

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 19, 2021

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English Website: [elc-cl.faithlifesites.com](http://elc-cl.faithlifesites.com)

IN OUR PRAYERS we remember: Marcia Neelly and Beverly Baker

ORDER OF WORSHIP: Order of Service Hymns 357 361

### THIS WEEK AT PEACE AND ENGLISH:

#### **TODAY 11:15 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING**

Dec. 19 8:30 a.m. Worship at English

Dec. 19 10:15 a.m. Worship at Peace

Dec. 19 9:00 Sunday School

Dec. 21 10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Dec. 21 6:30 p.m. Bible Study at English

Dec. 22 9:30 a.m. Quilting

Dec. 22 Noon Bible Study

Dec. 22 2:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

Dec. 24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 25 10:15 a.m. Christmas Day Service

Dec. 26 8:30 a.m. Worship at English

Dec. 26 10:15 a.m. Worship at Peace

Dec. 26 & Jan. 2 No Sunday School classes

Dec. 26 No Adult Sunday School

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** Our hymn of the day is *O Little Town of Bethlehem*. While all the world slept in darkness (the darkness of night and the darkness of sin) the everlasting light was born in Bethlehem. At the moment of the Savior's birth, all true hope to be found among men, and all real fear, centered on the child in the manger. This baby would fulfill all hope, giving us joy, love, and life, banishing all forms of darkness from our lives and welcoming us into the light of God once more. This baby would take away all fear, especially the fear of death, replacing it with peace that passes all understanding. The day of Jesus' birth is the day the world changed. In the final verse, we pray that Christ would come again, not to be born in a manger, but to be born in our hearts, to impart to us all the blessings of Christmas. Come to us once more, Lord Jesus

**A WORD:** Our Old Testament reading presents Jesus to us as the fulfillment of all God's promises. Earlier in Micah, God promised that he would save all nations, that he would bring peace to earth, and that he would gather his people. All these promises hinge on the coming of

a king who will shepherd God's people. Micah tells us that this king will be born in Bethlehem, and that he will bring all of God's promises to perfect fulfillment. In the Gospel reading, we hear glad tidings that the king is about to be born. Mary is pregnant with the Christ child, so Elizabeth greets Mary as the mother of her Lord.

The epistle reading tells us why Christ was born into the world. It answers the question, "How have God's promises come true in Jesus?" The answer is that Jesus perfectly fulfilled the Father's will, presenting his own body as a sacrificial offering on the cross. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, our souls are cleansed from sin, we are reconciled to the Father, and even now the blessings of heaven are being given to us through Christ.

**BIBLE READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:** Exodus 13:1-15 Colossians 3:12-17  
Luke 2:22-40

**ABOUT THE BULLETIN COVER:** Blessing abounds in the greeting between Mary and Elizabeth! The unborn Christ has hallowed the womb of Mary and of all women. This life she carries in her womb brings life to the world, and so blessing abounds! Christ has become like us in every respect except for sin. He was born under the Law to redeem those under the curse of the Law. So then, the fruit of Mary's womb has, in turn, blessed us!

**CHURCH COUNCIL:** There will be a council meeting following the service to discuss budgetary items before the end of the year.

**CALLING ALL HYMNS:** We will be having a service of hymns and readings for Christmas Eve, just like last year. If you have a favorite Christmas hymn that you would like included in the service, write it down and put it in the hymn box on the back table. I will include as many hymns from the congregation as I can as part of the service.

**2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Offering envelopes for 2022 are available on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

**ALTAR COMMITTEES:** Altar Committees for January are: Peace-Bev Doorenbos and Shirley Lambert and at English-Elaine Cherry and Barb Magnuson.

**DAUGHTERS OF PEACE** will meet January 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m. Devotions and Program by Verla Fick and Hostess will be Karen Olson.

**THIS MONTH** Daughters of Peace will collect drinks-fruit juice, vegetable juices, tea, water, Gatorade, tang, etc. for Atlas. Thank you all for your support in our monthly projects.

**USHERING TODAY is Team 1; Next Sunday is Team 2:** Kevin Stueven, Dennis Reuvers, LeRoy Fick, Terry Dieren, Walt Dibbern, Scott Schneidermann

**+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +**

**HYMN 357: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL**

*sts. 1-3*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

*(Brief Silence for Inward Confession)*

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,  
**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**INTROIT**

*1 Samuel 2:1b, 2, 5b-7; antiphon: Luke 1:46b-47*

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
**and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**  
My mouth derides my enemies,  
**because I rejoice in your salvation.**

There is none holy like the LORD;  
**there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.**  
The barren has borne seven,  
**but she who has many children is forlorn.**  
The LORD kills and brings to life;  
**he brings down to Sheol and raises up.**  
The LORD makes poor and makes rich;  
**he brings low and he exalts.**  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
My soul magnifies the Lord,  
**and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

**SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**P** Let us pray.  
**C** **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

*Micah 5:2-5a*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL**

*Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.*

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.  
**Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**  
Behold, your king is coming to you;  
**righteous and having salvation.**  
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
**From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

**EPISTLE**

*Hebrews 10:5-10*

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## VERSE

*Matthew 1:23a*

**Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel. Alleluia.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Luke 1:39–56*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

*After the Reading*

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**HYMN 357: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL**

*sts. 4-7*

## SERMON

## OFFERTORY

192

**C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.  
Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

## BENEDICTION

202

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.  
**C** Amen.

## HYMN 361: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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