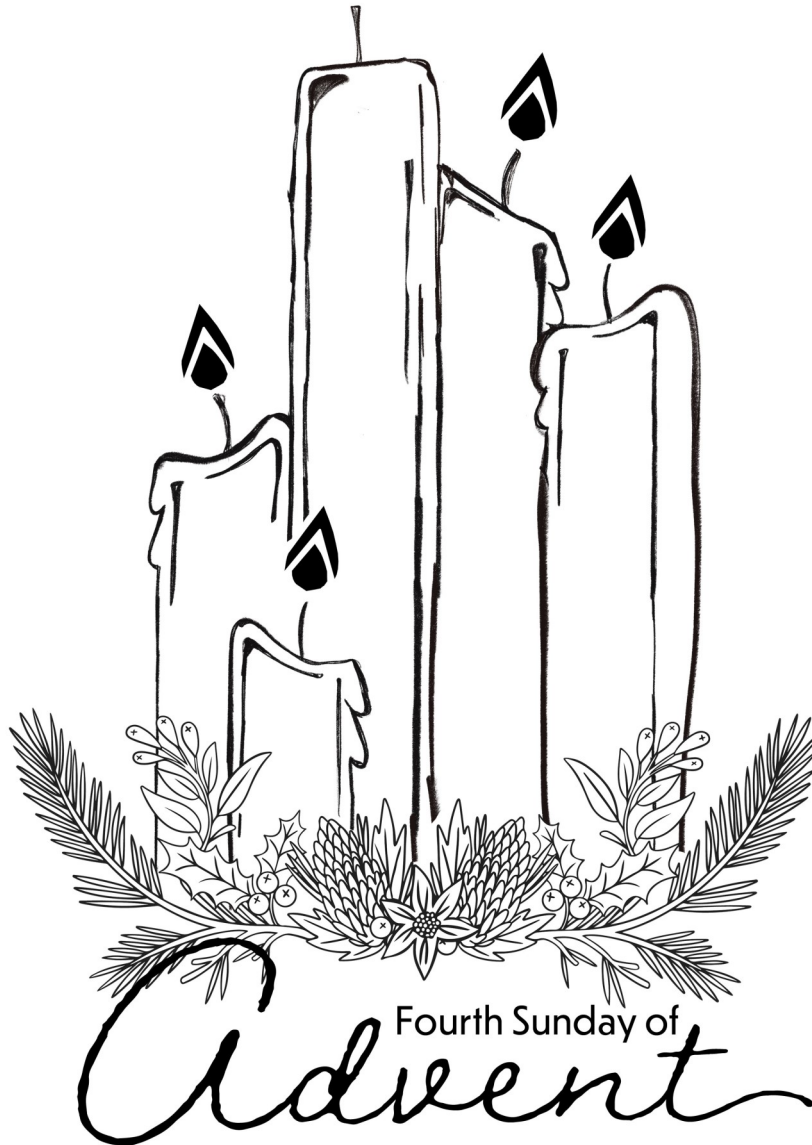


**Sunday, December 21, 2025**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**



**Sharing the Light!**

**Holy Communion Lutheran Church**  
**A community called to Worship, Learn, Love and Serve.**  
**2000 West Sixth Street Racine, Wisconsin**

*Special thanks to assisting minister Laura Jansen, lector and communion assistant Joan Fergus, AV technicians Barb Salvo and Asia Doidge, ushers David Krueger, Steve Barootian, Gary Lequia, and Ed Wosilait, altar guild Susan Barbee, Val Conner, and Barb Salvo, councilperson in charge Laurie Knudson, and Gregory Berg and our musicians for sharing their time and talent with us today.*

*Please stand, if you are able, where there is an asterisk \* in the bulletin.*

**PRELUDE** *(A quiet time of reflection, to prepare for worship.)*

**\*GATHERING SONG**

**O the Joy**

Gregory Berg



O the Joy! O the Joy in know-ing Je - sus. Let us strive to know the Lord. God will re-  
ply like show-ers in the Spring-time as sure-ly as the morn - ing dawn. O the  
Joy in know-ing Je - sus. Let us strive to know the Lord. God will re - ply like  
show-ers in the Spring-time as sure-ly as the morn - ing dawn. God does not de-sire burnt  
of-fer-ings. God does not de-sire our sac-ri-fice. God most de-sires our hearts and lives so  
that is what we bring, and that is why we sing: "O the Joy!" O the Joy in know-ing Je - sus.  
Let us strive to know the Lord. God will re - ply like show-ers in the Spring-time as  
sure-ly as the morn-ing dawn. O the Joy in know-ing Je - sus. Let us strive to know the  
Lord. God will re - ply like show-ers in the Spring-time as sure-ly as the morn-ing dawn.

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose home is heaven and earth,  
whose salvation is sure.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

Long-expected God,  
**we confess that we look to ourselves  
for the peace and security only you can provide.  
We reach for swords and spears,  
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.  
We become impatient while waiting  
and weary of keeping awake.  
Free us from self-reliance,  
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.  
Increase our trust in God's timing,  
and awaken us to your advent among us,  
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.  
Amen.**

God judges us not as we deserve,  
but according to God's own righteousness.

✝ You are freed and forgiven,  
saved by grace,  
and ready to welcome the Savior.  
**Amen.**

**\*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**

Leader: Let us join as - one as we pray to the Lord, **Congregation:** **Lord have mer - cy.** For the  
 peace from a - bove and for our sal - va - tion, **Lord have mer -**  
**cy.** For this ho - ly house and for all who in faith gath - er to wor - ship in this place, that  
 we may be - hold a - glimpse of your face, **Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy,**  
**Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.** That all of the world may  
 know your peace, **Lord have mer - cy.** That the poor be re - stored and the  
 bound re - leased, **Lord have mer - cy.** That the life of the church may be  
 strong and se - cure anchored and cen - tered - sole - ly on you, and for gui - dance and grace in all that we do,  
**Lord have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy, Christ have mer - cy, Lord have mer - cy.**

# \*HYMN OF PRAISE

leader

Lord God of pow - er and might, hea-ven and earth are

congregation

Lord God of pow - er and might, hea-ven and earth are

4

full of your glo - ry. Lord God of pow - er and might,

full of your glo - ry. Lord God of pow - er and might,

7

hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. *Fine* Glo - ry, Maj - e - sty, and

(Lord God, Heaven-ly King the

hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. *Fine* Glo - ry, Maj - e - sty,

(Lord God, Heaven-ly King,

11

Praise to Thee be gi - ven. Christ who takes a -

on - ly Son of the Fa - ther)

and Praise to Thee be gi - ven. Christ who takes

the on - ly Son of the Fa - ther)

14

way our sin have mer - cy up - on us. *D.C. al Fine*

a - way our sin have mer - cy up - on us. *D.C. al Fine*

## **\*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.**

## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH - The Barootian family**

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.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**    ***"Do You Hear What I Hear"***    arr. Shayne & Regney    **Bell Choir**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**    Lisa Lequia

## **NOISY OFFERING**

### **WORD**

#### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16**

<sup>10</sup> The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup> "Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." <sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." <sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore 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. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup> For 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.**

#### **PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**

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

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

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

<sup>4</sup> **O LORD God of hosts,  
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

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

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

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

<sup>17</sup> **Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,  
the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>18</sup> And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>19</sup> **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 1: 18-25**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup> 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 pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce 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 become pregnant and give birth to 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 given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON      Pastor Mark Doidge**

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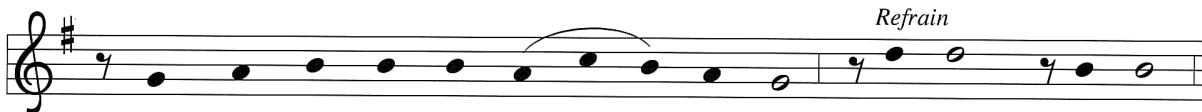
## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



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.  
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



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

Text: *Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite

Music: French processional, 15th cent.

Text stc. 2. 6. 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

VENI, EMMANUEL

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## \*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,  
communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## INVITATION SONG

Leader: Come to the ta - ble of the... Congregation: Come to the ta - ble of the Lord to the ta - ble of the...

Come to the ta - ble of the Lord. Leader: 1. Wine is poured and bread is broken.  
2. Have no fear or hes - i - ta - tion,

Words of Institution are spoken here

Hear the gos - pel and pro - mise spo - ken.  
Come with hope and ex - pec - ta - tion.

All: Come as fam - 'ly friends and neigh - bors. Come en - count - er Christ the Sa - vior.

Leader: Come to the ta - ble of the... Congregation: Come to the ta - ble of the

Lord. to the ta - ble of the... Come to the ta - ble of the Lord.

## \*LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

### COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, O pre-cious Lamb of God, You take a-way the sins of the world. Have  
mer - cy up-on us. Lamb of God, O right-eous Lamb of God, You take a-way the sins of the  
world. Have mer - cy up-on us. Lamb of God, Most Ho-ly Lamb of God, You  
take a-way the sins of the world. Grant to your peo - ple peace.

## \*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING MUSIC “The First Noel” arr. Moglebust Bell Choir

## OFFERTORY

Thanks we bring to God a-bove for the bles-sings of His love, shown to us in count-less ways.

That is why we give our praise. Let us thank the Lord. Let us thank the Lord.

Bles-sings sim-ple, bles-sings grand come from God's al-might-y hand, far be-yond what we de-serve.

Let our thanks and praise be heard. Let us bless the Lord. Let us bless the Lord.

All we are and all we own comes from God and God a - lone!

All the bles-sings we re-ceive, far more than we can con-ceive, lead us then to give and share

with the need-y ev'-ry-where. Let us thank the Lord. Let us thank the Lord.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray. (brief silence)

We pray for peace to envelope our fear and our uncertainty - that in the face of all that frightens us or causes us anxiety, we would remember to seek security and confidence in your abiding grace, Jesus, Prince of Peace -  
**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For peace to uplift us in our sadness, losses and disappointments - that we would never lose sight of all we have to be thankful for- and that we would look for our ultimate comfort and peace in your loving arms. Jesus, Prince of Peace-  
**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For peace, in those nations and communities where there is too much violence. We pray for the community of Brown University impacted by the mass shooting there- for the Jewish community in Australia impacted by the shooting at Bondi Beach - and for anyone anywhere who has been touched by such violence or who live in fear of such violence in the future. Help all of us to build a safer world where the lion may lay down with the lamb. Jesus, Prince of Peace -  
**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For peace and healing in the lives of those heavy-laden with illness, injury, fatigue or discouragement. We pray for <NAMES> We also pray for all who are entrusted with the care of others - doctors, nurses, aides, therapists, and first responders of every kind. We also pray for family members who must serve as caregivers for loved ones. Bless them, that they may be instruments of your peace. Jesus, Prince of Peace-  
**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

For the peace that passes all human understanding, that allows enemies to become friends - that makes possible even the tallest walls of suspicion to be breached - and that allows us to see strangers as sisters and brothers. Jesus, Prince of Peace-  
**HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

Hear our prayers, loving God, and embrace us in your love that never lets us go. For only in your grace can we find true peace, shown us in Jesus, the Prince of Peace.  
**AMEN.**

## **BLESSING**

May God who comes among us,  
Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.

**Amen.**

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## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

5 O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.

*Refrain*

6 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*

7 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*

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

*Refrain*

### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Stay awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please join us in the lounge for coffee and fellowship.*

### Announcements

#### Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar were given by Darlene and David Krueger in honor of their grandsons Dane and Cashton Simonovic's December birthdays.



#### Welcome Visitors!

A special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us this morning. Please fill out one of the yellow cards in the pew rack in front of you so we can acknowledge your visit with us. You can put your completed card into the offering plate or give it to an usher or a pastor before you leave. Please join us in the lounge after the worship service for a cup of coffee and a treat and a time of conversation and fellowship, or come caroling with us this morning!

#### Communion By Intinction

All are welcome to come to the table for Communion. We offer Holy Communion through Intinction (dipping of the wafer into chalice of wine). There are also gluten free wafers and grape juice available in the center. If you feel more comfortable communing in your pew, there are individual wafer/juice cups available on the tables in the back of the sanctuary.

#### Christmas Caroling After Worship This Morning

Calling young and old and everyone in between to join us after worship to go Christmas caroling. We will gather immediately following worship and go to some of our beloved homebound members. You don't have to be a member of the choir or have a great singing voice to help spread some Christmas cheer! Please join us!

### **Sweet Melody Strings Christmas Concert on December 22**

Join us in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. on Monday Dec. 22 for a Christmas program by Sweet Melody Strings. HCLC members Rondi Jenkins, Elaine Lewis and Evie Belland are in this talented group featuring hammered dulcimers, guitars, and bass ukulele. All are welcome to enjoy some wonderful holiday music at this freeconcert!

### **Food Pantry Needs**

For December the pantry is asking for donations of 15 oz. cans of pork & beans, jelly, macaroni & cheese, 1 lb. egg noodles, average size boxes of cereal, and 10 oz. cans of pork & beans.. If you have cookbooks, 2026 calendars, greeting cards, or pens and pencils you do not need, the pantry clients are happy to get them. Thank you all for your contributions. We would not be able to continue this ministry without a lot of help!

### **Collecting Coats and Blankets for the Hospitality Center**

Do you have gently used blankets or warm adult coats you no longer need? We are collecting them to bring to the Hospitality Center where they will be given away during our cold winter months. Items can be dropped off in the narthex or in the church office.

### **Book Club January**

Louisa is captivated by a painting of a long pier with three tiny figures sitting at the end of it. She is determined to find out the story behind the three enigmatic figures. The painting was done two decades before, a group of teenagers was finding refuge from their home life. These lost souls find in each other a reason to get up every morning, a reason to dream, and a reason to love. Out of that summer arose the painting. She embarks on a surprise-filled cross-country journey. Backman's signature charm, humor, and attention to the poignant details of everyday life are on full display in this funny, moving novel.

You are welcomed to join us on Wednesday, January 14th at 10:00. We will meet at the home of Julie Burton, 136 Steeplechase Dr. Please call Julie and let her know if you are coming. She can be reached at 262-639-5914 or email [jaburton5914@gmail.com](mailto:jaburton5914@gmail.com).

Our read for February is The House is on Fire by Rachel Beanland.

### **Holiday Office Hours**

The office will be closed Wednesday, December 24, Thursday, December 25, and Friday, December 26th. The Food Pantry will also be closed on Friday, December 26th.

### **Finance Update**

#### **November Finance Numbers**

Revenue: \$40,193.63  
Expenses: \$48,369.38  
Net Income: (\$8,175.75)

#### **Year to Date Finance Numbers**

Revenue: \$489,987.95  
Expenses: \$536,635.49  
Net Income: (\$46,647.54)

### **Holy Communion Church Council**

President Joleen Carlson, Vice-president Gary Wood, Secretary Laurie Knudson, Treasurer Kylee Albright, Members at large - Rose Adamski, David Knudson, Rebecca Mason, and Polly Timmerman

*In person attendance on Sunday, December 14 - 236 Households watching livestream online - 40*

**Upcoming Worship, Education, Fellowship, and Service Opportunities**

Sunday, December 21 - 9:30 Worship

Monday, December 22 - 10:00 Sweet Melody Strings Concert

12:30 Food Pantry

Wednesday, December 24 - Office Closed

4:00 Christmas Eve Worship

10:30 Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, December 25 - Office Closed

Friday, December 26 - Office Closed

Food Pantry Closed

Sunday, December 28 - 9:30 Worship

Monday, December 29 - 12:30 Food Pantry

Thursday, January 1 - Office Closed

Friday, January 2 - Office Closed

Food Pantry Closed

Sunday, January 4 - 9:30 Worship



**December 24th - 4:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve Worship**

**December 24th- 10:30 p.m.**

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship**

**Sunday, December 28th - 9:30 a.m.**

**A service of Lessons and Carols**