

**December 22, 2024**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**



**St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 22, 2024

**“St. Philip’s Evangelical Lutheran Church and School”**

[www.stphilipsmilwaukee.com](http://www.stphilipsmilwaukee.com)

**Pastor: Raymond Kimbrough**

**Principal: Jason Schapekahm**

**Welcome, Friend!**

**You Have Come to the Right Place!**

**Jesus Loves YOU!**

**WELCOME**

**Guests and visitors, we invite you to worship with us again in the future.**

**For more information regarding St. Philip’s Lutheran Church,  
please contact Pastor Kimbrough at 414-263-1373 or 414-254-6093.**

**For information on our K4 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade Christian day school please contact  
our Principal, Jason Schapekahm at 414-263-7614 or 414-659-4688.**

***A REAL CHRISTMAS  
WILL LIFT UP THE LOWLY***

**EXPLANATION OF THE THEME OF THE DAY**

By this time of the holiday season, people are often weighted down. They feel guilty about presents that are not perfect, or parties that did not go as planned, or year-end projects that did not get completed. To top it all off, now is when it dawns on people how little attention they have given to the spiritual preparation Advent invites.

If that is how we feel, perhaps the frenzy of December has done us a favor. We have been stretched to our limits. We have been made painfully aware of our shortcomings. We have been humbled. Perfect! For being made aware of our weakness does not disqualify us from God’s care. It does the opposite. IT is what prepares us for the work he does best. He is a God who lifts up the lowly.

# Solo - O Holy Night – Sung by Ms. Willie Mae Reynolds

## 353 Joy to the World

CW 353



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their  
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.  
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.  
**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

**Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins,  
and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive  
you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Devotion

*Micah 5:2–5a*

<sup>2</sup>“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

<sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup>He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.

<sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace

### 333 O Little Town of Bethlehem

CW 333



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the King and peace to all the earth.  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, abr., alt.

Tune: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

Text and tune: Public domain

## Second Devotion

*Hebrews 10:5–10*

<sup>5</sup>Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,  
but a body you prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>with burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you were not pleased.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—  
I have come to do your will, my God.’ ”

<sup>8</sup>First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. <sup>9</sup>Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

# 350 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CW 350



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness!



peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!  
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,



with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

## *Refrain*



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847

Text and tune: Public domain



## Gospel Devotion

Luke 1:39–55

<sup>39</sup>At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, <sup>40</sup>where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup>In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup>for he has been mindful  
of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.

<sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful

<sup>55</sup>to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”

# 337 Silent Night, Holy Night

CW 337 sts. 1-3



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
heav'n - ly hosts\_\_ sing, Al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: tr. John F. Young, 1820-1885; Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848

Tune: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863

Text and tune: Public domain

*Stand*

## **Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.**

**He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Offering**

*Please place your offerings in the box at the back of church.*

*Online giving is also available from our website or click this link:*

*<https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing>.*

## **General Prayer**

### **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.**

# The Sacrament

## Preface

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

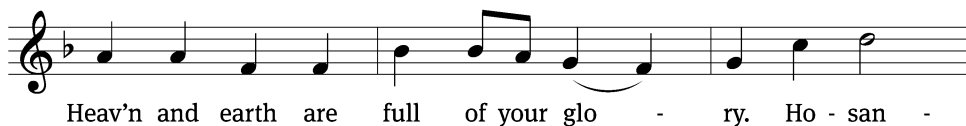
**We lift them up to the Lord.**

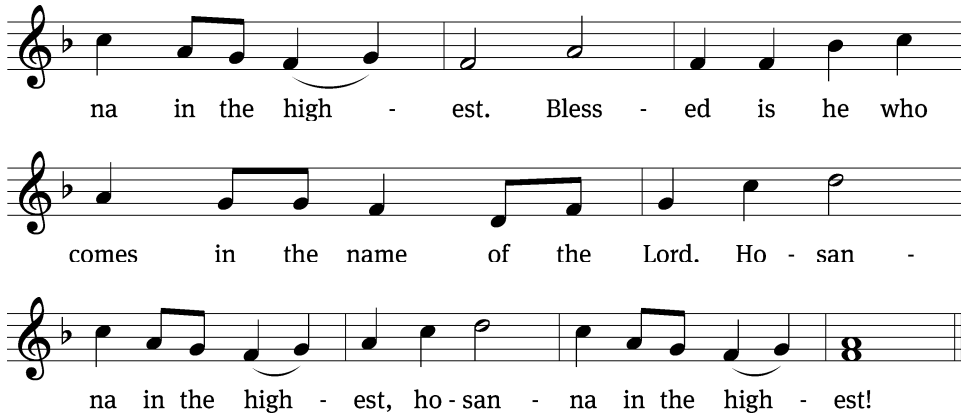
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy





na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
 na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

Tune: © 2002 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 741883

## Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

# O Christ, Lamb of God

The musical score is written in a single treble clef on a five-line staff. It begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are printed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.  
A - men. A - men.

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer

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*Be seated*

# Distribution

## Distribution Hymn

### 354 O Come, All Ye Faithful

CW 354



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come\_ ye to Beth - le - hem!  
born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes!  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee\_ be all glo - ry giv'n!



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:  
On - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther:  
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:



*Refrain*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!



*Stand*

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift.  
We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our  
love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who  
lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**Amen.**

# 327 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327 sts. 1, Ref, 2-4



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 2 O come, O Root of Jes - se, free your own from  
 3 O come, O Day-spring from on high, and cheer us  
 4 O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen

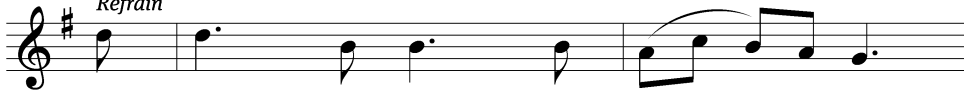


cap - tive Is - ra - el that mourns in lone - ly  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your  
 by your draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y  
 wide our heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that



ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 peo - ple save, and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
 clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
 leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.

## *Refrain*



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



shall come to you, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent., Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt.  
 Tune: French, 15th cent., alt  
 Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Setting Four from Christian Worship

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### **"Our Mission Statement"**

#### **(Our Purpose as a Church)**

Our mission here at St. Philip's Lutheran is outlined for us in Matthew 28:19: 'Go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them and baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.'  
Making disciples includes proclaiming God's Word in its truth and purity, strengthening the faith of those under our care, and reaching out to the people of our community, (including our unchurched friends and relatives).  
Let us pray for and work together toward this goal.



**St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church & School**

www.stphilipmilwaukee.com

3012 N. Holton St.

Milwaukee, WI 53212

414 263-7614

splsoffice@stphilipmilwaukee.com

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

[www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net)

**Serving at Worship**

**Presiding Minister**

Pastor Raymond Kimbrough

**Organ**

Nicole Cottman

**In Our Prayers**

Judi Tevich

Kitty Henderson

Natasha McCants

Melvin Reed

**Next Week: December 29, 2024**

**Piano:** Grace Sauer

**Liturgy & Lay Reader:** Joel Sauer

**WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT ST. PHILIP'S**

**Wednesday, December 25 Christmas Day Worship 9:30AM**

**Sunday, December 29 NO BIBLE CLASS  
Worship 10:30AM**

**NO WORSHIP SERVICE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, DECEMBER 31st**

**2025 Offering Envelopes** are available in the back of church. If you would like to receive a box of envelopes please contact the church office at 414-263-1373 or school office at 414-263-7614.

**OFFERING UPDATE**

	<b>Week</b> <b>12-9 to 12-15</b>	<b>Month</b> <b>December</b>	<b>July to Date</b> <b>2024-2025</b>
Budget	\$ 3,584.91	\$ 10,754.72	\$ 86,037.74
Actual	\$ 3,051.00	\$ 11,626.40	\$ 67,341.84
Over (Under)	(\$ 533.91)	\$ 871.68	<b>(\$ 18,695.90)</b>

*Please place your offerings in the box at the back of church.  
Online giving is also available from our website or click this link:  
<https://members.myeoffering.com/#/landing>.*

**CALL RECEIVED**

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Philip's Lutheran Church,

On Sunday, December 8, I received a call to serve as principal at Mount Lebanon Lutheran School in Milwaukee, WI. I pray for God's direction as I consider this new ministry opportunity and humbly ask for your prayers as I deliberate where God would have me serve. Although this was not something I was seeking, I trust in God's perfect plan and in His timing. I am confident the Lord of the Church will accomplish His will through this time of deliberation and it is my prayer He uses this opportunity to bless each ministry. Please keep our brothers and sisters at Mount Lebanon in your prayers just as you continue to pray for one another and the ministry here at St. Philip's.

In His Service,

Jason Schapekahn



### **ADVENT WREATH**

The Advent wreath that has been placed in the front of the church has some special significance. The candles on the wreath remind us that Jesus Christ, God's Son, is the Light of the world, and they each have a special emphasis.

The first candle symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle." The prophets of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah, waited in hope for the Messiah's arrival. The blue color symbolizes royalty, repentance, and fasting.

The second candle represents faith and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David. The second candle is also blue to symbolize preparation for the coming king.

The third candle symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle." To the shepherd's great joy, the angels announced that Jesus came for humble, unimportant people like them, too. In liturgy, the color rose signifies joy. This candle is colored pink to represent joyfulness and rejoicing.

The fourth candle represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle." The angels announced that Jesus came to bring peace--He came to bring people close to God and to each other again. This color is also blue to represent the culmination of love through the Messiah.

The fifth candle represents light and purity and is called "Christ's candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day. This candle is white to represent pure light and victory.

The Altar Cloths are blue during Advent. Blue is the color of hope and anticipation, as we look forward to Jesus' coming.

**St. Philip's Lutheran Church & School**

**Pastor Raymond Kimbrough**

**3012 N Holton Street**

**Milwaukee, WI 53212**

**Church: 414-263-1373**

**Cell Phone: 414-254-6093**

**TO FRIENDS AND VISITORS**

*This is the house of God. In His Name we welcome each and every person. May His Word bring you closer to your Savior, assuring you of the forgiveness of all your sins through Jesus' death and resurrection.*

*If you are without a church home or have recently moved to the area, our pastor will be happy to call on you or answer your questions about church membership. If you are burdened with sorrow or trouble, we invite you to call on the pastor at any time.*

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

*St. Philip's congregation supports and maintains a Christian Day School for the thorough training of the whole child. We want each child to know, not only how to deal with this life, but to know their Savior and prepare for eternal life. The school is called St. Philip's Lutheran School and is located at 3012 N. Holton Street.*

**School Office Phone: 414-263-7614**

**Church Office Phone: 414-263-1373**

**Church Service – 10:30AM**

**Bible Class – 9:30AM**