

# FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 22, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.

## AS WE GATHER

The Advent season of preparing for the promised Savior to be born as one of us soon reaches its climax. Though in our homes and lives we may be wondering if we have done all we have needed to get ready for our own celebrations, we give thanks that at the center of our coming Christmas observations the Lord has prepared all we need. In this last Sunday of Advent and in the days ahead of anticipated Christmas joy, may we find peace in the preparations done freely for us out of grace, mercy, and perfect love centered on the Savior we soon welcome, who was born for us and all the world.

## INVOCATION

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

**People: Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Today, as we light our fourth candle, we call to mind the last aspect of Christ's coming that Advent celebrates: how Jesus comes to us *today* by *Word and Sacrament*. Jesus still comes to us today through the Word proclaimed, read, and preached. Jesus comes to us with His gifts through baptism, and the Lord's Supper. In our Gospel reading, we hear Mary sing, "His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation." The word and sacraments are where God gives His mercy, pardon, forgiveness, life, and salvation.

As the candles are lit, we remember Jesus' first coming in the manger, His promise to come again, and how he comes to us *today* in Word and Sacrament. As the Advent wreath is lit, we sing stanza 2 of "Once He Came in Blessing."

Now He gently leads us  
With Himself He feeds us  
Precious food from heaven,  
Pledge of peace here given,  
Manna that will nourish  
Souls that they may flourish

## PSALM RESPONSE *Psalms 80:1–7*

Pastor: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock!

**People: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.**

Pastor: Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

**People: stir up Your might and come to save us!**

Pastor: Restore us, O God;

**People: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Pastor: O LORD God of hosts, how long will You be angry with Your people's prayers?

**People: You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

Pastor: You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.

**People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 32:5; 80:7; 124:8*

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**People: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our maker and redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

**People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Pastor: We have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed.

**People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Pastor: Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

**O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to be born in our flesh, to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**INTROIT** *Our introit for today is based on Mary's Magnificat. We will sing LSB 933, "My Soul Rejoices," which is a hymn paraphrase of it. The tune for this is the same tune for the well-known hymn "In Thee Is Gladness."*



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the  
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me  
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



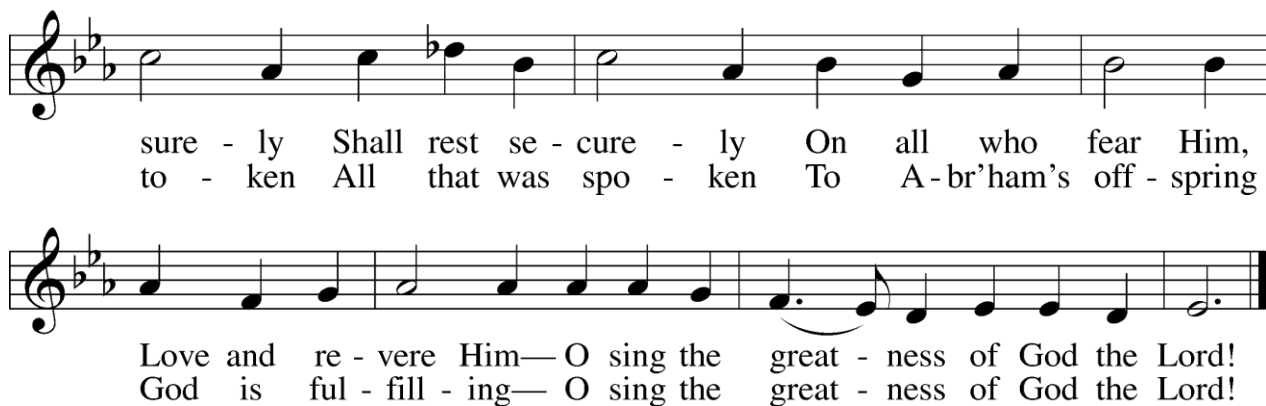
fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and  
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bless - ing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and  
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy  
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



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### **KYRIE** *spoken*

Leader: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

Leader: O Christ,

**People: have mercy.**

Leader: O Lord,

**People: have mercy.**

### **ADVENT HYMN STANZA** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” st. 1 *LSB 357*

*During the season of Advent, the Hymn of Praise is typically omitted and the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” can be sung in place of it. The hymn looks longingly towards the salvation and coming of Jesus, summarizing our Advent hope.*

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

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Micah 5:2–5a* (The coming King born in Bethlehem) But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he

shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE** *Hebrews 10:5–10* (Jesus comes to do God's will)

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" 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), then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *Matthew 1:23a*

Pastor: Alleluia. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

**People: and they shall call His name Immanuel. Alleluia.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** *Luke 1:39–56* (Mary visits Elizabeth.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever." And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN** "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" *WOV 632*

1 The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
With wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:

"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,  
Most highly favored lady."

Gloria!

2        “For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honor thee;  
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,  
Most highly favored lady.”  
Gloria!

3        Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;  
“To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said.  
“My soul shall laud and magnify God’s holy name.”  
Most highly favored lady,  
Gloria!

4        Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born  
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:  
“Most highly favored lady.”  
Gloria!  
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## **SERMON**

### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **OFFERING**

*We offer our gifts to the Lord as we use this time in our service for contemplation and preparation for the sacrament of communion. Offerings can be placed in the plates at the back entrance doors as you enter the sanctuary, or as the offering plates are passed at this time.*

### **PREFACE 2 Timothy 4:22**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS** *LSB p. 208*



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;  
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

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**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

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

Pastor: 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.”

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your

resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### **LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

### **PAX DOMINI**

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

**People:** Amen.

### **AGNUS DEI** *LSB p. 210*

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

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*You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*Communion is offered in two ways: the individual cup and the common cup. If you would like the individual cup, please partake as the assistant minister passes by after Pastor gives the bread. If you would like the common cup, let the assistant minister pass by, open your hands palm up, and Pastor will return to give you the common cup.*

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS “Shout to the Lord”**

My Jesus my Saviour  
Lord there is none like You  
All of my days I want to praise  
The wonders of Your mighty love  
My comfort my shelter  
Tower of refuge and strength  
Let every breath all that I am  
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord  
All the earth let us sing  
Power and majesty  
Praise to the King  
Mountains bow down  
And the seas will roar  
At the sound of Your name  
I sing for joy  
At the work of Your hands  
Forever I'll love You  
Forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise  
I have in You

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“Emmanuel (Hallowed Manger Ground)”

1. What hope we hold this starlit night  
A King is born in Bethlehem  
Our journey long we seek the light  
That leads to the hallowed manger ground

2. What fear we felt in the silent age  
Four-hundred years can He be found  
But broken by a baby's cry  
Rejoice in the hallowed manger ground

*Chorus:* Emmanuel Emmanuel  
God incarnate here to dwell  
Emmanuel Emmanuel  
Praise His name Emmanuel  
(Praise His name Emmanuel)

3. The Son of God here born to bleed  
A crown of thorns would pierce His brow  
And we beheld this offering  
Exalted now the King of kings  
Praise God for the hallowed manger ground



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### **BLESSING**

Pastor: May our Lord's body and blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace and with joy.

**People: Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **BENEDICTION** *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

### **HYMN** “While We Are Waiting Come”

1. While we are waiting come

While we are waiting come

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel

While we are waiting come

2. With pow'r and glory come

With pow'r and glory come

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel

While we are waiting come

3. Come Savior quickly come

Come Savior quickly come

Jesus our Lord Emmanuel

While we are waiting come

Claire Cloninger, Don Cason. CCLI Song #27525 © 1986 Curb Word Music. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL SONGS** “What Child Is This” and “Away in a Manger”

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 1.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 9:30 a.m.

**You are encouraged to take a walk this week with the Lord by reading Galatians. May the Lord make your heart burn with joy at the Good News and your place in His Kingdom!**

**GENEROSITY THOUGHTS:** *Luke 1:45 – “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”* The Lord always fulfills what He promises. We can be certain of that, and He has proven it over and over again. This faith in the Lord’s own faithfulness is what gives us the courage to follow the Lord’s commands in the face of the world’s anger and resistance, just as it gave Mary the courage to carry on in her seemingly embarrassed circumstances.

**THANK YOU** to everyone that helped with the Advent meals. Your help made the meals possible. Your help with setup, food preparation, serving and cleanup are much appreciated.

**CHRISTMAS DECORATION DONATIONS:** Sanctuary Christmas decoration donation slips are available in the narthex. Please indicate your willingness to help defray decoration costs by using the donation slip. Place in the offering plate, hand to an usher, or leave it on Maria’s desk. Donation slips will be available in the narthex through December 25.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES:** Emmaus will have services on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. and 10 p.m. and one service on Christmas Day at 10 a.m. Both Christmas Eve services will feature candlelight. The choir will sing at the 10 p.m. service.

**EMAIL NEWSLETTER:** Visitors, if you would like to receive the *Emmaus Footprints* (our monthly newsletter), please leave a note with your email address for Maria in the office. Members, please make sure we have your current email address.

**FOOD SHELF DONATION IDEAS:** When shopping for the food shelf, consider buying cranberry sauce, green tea, or canned carrots. They rarely have these items. You can buy cans by the case, and the food shelf will separate them so multiple families can benefit.

**2025 ALTAR FLOWER CHART:** The altar flower sign up chart for 2025 is now posted on the bulletin board by the office. Please sign up on the flower chart if you want to bring altar flowers on a certain Sunday. Write the occasion (birthday, anniversary, memorial) on the flower chart and it will be printed in the bulletins on that Sunday. Bring your flowers on Sunday morning and place them on the flower stand(s) by the altar.

**LWML WINTER GATHERING:** Saturday, January 25 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (655 Forest St N) from 9:30 until 11 a.m., with refreshments or light breakfast beforehand. Dr. Reed Lessing from Concordia University will be the speaker on the book of Jeremiah. Do you need encouragement to remain hopeful despite trials, tribulations and life changes that may cause despair or worry? Dr. Reed Lessing will use his book, *Overcoming Life's Sorrows: Learning from Jeremiah*, to help us see that there is hope for overcoming life’s difficulties. Everyone attending will receive a copy of the book.

**COOKIE SALE:** Grace Place Lutheran Ministries is having a cookie sale! The fundraiser will help raise funds for youth ministry, community outreach, and youth conventions. Orders are due on Christmas Day. Use the QR code to order and pay. Payment by cash will be accepted at pickup. Cookie pickup is on 12/28/2024 at Gathering Place Lutheran Ministries, 3245 New Brighton Rd. Arden Hills, MN 55112.



**CIRCUIT EPIPHANY SERVICE:** Celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord at Bethlehem! Bethlehem Lutheran Church (655 Forest Street, St. Paul, MN 55106) invites you to join in celebrating the Epiphany of our Lord with a Divine Service on Sunday, January 5, at 5:30 p.m. We will have an orchestra accompanying us for this festive service! Food and fellowship to follow (please bring a dessert or light appetizer to share). All are welcome!

**TEACHERS NEEDED:** Trinity First School is looking for mission-focused teachers in the elementary (K-2) and middle school (5-8) levels! Begin immediately or in August for the 2025-2026 school year. If interested, please send your resume to [info@trinityfirst.org](mailto:info@trinityfirst.org) or visit our website at [www.trinityfirstschool.org/employment](http://www.trinityfirstschool.org/employment).

**LWML MITES:** Where do your LWML Mites go? Nurture Faith in the Aging with Biblical Resources: Lutheran Ministries Media — Worship Anew | \$100,000. Worship Anew nurtures and strengthens the faith of aging adults by creating biblical resources that address the concerns and difficulties experienced in this stage of life. The grant for \$100,000 will enable Worship Anew to develop and expand the distribution of resources to people throughout the United States. Thank you for your support of this Gospel-filled, encouraging work. To learn more, visit [www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-17](http://www.lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-17).

**HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR”** on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “No Getting Better Than This” Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies. The Good Life--what is it? Pastor Chad Lakies says life is truly good when it's life the way God meant it to be. (Colossians 3:12-17)

**THIS WEEK AT EMMAUS:**

Today: 9:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School singing

10:30 a.m. Sunday School Reception

Tues: Christmas Eve – Office closed

5 p.m. Worship

10 p.m. Worship

Wed: Christmas Day – Office closed

10 a.m. Worship

Thurs: Limited office hours

Fri: Office closed – call Pastor in emergencies

Sat: 12-5 p.m. Organist Rehearsal

Next Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Bible Study

**SERVING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY:**

PASTOR: Rev. Nick Kooi

ALTAR GUILD: Christine S

MUSIC LEADER: Pam U

SOUND TECH: Eric R

VIDEO TECH: Randy W

WORSHIP ASSISTANT: Andy V

USHERS: Todd and Nicole P

COUNTERS: Peggy K, Nancy W

LECTOR: Paul D

GREETER: Linda K

ACOLYTE: Corrin L