

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Family (7 p.m.)**

**Christmas Midnight Communion & Candlelight (11:30 p.m.)**

**Dec 25 – Christmas Carol Service (9:30 a.m.)**

**Jan 01 – New Year’s Day Service (9:30 a.m.)**

**Tequilla “T.T.” Maxheimer, Tonya Bowman’s mother passed away yesterday morning.**

**INVOCATION**

**P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.**

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN No. 338 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

**Come, Thou long expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel’s strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of ev’ry nation, Joy of ev’ry longing heart.**

**OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1***

**L: Oh that You would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might  
quake at Your presence.**

**C: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in His word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord  
more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.**

**L: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is  
plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.**

**C: 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.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

**L: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our gracious heavenly Father.  
Eternal God,**

**C: we confess that we are by nature sinful and that sin is ever-present in our lives. O  
God, in Your mercy, forgive our sin. Redirect and renew us, that we may joyfully  
follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments. Graciously forgive our sins  
and, by the leading of the Holy Spirit, guide us in ways of compassion and love.**

**L: O people of God, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities. What the prophets foretold came to be through the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. He is Emmanuel, God with us! Our Deliverer! Let us rejoice, we are forgiven; in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

**C: Amen.**

**L: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it. Go in ☩ peace.**

**C: Amen.**

### **SHARING THE PEACE**

**SONG OF PRAISE                    “Shout to the Lord” (Instrumental)**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**L: Let us pray.**

**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.**

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN No. 357            “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”                    (vss. 1 & 7)**  
*(During the singing of the hymn, four candles on the Advent wreath are lighted.)*

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the son of God appear. (refrain)**

**Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind  
In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,  
And be Thyself our King of Peace. (refrain)**

The OLD TESTAMENT READING for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent is from the Prophet Isaiah, chapter 7. *Isaiah 7:10–17*

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: “Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.  
C: Thanks be to God.

The EPISTLE of St Paul to the Romans, chapter 1. *Romans 1:1–7*

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.  
C: Thanks be to God.

VERSE *Matthew 1:23a*

L: Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
C: and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 1:18–25* (The telling of the birth of Jesus)

**L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter**  
**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

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. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

**"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).**

When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

**L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.**  
**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN No. 345 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"**

**Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!"**

**Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.**

**See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv'n.**

**So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with his mercy And with words of love draw near.**

**Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!**

**SERMON "The Lord Himself Will Give You a Sign" Isaiah 7:10-17**  
**Pastor Vern**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING                    **“We Give Thee But Thine Own”**   LSB 781 (vs. 1)  
(The Hymn is sung as the gifts are brought to the altar)

We give Thee but Thine own,   Whate’er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P:** Heavenly Father, we thank You for the Advent Sign of the infant King which You have given to the world, whose fulfillment at Christmas brings heaven’s gifts of love, hope, joy and peace to all who will receive Him. Open our hearts to receive Him again as our newborn King! Lord in Your mercy.
- C:** hear our prayer.

**P:** Lord God, as we anticipate the joys of Christmastide, we pray for our family of faith and for all Christian people in God's kingdom around the world. Help us to share confidently the gifts and blessings we have received so that the abundant life in Christ may continue to spread until the Gospel has reached the ends of the earth. Bless this Christmas season and give us boldness to invite others to come with us to the manger where salvation was born and to the cross where our salvation was fulfilled. Lord in Your mercy.

**C:** hear our prayer.

**P:** O God our Provider, we pray for those things needed by us as part of what we know to be our daily bread. We remember today those with special needs and concerns, the hospitalized, the grieving, the unemployed and all who struggle meeting the needs of everyday life. Be merciful to those with special needs, especially **Jerold Clausius, Jeff Trefftz, Randy Morton, Bill Holtz, Dean Paulsmeyer, and all on our prayer list**. Grant strength to those who provide for their care and help us all as Your beloved children to give of our time and support when the needs of others are discovered. Help us to love others as You have loved us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**P:** Embrace in your loving arms all who are grieving the loss of family and loved ones through tragic circumstance; where lives are in turmoil, hope turns to despair and pain is all that's felt. Be with the Satrom family as they mourn the passing of Janet's dear cousin **Sigrid Wellman**; the Rust family and others who grieve the loss of **Norman Wilke**, and with the Bowman family in their sorrow over the passing of Tonya's loving mother, **Tequilla "T.T."Maxheimer**. Uplift them all in their sorrow, uphold them with Your strength, and through the generosity of love shown by others comfort them so that they may know they are not alone. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**P:** Lord of our lives this week we celebrate **Birthdays of Tammy Ellington, Carrie Johnson, Danielle Stake, Joseph Monaco and newborn Catharine Hope**. We ask that You would fill them with joy today and may this day be filled with thanksgiving for the life You have given them in Christ. We pray that their future would be bright and blessed. Empower and enable them for all that they will face this coming year of their life. Order their steps and may they fulfill all that You have purposed for them in their life. They are loved by You and we trust that You are always watching over them. **and Anniversary of Rick and Barb Applegate** . Lord in Your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**L:** Heavenly Father, we give you all the praise and glory for joining together our **Rick and Barb Applegate** and seeing them through the difficult phases of this troubled life. You have bonded them together with love and friendship and You have been the pillar of strength in their marriage. You have taught them to love and honor each other. Be glorified in their marriage all the days to come and let Your favor rest on them into eternity. Lord in Your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**P:** Father of us all, with thankfulness, we ask Your blessing on all who brighten these darkening days of the year—the shopworkers and postal clerks, the musicians and carolers, the delivery people and all those who work long hours in these days. Grant that we be truly appreciative of all those who carry out their vocations for the betterment of our lives, and direct us to bring glory to God in all that we say and do. All these things we ask in the person of Jesus, our blessed sign of all the ages.

**C:** Amen.

### ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

#### PREFACE

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**C:** We lift them to the Lord.

**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

#### PRAYER

**P:** Praise to You, Lord of heaven and earth. You have revealed Your mercy to us in granting us Your only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks for the redemption prepared for us through Jesus Christ and pray You to grant us Your Holy Spirit, that enlightened with a living faith, we might be worthy to receive Him who comes to us in His body and blood.

**C:** Amen.

#### PREPARATION FOR RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT

**P:** St Paul urges us to examine ourselves before receiving the Sacrament lest we eat and drink judgment upon ourselves. Worthy reception of this sacrament therefore, is our faith in the words, “given and shed for the forgiveness of sins.”

As we come to the table we sinners also acknowledge that the words, “This is my body ... This is my blood,” clearly reveal the mystery of the “real presence” of Christ’s body and blood in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine. To this end, we believe the Holy Spirit helps us to amend our sinful ways. So let us eat and drink, assured that in this meal lies the assurance of God’s love , forgiveness, strength and peace.

**C:** Increase our faith, O God, and fill us with the assurance of Your unconditional Love and unending desire to forgive us for Christ’s sake. Amen.

#### **LORD’S PRAYER**

**P:** Remember us in Your kingdom Lord, and teach us to pray, saying:

**All:** 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.

**LAMB OF GOD**      **(Agnus Dei)**      **LSB 163**

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world;  
Grant us peace.

**WORDS OF OUR LORD**      *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;*  
*Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

**P:** Now with the very words of Christ we consecrate and partake of this sacred meal together.

**P:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”



In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### **THE PEACE OF THE LORD**

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

**C: And also with you.**

**L: Come to the Lord's table for all things are now ready.**

**DISTRIBUTION "Come to Jesus" (video)**

**LSB 631 "Here, O My Lord, I see Thee Face to Face" (vss. 1-4 & 7)**

**Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;  
Here would I touch and handle things unseen,  
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,  
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.**

**Here would I feed upon the bread of God,  
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n,  
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,  
Here taste a fresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.**

**This is the hour of banquet and of song;  
Here is the heav'nly table spread for me;  
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong  
The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee.**

**I have no help but Thine; nor do I need  
Another arm but Thine to lean upon;  
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;  
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.**

**Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,  
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,  
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,  
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.**

**POST-COMMUNION “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing” (LSB 633 vs. 2)**

Praise we Him, whose love divine  
Gives His sacred blood for wine,  
Gives His body for the feast  
Christ the victim, Christ the priest.  
Alleluia!

**BLESSING OF THE LORD *Numbers 6:24–26***

**L:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**C:** Amen.

**HYMN No. 348 “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” (vss. 1,5)**

The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light triumphant breaks,  
When beauty gilds the eastern hills  
And life to joy awakes.

The King shall come when morning dawns  
And light and beauty brings.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:  
Come quickly, King of kings.

**SENDING**

**L:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord  
**C:** Thanks be to God!