

**OUR SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
GREENDALE, WISCONSIN**

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The Reverend Douglas W. Schroeder, Pastor

The Fourth Sunday in Advent 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM December 22, 2024

OUR THEME FOR THIS YEAR IS: *Adore God More in 2024!*

"Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker; for he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care." ~ Psalm 95: 6-7a

We welcome you to Our Shepherd. It is a joy to have you with us today! We pray that you will
be strengthened and uplifted through our worship.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Organ Prelude: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came . . . M. Albrecht

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn: LSB 356 – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Invocation:

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: *Amen.*

Confession/Absolution:

P: O Lord, have mercy and come to us.

C: *Come, Lord Jesus.*

P: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close, you
close and no one can open:

C: *Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.*

P: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:

C: *Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.*

P: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone uniting all people:

C: *Come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.*

P: O Emmanuel, our King and our Lawgiver, the anointed of the nations and their Savior:

C: *Come and save us, O Lord our God.*

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord:

C: *We prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son, confessing our sins, confessing our
attraction to a godless world that does not know Christ. Forgive our sins, cleanse our hearts,
and keep us faithful for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

P: God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all.
Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of + Christ who came and will come again.

C: *Amen.*

Hymn of Praise: O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB 357, vs. 1&5)

O, come, o, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Oh, come, Thou 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you O Israel!

Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray,

C: *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. Amen.*

Scripture Readings (Back of Bulletin)

Old Testament: Micah 5: 2-5a

Anthem (10:30): This is the Truth Sent From Above . . . S. Tucker

*This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love;
Therefore don't turn me from the door
But hearken all, both rich and poor.*

*The first thing that I will relate,
That God at first did man create;
The next thing which to you I tell-
Woman was made with him to dwell.*

*Then after that 'twas God's own choice
To place them both in paradise,
There to remain from evil free
Except they ate of such a tree.*

*But they did eat, which was a sin,
And thus their ruin did begin;
Ruined themselves, both you and me,
And all of our posterity.*

*Thus we were heirs to endless woes
Till God the Lord did interpose;
And so a promise soon did run:
That he'd redeem us by his son.*

Epistle: Hebrews 10: 5 – 10

Gospel: Luke 1: 39 – 45

P: The Gospel of the Lord
C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day: LSB 934 – My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

Video: The Anticipation of Christ . . . Skit Guys

Message from the Word:

Sermon Series: God is Coming, Part 3 – To Live in You

Sermon Text: John 14: 15-26

Nicene Creed: 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 he 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. And 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. 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

Responsive Prayer:

P: My soul magnifies the Lord,

C: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

P: My mouth derides my enemies,

C: because I rejoice in your salvation.

P: There is none holy like the Lord;

C: there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

P: The barren has borne seven,

C: but she who has many children is forlorn.

P: The Lord kills and brings to life;

C: he brings down to Sheol and raises up.

P: The Lord makes poor and makes rich;

C: he brings low and he exalts.

P: My soul magnifies the Lord,

C: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Prayers/Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution/The Lord’s Supper (10:30 a.m.)

The Bible is specific about who should attend the Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 10: 16-17; 11: 27-30). We invite those who wish to confess their sins and believe they receive Christ’s body and blood in this sacrament, for their forgiveness, to join us at the Lord’s Table for their spiritual strengthening.

Communion Anthem: On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry . . . R. J. Lamb

*On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings!*

Post-Communion Canticle: O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee (LSB 632)

O Jesus, blessed Lord, to Thee
My heartfelt thanks forever be,
Who hast so lovingly bestowed
On me Thy body and Thy blood.

Break forth, my soul, for joy and say:
What wealth is come to me this day!
My Savior dwells within my heart:
How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Closing Hymn: LSB 352 – Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Benediction

Postlude: Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord . . . J. S. Bach



Advent 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST-TIME VISITORS: Welcome to our guests and visitors! Please take home an Our Shepherd gift bag from the table in the narthex as a “thank you” for being here!

POINSETTIAS: Please sign up if you would like to purchase a poinsettia plant to decorate the altar for Christmas. You may take the plants home after the Christmas morning service. Pricing and plant styles are listed on the sheets posted in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS BREAK: Classes, choirs, and Bible studies will be on break for the next two weeks and will resume the week of January 6. Our Sunday school and Bible study will meet as usual.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: See the table for the display of lenticular Christmas cards. A free-will offering benefiting The Word Today is encouraged.

ENVELOPES: Offering envelopes for 2025 have been placed in your membership boxes.

FAST: If you wish to participate in our annual fast, we will begin on January 2nd and end on January 23rd. Information is available in the church office.

SERVE AT THE EBENEZER BREAKFAST: On Saturday, January 4, 2025, we are asking for 4-5 volunteers. We will package breakfast to be handed out to those in need beginning at 7:30 a.m. Please sign up online if you can volunteer, see our website for the link.

HOLIDAY FOOD COLLECTION: Once again this year, we will be collecting non-perishable food for the inner city. The food will be taken and given to people in need shortly before the Christmas holiday. You can bring in food anytime and leave it in the narthex along the bulletin board. Thanks for your donations!

Most needed items are: Canned fruit, rice, lentils, ramen noodles, canned beans (all kinds), Chef Boyardee items, beef stew, Manwich, chili, pasta sauce, side dishes (Rice-a-Roni, instant potatoes, etc.), canned tuna and chicken breast, bottled juice/juice boxes, canned veggies, hot cereal, raisins, nuts, mac & cheese, peanut butter, and pasta.

Personal hygiene items: soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, toilet paper and deodorant.

Donations of diapers and baby food are also welcome.

The Word Today is aired locally on Sunday mornings at 7:45 on WJYI 1340 AM and at 8:30 on WRJN 1400 AM.

Listener Responses to The Word Today ~ Goungbe (East Africa)

The sermon I listened to made me realize that many situations can happen to us in life and plunge us into confusion. But if we look to the Lord by faith, He'll eventually lead us victoriously out of these situations.

We speak of confusion when we no longer understand anything in our lives. When everything is black. But faith in God's Word allows us to see the light of the Holy Spirit that gives us hope and shows us the way out.

I realized that God's presence in our lives does not exempt us from trials. In spite of God's presence, hundreds of situations traumatize us completely, as was the case with prophet Elijah. But God came to his rescue, and that's how he always comes to our rescue.

For me, the course on confusion has personally taught me to trust God no matter what happens.

I understood that to emerge victoriously from a confused situation, we have to look to the Lord by faith through His Word. Social Network I have had to go through some confusing situations in my life, but this sermon has strengthened me a lot. I am grateful to the Lord.

I'm grateful to God for all the messages I hear on this platform. It really comforts me.

Before this sermon, I used to confuse God's love with kindness. So, I was always ready to respond to any solicitations thinking that I should also be loved in return. which always ended in frustration. But, since listening to this program, I've come to understand that God's love expresses his goodness, and we receive it through the Holy Spirit. He doesn't do things to please men, but rather to accomplish God's Will unconditionally and selflessly.

I bless the Lord for this sermon. I understood that it is from the love of God poured into me by his Spirit, that I must draw to love my neighbor. Thank you so much.

The first sermon I listened to on this platform, is about God's love. I recognized after that I didn't really understand anything about this love. But, what I retained at the end of the program is that God's love doesn't allow me to behave anyhow. Thank you Lord.

Holiday Schedule

Tuesday, December 24	Christmas Eve Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day Worship	9:30 AM
Saturday, December 28	Worship	6:00 PM
Sunday, December 29	Worship	8:00 & 10:30 AM
Sunday, December 29	Sunday School/Adult Bible Class	9:30 AM
Tuesday, December 31	NYE Worship	6:00 PM

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