



**A REAL CHRISTMAS WILL LIFT UP THE LOWLY**

*Fourth Sunday in Advent  
December 22, 2024*

# ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)*

## FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting, will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

*Restrooms:* are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.

*Nursery:* We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

*For Kids:* Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.

## ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

A parent says, "I want to give my kid a real Christmas." They might be thinking of the fullest experience for their child, the experience of Christmas traditions, food, family time, and gifts. But what makes Christmas real? The season of Advent ("coming") prepares our minds and hearts, so that we might soon celebrate a real Christmas.



## A REAL CHRISTMAS WILL LIFT UP THE LOWLY

By this time of the holiday season, people are often weighted down. They feel guilty about presents that are not perfect, or parties that did not go as planned, or year-end projects that did not get completed. To top it all off, now is when it dawns on people how little attention they have given to the spiritual preparation Advent invites.

If that is how we feel, perhaps the frenzy of December has done us a favor. We have been stretched to our limits. We have been made painfully aware of our shortcomings. We have been humbled. Perfect! For being made aware of our weakness does not disqualify us from God's care. It does the opposite. It is what prepares us for the work he does best. He is a God who lifts up the lowly.

HYMN

Christ Is the World's Light, sts. 1-2, 4

*Stand for stanza four.*



1 Christ is the world's light, Christ and none oth - er;  
 2 Christ is the world's peace, Christ and none oth - er;  
~~3 Christ is the world's life, Christ and none oth - er;~~  
 4 Give God the glo - ry, God and none oth - er;



Born in our dark - ness, he be - came our broth - er.  
 No one can serve him and de - spise an - oth - er.  
 Sold once for sil - ver, mur - dered here, our broth - er.  
 Give God the glo - ry, Spir - it, Son, and Fa - ther;



If we have seen him, we have seen the  
 Who else u - nites us, one with God the  
 He who re - deemed us reigns with God the  
 Give God the glo - ry, God with us, my



Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!  
 Fa - ther? Glo - ry to God on high!  
 Fa - ther: Glo - ry to God on high!  
 broth - er: Glo - ry to God on high!

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## CONFESSION

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

**Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.**

Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

**Open my lips, Lord,**

**and my mouth will declare your praise.**

**You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;**

**you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.**

**My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;**

**a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.**

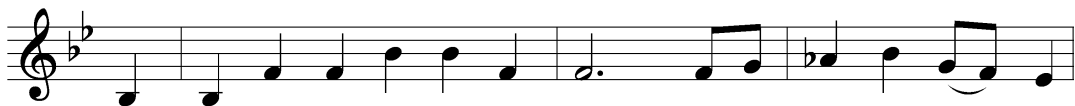
**For I know my transgressions,**

**and my sin is always before me.**

**Against you, you only, have I sinned**

**and done what is evil in your sight.**

*THE CONGREGATION SINGS:*



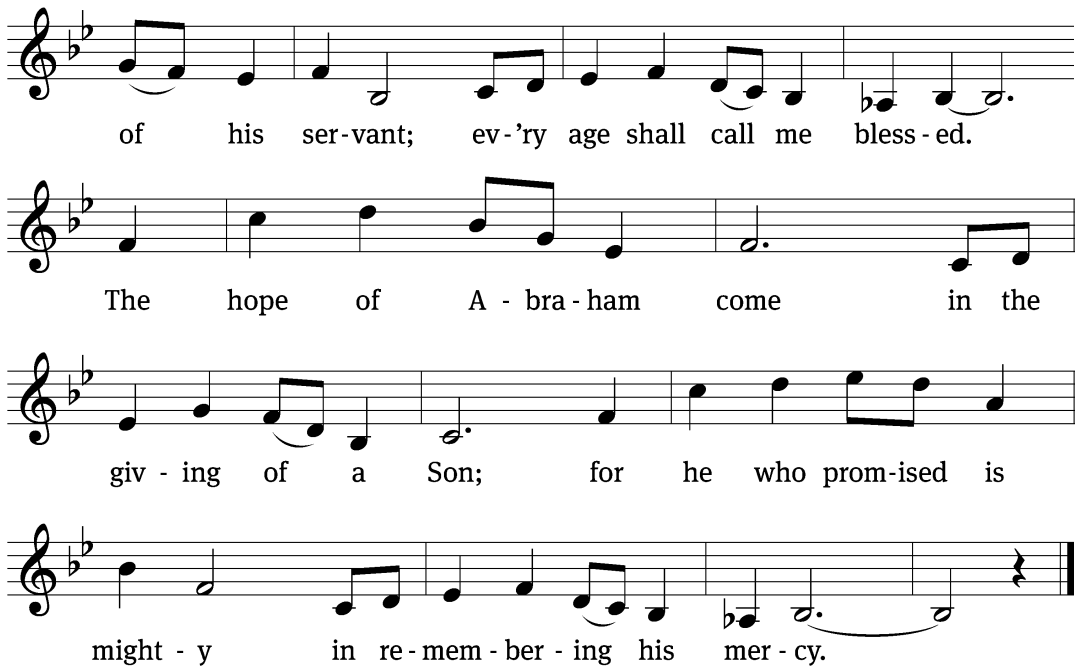
1 My soul will mag - ni - fy the Lord; I re - joice in God my



Sav - ior, in the won - der of his fa - vor.



For he has done great things for me, he was mind - ful



of his ser-vant; ev-'ry age shall call me bless-ed.

The hope of A - bra - ham come in the

giv - ing of a Son; for he who prom-ised is

might - y in re - mem - ber - ing his mer - cy.

## ABSOLUTION

Even as we await Christ's second coming, he comes to us here and now in the words he gives his messengers to speak: By the authority of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. You are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life. **Amen.**

## BE SEATED



2 My soul will mag - ni - fy the Lord for his grace to those who

fear him through ev - 'ry gen - er - a - tion.

The proud he scat - ters to the wind as the rul - er's  
strength is bro - ken, and the rich are left with noth - ing.  
The hum - ble lift - ed high, and the  
hun - gry sat - is - fied; our por - tion and our  
trea - sure, our hope and help for - ev - er.

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

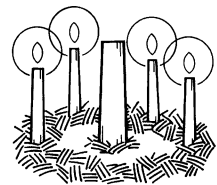
**We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

**We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**



## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray.*

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.

**Amen.**

### FIRST READING

**Micah 5:2–5a**

*The lowly little town of Bethlehem would be lifted up.*

*There a child would be born who would bring spiritual peace to the ends of the earth.*

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>This one will be their peace.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

## Hebrews 10:5–10

*We could not possibly raise ourselves up to God.  
Christ, by his sacrifice, has made us holy and has lifted up the lowly.*

<sup>5</sup>Therefore when he entered the world, Christ said:

Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,  
but you prepared a body for me.

<sup>6</sup>You were not pleased  
with burnt offerings and sin offerings.

<sup>7</sup>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.”\*

<sup>8</sup>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.

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>By this will, we have been sanctified once and for all, through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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\* Psalm 40:6-8



PSALM

Psalm 138A – Your Praises, God, I’m Bringing



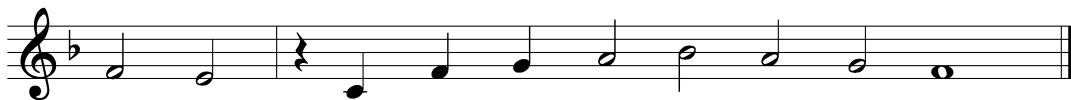
1 Your prais - es, God, I'm bring - ing; my heart with joy is  
 2 When deep - est need had felled me, your stead - fast love up -  
 3 Though you, O God, are ho - ly, yet you re - gard the



sing - ing its thanks for gifts out - poured.  
 held me; my ur - gent prayer you heard.  
 low - ly and raise them from the dust.



Now, in your pres - ence kneel - ing, a - gain for grace ap -  
 When trou - ble sore as - sailed me, your mer - cy nev - er  
 Your prom - ise holds for - ev - er: "I will for - sake you



peal - ing, in qui - et - ness I wait your word.  
 failed me. You strength - ened me and I en - dured.  
 nev - er!" My God, my rock, in you I trust.

STAND

*Mary knew she needed a Savior. God lifts her up, making her the mother of that Savior.*

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary got up and hurried to the hill country, to a town of Judah. <sup>40</sup>She entered the home of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>Just as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>She called out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy! <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who believed, because the promises spoken to her from the Lord will be fulfilled!"

<sup>46</sup>Then Mary said,

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>because he has looked with favor on the humble state of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup>because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones.

He has lifted up the lowly.

<sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things, but the rich he has sent away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy,

<sup>55</sup>as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his offspring forever.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*BE SEATED*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Young children are invited to the front for a brief message.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

540 O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild



1 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild, for  
 2 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild, with  
 3 O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild, joy



sin - ners you be - came a child. You came from  
 God we now are rec - on - ciled. You have for  
 fills the world which sin de - filed. What - e'er we



heav - en to ful - fill your Fa - ther's just and  
 all the ran - som paid, your Fa - ther's right - eous  
 have be - longs to you, O keep us faith - ful,



ho - ly will, O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild.  
 an - ger stayed, O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild.  
 strong, and true, O Je - sus so sweet, O Je - sus so mild.

SERMON

Luke 1:46–55

*What Do You Want People to Know About Your God?*

STAND

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From there 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.**

*BE SEATED*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

O Lord, we magnify you and we rejoice in you as God our Savior. You have revealed the mystery of your plans and established your gospel in our hearts.

Your Son Jesus is the great one who stands and shepherds his flock in the strength of the Lord. Drive away our doubts, fears and loneliness with your gospel that tells us your Son became flesh, dwelled among us, and knows our needs and our weakness.

You have made us holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. Let the good news of his completed redemption be made known to the nations near and far.

You have brought this good news to us by your messengers who have brought us your Word. Keep all pastors and teachers faithful to your Word, and encourage and instruct those who are preparing for the public ministry in your church.

When we are poor or in need, lift us up. We pray for all who deal with hardships, illnesses and losses. Show them your favor. Uphold them in all their troubles, supply what they need for wholeness and healing, and strengthen their faith in your goodness with your Word of peace.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

In the silent prayers of our hearts we cast all our cares on you.

*Silent prayer.*

O Lord, by your prophets you promised that your Son would come in the flesh for us and be born of a virgin. Mercifully fulfill all you have promised your Church to the end of the world;

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## OFFERING

*During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!*

*The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).*



## OFFERING SONG

**We Have a Savior**  
*By Hillsong Worship*

HYMN

335 To Shepherds as They Watched by Night



1 To shep - herds as they watched by night ap - peared a  
 2 "At Beth - le - hem, in Da - vid's town, as Mi - cah  
 3 O then re - joice that through his Son God is with  
 4 What harm can sin and death then do? The true God



host of an - gels bright; "Be - hold the ten - der  
 did of old make known. It is the Christ, your  
 sin - ners now at one; made like your - selves of  
 now a - bides with you. Let hell and Sa - tan



babe," they said, "in yon - der low - ly man - ger laid,  
 Lord and King, who will to all sal - va - tion bring."  
 flesh and blood, your broth - er is th'e - ter - nal God.  
 storm and rave, Christ is your broth - er— you are safe.

STAND

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## HYMN

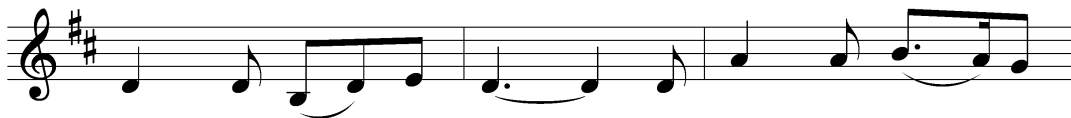
### 905 Good News of God Above, sts. 2-3



2 The love of Christ pro - claim, who left his home on  
3 The Lord of glo - ry lives! From cross and death and



high; to live our hu - man life he came, our  
grave his own a - bun - dant life he gives to



hu - man death to die. The Fa - ther's on - ly  
those he died to save. His right - eous - ness and



Son be - came the sin - ners' friend, our lot to  
peace de - clare from sea to sea; his prais - es



share, our sin to bear, and death's do - min - ion end.  
sound the world a - round for Christ has made us free.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus

Usher: Jon McElroy (8:00), Matt Clark (10:45)

Scripture Readers: Jason Kempfert (8:00), Dave Payne (10:45)

Accompanist: Ben Rusch

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### 343 [CW'93] Christ Is the World's Light

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000, alt. Text: © 1969 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Tune: *Antiphoner*, Paris, 1681. Public domain.

### 975 My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974 Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974 Text and tune: © 2005 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

### Psalms 138A – Your Praises God, I'm Bringing

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Tune: Heinrich Isaac Text: © 1997 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Tune: Public domain.

### 540 O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

Text: Valentin Thilo, 1607–1662, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Geoffrey W. Daisley, 1877–1939, alt.; (sts. 2–3): tr. Frieda Pietsch, 1904–1982 Tune: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Köln, 1623, alt. Text and tune: Public domain.

### 335 To Shepherds as They Watched by Night

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt. Tune: Latin, 15th cent., adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621. Text and tune: Public domain.

### Prayer of the Church

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### 905 Good News of God Above

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926 Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949 Text: © 1988 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Tune: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

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## CONTACT US

Dave Backus, Pastor

920.716.7987

Pastor.Backus@eternal-love.org

Kara Krull, Wee Love Director & Teacher

920.858.3933

Kara.Krull@eternal-love.org

Rebecca Fleming, Office Manager

920.749.9744

Office.Manager@eternal-love.org



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