



4th Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

Something New This Christmas
The Perfection of Hope

Each time Christmas comes around, we hope for something new. It may not be a gift or an object; it may be a new, deeper understanding of what God is up to sending Jesus among us.

In this season, let's look for something new. Not something that can be bought or sold, but an ongoing transformation of our daily life through the One who comes to us at Christmas, and the One who will come again at the culmination of time. Jesus is coming, and he will redefine our notions of power, position, prosperity, perfection, and priorities. We'll discover what new thing Jesus is doing in us and through us

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Then God spoke to Ahaz and said, "Ask me for a sign; ask anything you'd like."

But Ahaz was reluctant to make any demands of God.

So Isaiah said this: "God is going to give you this kind of a sign."

"A young woman will bear a son and name him Immanuel, God with us."

"By the time he is twelve years old, the threat of war from the two kings nearby will be past."

God is with us. God is near us. Our hope is found in the One who is coming at Christmas.

Come to us and save us from our sin; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

God, we long to believe that you came among us to rescue us from sin and death. You are here with us now, and one day you will return and finish what began at Christmas. Hear our prayers of confession.

We admit that we have made the story of your birth a romantic fairy tale that doesn't have the power to move us, challenge us or change us. Forgive us. We are dead in our sin and cannot save ourselves. We need you to forgive us and set us free from all that holds us captive.

Silence for Reflection

We can know the depth of God's love for us by how far Jesus is willing to go to express that love. Jesus empties himself, takes on the limitations of humanity and mortality, and gives his life away. In Jesus Christ, we are given the free gift of new life!

You are Immanuel, God with us. We worship you!

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy. Give us patience.

Christ, have mercy. Give us patience and peace.

Lord, have mercy. Give us patience and peace for the living of these days.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

God, you have entered our existence to begin something brand new and initiate a new creation.

You have entered our existence to forgive our sin and set us free from sin and death. You have entered our existence as a King who is bringing a whole new Kingdom that we are invited to reveal to the world with our lives. Help us to place our hope in you and your intentions. Help us believe this is all true and begin to live differently, in Jesus' name. Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 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. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

*The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"The Perfection of Hope"

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

#257

**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 you, O Israel.**

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again 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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

We give our offerings to our abundant and loving God who desires that all people live in peace with God and with one another. When we give generously, our gifts have the power to transform the world we live in. We are ordinary people who have the privilege and calling to partner with God to bring peace on earth. We become the heart and hands of Christ when we serve others' needs. Thank you for your generosity, all who are giving a gift now and everyone who gives automatically or in other ways.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

Let us pray. God who is with us,

allow these gifts to bring hope and healing to a broken world. Join these offerings to all that matters to you. Bring your Kingdom more into focus each day. Help us to see how you are at work in us and through us. Give us joyful, grateful hearts that beat in time with your hopes and dreams. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

It's hard to imagine how the hands of God who measured the sky could become the hands of a child in a manger.

Heaven's love has reached out to us to save us from sin and death.

The Son of God, the Servant King, is here with us in bread and wine.

It's a mystery how infant eyes have seen the dawn of time and infant ears have heard a symphony sung by angels. You are Immanuel, God incarnate. You are with us.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* #288

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
on ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.**

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

DISMISSAL

Go and live in hope because everything God has done is true. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

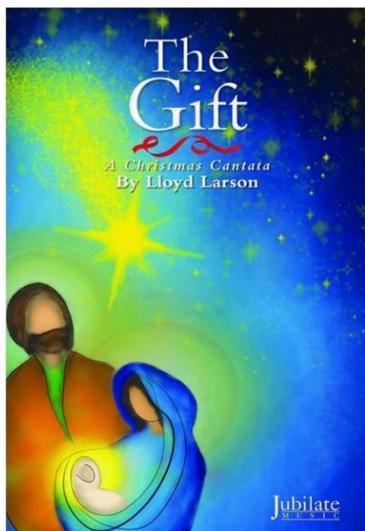
Okay, we will. Thanks be to God!

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Please Pray For...

- **Those who are grieving losses of any sort, including the friends and family of Kathy “Kiki” (sister of Mikkey T.) and Pastor Martin Haase
- **Those recovering from surgeries, and those who are ill or hospitalized including Leon Carpenter; Ken (Brother of Cathy Dahl); Ingrid James; Bob Tesch; Rose Bintliff (Friend of the Kaisers); Keith Buchholz (Brother-in-Law of Judy Stanley); Ruth Henriksen (Mother of Rebecca Kaiser); Ashley; LeAnn (Friend of Mikkey T.); Seth and Brenda (Friends of the Baschnagels); Mike; Abbot (Great-Grandson of Lane); Dorothy Wall (Friend of Toni Ramsey); Kirt Burt (Friend of the Kaisers)
- **Those with on-going concerns, including Chuck Baschnagel (Father of Mike); Kimber Kaiser; David Vining; Peg Tesch; Glenyce (Cousin of Carla Oerter); Reece Ullerich (Friend of Linda Boll); Gary McKean (Nephew of Lane Pine); Marie Kennedy; Iris Brimer; Clay Walberg; Rod Dikoff (Cousin of Roger); Suzan Heidelberger; Chelle Schefcik; Barbara (Aunt of Carmen Lakner); David Henriksen (Brother of Rebecca Kaiser)
- **For our military members and their families
- **For our leaders at all levels
- **For our siblings in Christ, our friends and enemies, both near and far



Enjoy this year's Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 18, 2022

3:00 pm

Hermosa Adventist Church

14313 Broken Spoke Place

Hermosa SD 57744

Christmas is a season of celebration, gratitude, and giving - this cantata focuses on the ultimate Christmas gift, Jesus. Brimming with beloved carols and exciting new songs, *The Gift* traces the ageless Christmas story through the lens of gratitude and our response to the Greatest Gift.

Pastor Deb Grismer, Director
Chantry Nelson, Accompanist



The Mission Committee is excited to announce we will be working with LSS of Rapid City and the Hermosa School again this year to provide Christmas gifts for local children as well as the youth who are a part of the Arise program. Thank you for helping children to experience God's love at Christmas time.

How to participate in the 2022 Local Angel Tree Mission

1. Donate financially to the OSL Angel Tree Mission of the Moment beginning now through December 31st. Cash or checks (write Mission on the memo line) can be mailed or dropped off at the church. Give online through Tith.ly (drop down menu has Mission of the Moment option.) These donations will be used to shop for gifts on tags not taken from the tree. (Pastor Deb will shop for any last-minute gift requests we receive.)
2. Take an ornament off the tree in the narthex. Purchase the gift and return it wrapped or unwrapped by December 11. Please attach the tag to the gift. Please only purchase what is on the tag. Each child has multiple tags so they will receive multiple gifts. The gift list provided by the parents have been separated onto the tags so that each child in the family receives the same number of gifts. If you would like an ornament mailed to you, contact Josie or Pastor Deb. Please do not include your name or any other gift tag on the wrapped gift.
3. The Mission Committee will be wrapping the gifts on Monday, December 12th beginning at 10 am. All are invited to come help wrap. Wrapping supplies will be furnished.

Something New This Christmas



Our Savior's Lutheran Church
You Are Invited to celebrate Christmas with us as we experience
Something New This Christmas through music, scripture, candles,
prayers and Holy Communion.

A Quiet Christmas Service

Candlelight Service with Communion

All are welcome at this special service designed for those who are
seeking a quieter service to celebrate Christmas.

Thursday Dec. 22nd 6:30pm

Christmas Eve Services

Candlelight Service with Communion

Saturday, Dec 24th 4:00 & 6:00 pm

Christmas Day Services

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Sunday Dec 25th 9:30am

*All services are in person and livestreamed on Our Savior's
Lutheran Church Facebook page and YouTube Channel*

Please email or call with any questions
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