

Word of God Lutheran Church  
Grow • Build • Serve



Our Mission:  
With God's help we are called to be a  
multi-generational traditional church, grounded in  
the Bible and focused on service in the community  
and mission outreach.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**December 24, 2023**

**ORDER OF SERVICE**  
**December 24, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Advent • Christmas • Epiphany • Lent • Easter • Pentecost  
*Please refer to the green Lutheran Book of Worship Hymnal for service.*

**LESSONS and CAROLS**

Announcements

Hymn **"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"** ..... WOV 630

Advent Wreath Lighting and Devotional

Call to worship chime

\* Hymn **"People, Look East"** ..... WOV 626

\* A Bidding Prayer..... screen

\* The Lord's Prayer ..... LBW 71

First Reading ..... Genesis 3:8-19

Hymn **"Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"** ..... LBW 34

Second Reading .....Genesis 22:15-18

Hymn **"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"** ..... LBW 50

Third Reading .....Isaiah 7:10-15

Hymn **"Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn"** ..... WOV 633

Fourth Reading ..... Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Hymn **"O Come, Divine Messiah"** .....*Pastor Jason & Mary Spearman*

Fifth Reading ..... Isaiah 11:1-9

Hymn **"Lo, How a Rose Is Growing"** ..... LBW 58

Sixth Reading ..... Jeremiah 31:31-34

Hymn **"Built on a Rock"** .....LBW 365

Seventh Reading .....Luke 1:26-36

Hymn **"The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"** ..... WOV 632

Eighth Reading ..... Matthew 1:18-25

Hymn **"Love Came Down at Christmas"** .....*Choir*

Ninth Reading ..... John 1:1-14

Hymn **"Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"** ..... LBW 45

Offering

\* Offertory Hymn **"Doxology"** .....LBW 565

\* Prayer

\* Benediction ..... LBW 74

\* Closing Hymn **"Joy to the World"** ..... LBW 39

\* Please stand as able

**NOTE:** Page numbers are in the front of the hymnal, followed by the Hymn numbers.  
*LBW* is the green *Lutheran Book of Worship*. *WOV* is the blue *With One Voice Hymnal*.

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First Reading..... **Genesis 3:8-19**

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup> The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." <sup>16</sup> To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." <sup>17</sup> And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Hymn "**Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel**" .....LBW 34

Second Reading..... **Genesis 22:15-18**

<sup>15</sup> And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup> and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup> and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

Hymn "**Angels, from the Realms of Glory**" .....LBW 50

Third Reading..... **Isaiah 7:10-15**

<sup>10</sup> Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: <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> And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Hymn "**Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn**" ..... WOV 633

Fourth Reading..... **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Hymn "**O Come, Divine Messiah**" ..... *Pastor Jason & Mary Spearman*



Fifth Reading..... **Isaiah 11:1-9**

<sup>11</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his root shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Hymn "**Lo, How a Rose Is Growing**" ..... LBW 58

Sixth Reading..... **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup> “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, <sup>32</sup> not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. <sup>33</sup> For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Hymn **“Built on a Rock”** ..... LBW 365

Seventh Reading ..... **Luke 1:26-36**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” <sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.

Hymn **“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”** ..... WOV 632

Eighth Reading ..... **Matthew 1:18-25**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

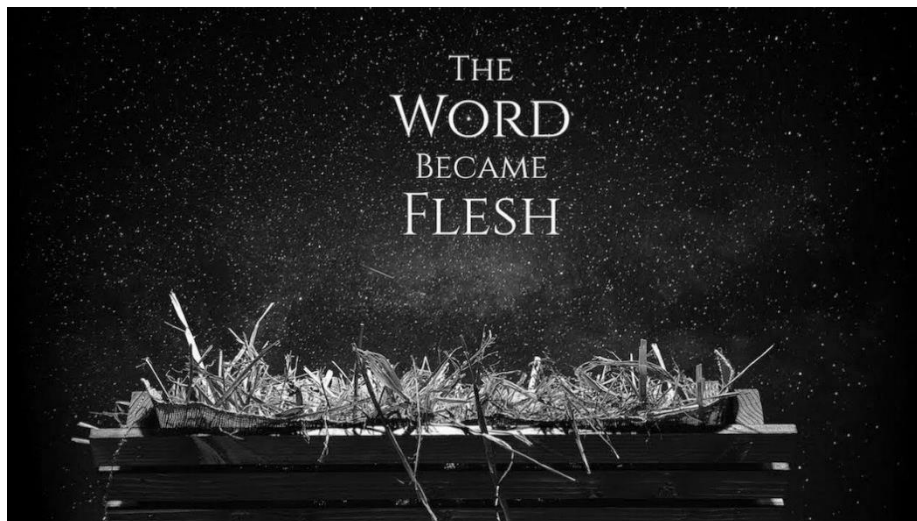
Hymn "Love Came Down at Christmas" ..... Choir



Ninth Reading ..... **John 1:1-14**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hymn "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful" ..... LBW 45



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- If you are physically unable to come to the altar, **communion** will be brought to you at your seat. Please let your usher know so he /she can tell the Pastor where you are seated.
- WoG's **Nativity of Our Lord Service** is at 10:15 am on December 25.
- The **church office will be closed** Monday, January 2, in observance of New Year's.
- The **annual Congregational Meeting** is Sunday, January 14, following service. New Service Committee members will be elected at this meeting.
- A **New Member Reception** will follow service Sunday, January 7. Please take a moment to stop by the fellowship hall and introduce yourself.
- **Fish STIX Ministry** will offer 2 additional programs beginning in January and needs volunteers! **Xylophone and Chime Choir** rehearsals begin Wednesday, January 10. **Joy in the Morning** (J.I.M. Jam) will meet on Wednesdays in room 11 at 10 am. **Theater Class** is also returning for 6 sessions beginning Saturday, January 6. There are only 12 spots available. Please contact Andi Laaker at [wogfishstix@gmail.com](mailto:wogfishstix@gmail.com) for more information.
- A **First Holy Communion Class** will be held on Sunday, January 14, following service. Please contact Pastor Jason for more information.
- Our next **RLC Warehouse** service opportunity is Wednesday, January 10, at 9:00 AM, and the **RLC Mobile Food Pantry** will be Thursday, January 18, at 9:00 AM. Please sign up on the bulletin tear-off or contact Sue Burnett at [suegburnett@att.net](mailto:suegburnett@att.net) for more information.
- The next **Midwest Food Bank** distribution will be Tuesday, January 23 (8 AM - 12 PM & 6 PM - 8 PM); Wednesday, January 24 (8 AM - 1:30 PM); and Thursday, January 25 (8 AM - 12 PM). Lunch is provided each day to all volunteers. Contact Joe Bowler at [lrcbowler@gmail.com](mailto:lrcbowler@gmail.com) or sign up on the bulletin tear-off.
- *Unless otherwise indicated, the **weekly announcement submission** deadline for the Sunday bulletin is the previous **Monday** at 11:00 AM. Please send all announcements to [woglutheran@gmail.com](mailto:woglutheran@gmail.com).*

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