

Worship Leaders	This Sunday, December 21	Next Sunday, December 28
Keyboard	Joan Dirska	TBD
Usher	Dave Finstad	Dave Finstad
Lector	Janis Ahern	Jonathan Todd
Assisting Minister	TBD	Dave Finstad & Kathy Trosvig
Communion Bread	Pam Gleave	No communion
Fellowship Host	TBD	TBD
YouTube Operator	Jonathan Todd	Jonathan Todd
Altar Guild	Laurie VanderWeyst	Janet Loesche