

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 16 & 19, 2021

*The Lord is coming. Forgiveness and peace are ours.*

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Opening Hymn ..... 23, "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"

Order of Service..... Service of Word & Sacrament, Page 26

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

Psalm of the Day.....Psalm 85 (page 97)

### SECOND LESSON

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. *The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel.* Alleluia.

Response to the Verse ..... Page 30

### GOSPEL LESSON

Hymn of the Day ..... 21, "Hosanna to the Coming Lord"

SERMON..... "Meet Your Coming Ruler" Micah 5:2-5

Nicene Creed ..... Page 31

Communion Liturgy ..... Page 33

Communion Hymn.....311, "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

Closing Liturgy ..... Page 36

Closing Hymn ..... 19 vv. 1 & 2, "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

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### FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5

**Micah prophecies that the promised Messiah will be born in Bethlehem in the county, or region, of Ephrathah. He is the eternal ruler who will serve as our good shepherd and give us peace that we might live securely.**

*But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, from you, will go out the one who will be the ruler for me in Israel. His goings forth are from the beginning, from the days of eternity. Therefore the LORD will give them up, until the time when the woman who is in labor bears a child. Then the remaining survivors from his brothers will return to the people of Israel. He will stand and shepherd with the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. They will dwell securely, for at that time he will be great to the ends of the earth. This one will be their peace.*

### SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10

**Our outward works are not sufficient to appease God's anger over our sins. Only Christ Jesus, the promised Messiah, was able to fulfill God's law perfectly and establish a new covenant of love between God and us. He is our substitute. By his perfect sacrifice for us we are blessed and made holy.**

*Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said: Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but you prepared a body for me. You were not pleased with burnt offerings and sin offerings. Then I said, "Here I am. I have come to do your will, God. In the scroll of the book it is written about me."*

*First he said: Sacrifices and offerings that were offered according to the law, both burnt offerings and sin offerings, you did not desire, and you were not pleased with them.*

*Then he said: Here I am. I have come to do your will. He does away with the first in order to establish the second. By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.*

### GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:39-55

**Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth exclaims that Mary is "blessed . . . among women" for she is the mother of the Messiah. Mary responds with the words we call the "Magnificat."**

*In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"*

*Then Mary said, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, because 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 those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones. He has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever."*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COMMUNION:** Because of the confessional nature of the Lord's Supper which is offered today, we invite forward those who are members of a WELS or ELS congregation. If you have questions about the Lord's Supper, please speak to the pastor.

**HEAD USHERS:** Don Koch; **Christmas Eve:** Ronald Knueppel/Ross Schultz; **Christmas Day:** Lyle Moldenhauer; **next Sunday:** Ross Schultz/Wayne Schultz.

**ADVENT WREATH:** Today we light the fourth and final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace. We celebrate the true peace and serenity that only Jesus Christ can offer.

**ORGANISTS:** The **January** schedule is hanging on the **SCHOOL** bulletin board. Please look at your calendars in the near future and sign up for the date(s) you are willing to play for us. Thank you!

**CHRISTMAS SEASON SERVICES:** Christmas Eve services will be held on **Friday, December 24**, at **3:00 PM** -and- **5:00 PM**. The Christmas Day service will be held on **Saturday, December 25**, at **9:00 AM**. Our regular **9:00 AM** worship service will take place on **Sunday, December 26**. There will be a New Year's Eve communion worship service on **Friday, December 31**, at **7:00 PM**. There will be **NO** Thursday evening worship services on **Thursday, December 23**, -or- **Thursday, December 30**.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY:** A copy of the current church directory is located on the table at the back of church. Please check your family's information and make any corrections needed. If all the information is correct, please place a checkmark by your name(s). This updated directory will be available sometime after the Annual Voters' Meeting in January. Thank you!

**2022 MOHW CONFERENCE:** The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Men of His Word Conference will be held at the **Best Western Premier Waterfront Convention Center**, in **Oshkosh**, on **Saturday, February 19, 2022**. This year's theme is: *MORE THAN CONQUERORS*. Additional details and online registration are available at [www.menofhisword.org](http://www.menofhisword.org). The registration fee is **\$50** for adults and **\$25** for youth. These rates increase to **\$60** and **\$30** respectively after January 30. Please consider joining them for a day of worship, praise, and fellowship in God's Word!

## OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

**Attendance:** Thursday: 17; Sunday: 146

**Offerings:** \$3,854.00; Thanksgiving: \$20.00

*(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$6,661.00)*

**Special Funds:** Debt Retirement: \$20.00

## OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Communion Worship Service .....9:00 AM  
Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School ..... 10:15 AM

Thursday: Christmas Eve Service Dress Rehearsal ..... 8:30 AM\*\*  
**SCHOOL – NOON DISMISSAL – CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS**  
**NO** Thursday Evening Worship Service

Friday: *Christmas Eve Worship Services* .....3:00 PM/5:00 PM

Saturday: *Christmas Day Worship Service* .....9:00 AM

Sunday: Worship Service .....9:00 AM

**\*\*Anyone who wishes to attend this dress rehearsal is welcome!**