



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 22, 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

To reflect God's love through service to the family of God.

WELCOME STATEMENT

We welcome and encourage the full participation of all people, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, appearance, or anything else that threatens to divide us. We have all been claimed as God's children, and all are welcome here.

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

-Galatians 3:28

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Presiding Minister—Pastor Tony Dusso
Organist/Choir Director—Cheryl Licary
AV Assistant—Milton Dodson

8:30 am service

Assisting Minister—George Lisensky
Communion Assistants—Cindy Blair and Char Kepler
Communion Prep—Cindy Blair
Lector—George Lisensky
Greeters—Terry and Dianne Bahnub
Ushers—Terry Amundson, Terry Bahnub, Bob Pederson, Darryl Schutte,
and David Van Egmond

10:30 am service

Assisting Minister—Pam Olson
Communion Assistants—Linda and Lorie Becker
Communion Prep—Linda Becker
Lector—Pam Olson
Greeters—Harry and Beb Olson
Ushers—Skip Rath and Kathy Larsen

INTRODUCTION

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

GATHERING

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

Unexpected and Mysterious—ELW 258



1. Un - ex - pect - ed and mys - te - rious is the gen - tle word of grace.
2. In a mo - men - tar - y meet - ing of e - ter - ni - ty and time,
3. We are called to pon - der mys - t'ry and a - wait the com - ing Christ,



Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain - ing is the peace of God's em - brace.
Ma - ry learned that she would car - ry both the mor - tal and di - vine.
to em - bod - y God's com - pas - sion for each frag - ile hu - man life.



If we fal - ter in our cour - age and we doubt what we have known,
Then she learned of God's com - pas - sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy,
God is with us in our long - ing to bring heal - ing to the earth,



God is faith - ful to con - sole us as a moth - er tends her own. ____
and she ran to greet the wo - man who would rec - og - nize her boy. ____
while we watch with joy and won - der for the prom - ised Sav - ior's birth. ____

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Music: Marty Haugen ©1990, 2016 GIA Publications, Inc.
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ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

- A: Blessed are you, God of hosts, for you promised to send a son, Emmanuel, who brought your presence among us; and you promise through your Son Jesus to save us from our sin.
- P: As we light these candles, turn again to us in mercy; strengthen our faith in the word spoken by your prophets; restore us and give us life that we may be saved.
- A: O house of David, come,
- C: let us rejoice, for the Son of God, Emmanuel, comes to be with us. Amen.**

First, second, third, and fourth candles are lit as we sing...

ADVENT HYMN

Christ Be Our Light



5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come. Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

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GREETING

- P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray... Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

C: With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, 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.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a

L: A reading from Micah.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

^{5a} and he shall be the one of peace.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke:46b-55

L: We read Luke 46 responsively:

^{46b} My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,

⁴⁷ my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ **for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹ you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰ **You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵² **casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ **You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵ the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 10:5-10

L: A reading from Hebrews.

⁵ Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said,

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,
but a body you have prepared for me;

⁶ in burnt offerings and sin offerings
you have taken no pleasure.

⁷ Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God’
(in the scroll of the book it is written of me).”

⁸ When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure
in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin
offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹ then he added,
“See, I have come to do your will.” He abolishes the first in order to
establish the second. ¹⁰ And it is by God’s will that we have been
sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for
all.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

P: The holy gospel, according to Luke, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Tony Dusso

Please rise.

HYMN OF THE DAY

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came—ELW 265



1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from heav - en came,
2 "For know a bless - ed moth - er thou shalt be,
3 Then gen - tle Mar - y meek - ly bowed her head;
4 Of her, Em-man - u - el, the Christ, was born



with wings as drift - ed snow, with eyes as flame:
all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee;
"To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said.
in Beth - le - hem all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail to thee, O low - ly maid - en Mar - y,
thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy God's ho - ly name."
and Chris - tian folk through-out the world will ev - er say:



most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."
Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
"Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy."

Text: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834–1924
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Basque carol

APOSTLES' CREED

**C: 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

A: God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our guide, shepherd the leadership of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Bless the Board and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

A: God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. We are grateful for the witness and memory of those who have died, especially Lois Roen; and we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

MEAL

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

*Please greet one another, as you feel comfortable, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.** After the sharing of the peace, you may be seated.*

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Offering is received as ushers pass the plate down each row. As we sing the Offertory, ushers bring offering forward.

Please rise.

OFFERTORY

What Feast of Love



What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last - ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last - ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

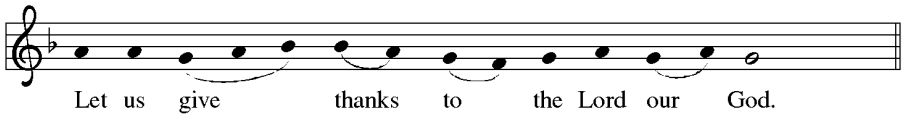
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OFFERING PRAYER

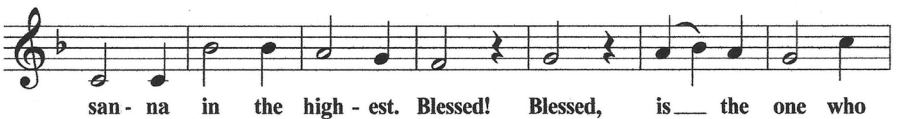
A: Let us pray... Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: It is indeed right, our duty, and joy...
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Music: French carol; text: David Eck, used by permission

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**C: 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Communion. At the 8:30 am service you're welcome to kneel at the rail. The bread is given first, then select either a small cup of red wine or white grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available; please ask the server. Empty cups are placed in the basket. Children may come forward for a blessing.

Please rise. (8:30 am)

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray... Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30 am)

SENDING

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

Canticle of the Turning—ELW 723



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my
Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the
This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry
prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus-tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat
Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional
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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



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Our Savior's Lutheran Church will occasionally take photographs and video of church activities, which may be used online, and in digital and print materials. Additionally, worship services are recorded, livestreamed, and broadcast on a weekly basis. By participating, authorization to publish any such photo or video is granted to Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOLLOWING CHRIST WITH BONHOEFFER

The next meditation from "Following Christ with Bonhoeffer" has been posted on Our Savior's YouTube Channel. Entitled "Simple Obedience." The next in-person conversation will be **Sunday, January 12 at 9:30 am** in the Chapel.

SEWING BEE

There will be NO Sewing Bee on **Monday, December 23**. However, Sewing Bee will **resume on Monday, December 30**.

KIDS CONNECT

Grow your child's faith with Jesus! Children will learn about HIS love while exploring, stories, crafts, music, and games. Kids Connect is offered **Sunday morning from 10:30 am - 11:15 am** for children pre-k through 5th grade. *Kids Connect will not meet on December 22 and 29*. Reach out to Kellie @ kellie@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org for more information.

YOUTH CONNECT

Join us for Youth Connect every Sunday at 9:30 am. It's a fantastic chance for fun, fellowship, and deepening your faith! *Youth Connect will not meet on December 29*. Reach out to Molly for more information - molly@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org.

Mark your calendar for upcoming special events:

Christmas Party | Sunday, December 22 at 11:30 am

LET'S GO BOWLING!

Everyone is invited to an afternoon of bowling on **Sunday, January 19** from 1:00-3:00 pm at Cougar Lanes in Clinton, WI. Cost is \$10 per person - includes, shoe rental, lane cost, pizza, and soda! Please sign up by January 5 on the bulletin board in the Commons. Fun for all ages!

WORSHIP SERVICES ARE LIVESTREAMED

The Saturday 5:00 pm service and the Sunday 8:30 am service are livestreamed. Bulletins for the services can be found online at oursaviorsbeloitwi.org/worship/.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	December 22	8:30am 9:30am 9:30am 10:30am 1:00 pm	Worship Coffee Hour Youth Connect Worship Televised Worship (Ch. 992)
Tuesday	December 24	4:00pm 10:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship Christmas Eve Worship
Wednesday	December 25	10:00am 7:00pm	<i>Office Closed</i> Christmas Day Worship Televised Worship (Ch. 992)
Thursday	December 26		<i>Office Closed</i>
Saturday	December 28	5:00 pm	"Lessons & Carols" Worship
Sunday	December 29	10:00am 1:00 pm	"Lessons & Carols" Worship Televised Worship (Ch. 992)



CHRISTMAS

At Our Savior's Lutheran Church

CHRISTMAS EVE | December 24

4:00 pm Candlelight Worship
10:00 pm Candlelight Worship

CHRISTMAS DAY | December 25

10:00 am Worship with Holy Communion

1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 29

10:00 am "Lessons & Carols" Worship

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY!
GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY!
GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY!
GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY!

Our Savior's
Lutheran Church

749 Bluff Street, Beloit, WI 53511
www.oursaviorsbeloitwi.org

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT OUR SAVIOR'S

It is a joy to have you join us for worship. Wherever you are from, wherever you are in life or on your faith journey, we are glad you are here. Please fill out a Yellow Slip for attendance and prayer requests.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE

We have large print bulletins and hearing enhancers for anyone who may need them, please see an usher for assistance.

STAY CONNECTED

749 Bluff Street, Beloit, WI 53511
(608) 362-0716
office@oursaviorsbeloitwi.org
Pastor Tony Dusso

SCRIPTURE

You may want to prepare for next week by studying the scriptures.

- 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
- Psalm 148
- Colossians 3:12-17
- Luke 2:41-52

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ONLINE GIVING ►



BEYOND SUNDAY

DWELL IN THE WORD AND NOTICE
HOW IT CONNECTS WITH YOUR LIFE

Recall a time you were overwhelmed by your good fortune; a time when you received something you didn't earn or deserve or a time when you received care and attention though you didn't ask for it.

When Mary visits her relative Elizabeth in Luke 1:39-55, we are given a picture of two very different women who had been impacted by the grace of God through their pregnancies. How would you answer Elizabeth's question in verse 43 "And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?"

Look up online the story of "Our Lady of Guadalupe," where in the early decades of Spanish colonialism in Mexico, Mary is said to have appeared to a native-Mexican young man, Juan Diego. It's an unlikely event happening to an unlikely person. God is with us, and is ready to inspire you just as you are and just where you are? Ponder this as your question to the Lord: "Who am I that you, O Lord, would come to me?"

