



**Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church & School  
Grafton, WI  
December 21, 2025**

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

**Today's Focus:** Our Advent prayer is, "Come Lord Jesus." Jesus' coming reveals how God lovingly fulfills prophecy.

**Stewardship from God's Word:** Matthew 1:18-25

Stewardship involves trust—taking God at his word. God calls for that trust when asking for first-fruit offerings from his people. He also asked for it from Joseph, the husband of Mary. This wasn't the way Joseph would have wanted to start his marriage, but he trusted the Lord to bless him as he did what the Lord asked.

**Welcome!**

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### SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Presiding:

Ronny Nguyen

Organist:

Laura Rodrigue

Pastor: Jonathan Fischer

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School Office: Jill Klug

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*The 10:30 service is livestreamed for our members at home.*



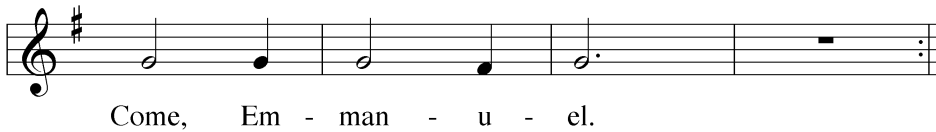
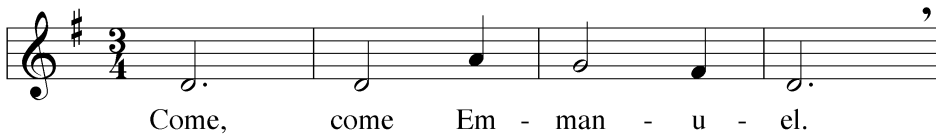
1332 Arrowhead Rd, Grafton, WI

[OurSaviorGrafton.org](http://OurSaviorGrafton.org)

Church 262-377-6363

School 262-377-7780

The cantor will sing the refrain once  
The congregation will then join and continuously sing:



*During the singing of the refrain the cantor sings:*

God will give us a sign, so ...

For a child from the virgin will ...

And his name will be Jesus, so ...

Oh the King of glory shall ...

He will save us from sin, so ...

For the son of God will ...

## **Invocation**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**And also with you.**

## Confession

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

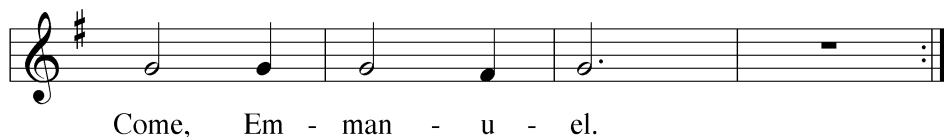
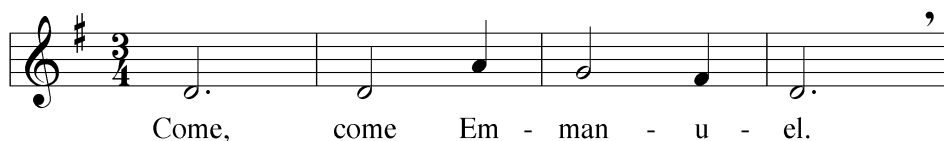
**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

*All sing the refrain while the cantor sings the verses*



Lord have mercy upon us and come.

Christ, have mercy upon us and come.

Lord, have mercy upon us and come.

# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## 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.**

## First Reading

*Isaiah 7:10–14*

<sup>10</sup>Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup>“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

<sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

<sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# 89C Love Enduring Evermore

Psalm 89C



1 Love will be our song for - ev - er, faith - ful love from  
2 Heav'n and earth a - like af - firm it: LORD, you are mag -  
3 Once, when Is - rael lacked a lead - er, Da - vid was the  
4 Now, though, we have felt your an - ger; now we find dis -



a - ges past: love en - shrined with - in a prom - ise made by  
nif - i - cent! E - vil pow'rs and hid - den forc - es you have  
man you chose; an ex - alt - ed throne you gave him, and re -  
as - ter near. Shame is ours in - stead of tri - umph; neigh - bors



you and sure to last; hu - man tongues and an - gel voic - es  
ren - dered im - po - tent. At your throne of love and jus - tice  
lief from all his foes; e - ven when your reb - el peo - ple  
see our plight and sneer. How much long - er till you hear us?



join in rev - 'rence and de - light, prais - ing your un -  
we ex - tol you, faith - ful King: blest are those who  
scorned your ways and spurned your law, still your prom - ise  
Life is short, so swift our days! Lord, re - new the



ri - valed splen - dor, lov - ing LORD, the God of might.  
learn to trust you— they have am - ple cause to sing.  
shaped the fu - ture: love en - dur - ing ev - er - more.  
love you prom - ised— fill your peo - ple's hearts with praise.

## Second Reading

Romans 1:1–7

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— <sup>2</sup>the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures <sup>3</sup>regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, <sup>4</sup>and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. <sup>5</sup>Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. <sup>6</sup>And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people:

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

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Lighting of the Advent Candles

*This morning, four candles on the Advent wreath are lit. The fourth candle is called the Angel candle, or the Love candle. This candle reminds us how God revealed his love to us as he fulfills his promise of a Savior.*

We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

**We remember Jesus, whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

**We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*Four Advent candles are lit.*

Stand

## Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

<sup>18</sup>This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But after he had considered 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 home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

<sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup>“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

<sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup>But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

CW 315

## Sermon

Matthew 1:18–25

*Space is provided for you to take notes during the sermon.*

*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.**

*Be seated*

## Profession of Faith

*At the 10:30 service, Linda Drews will join the congregation through a profession of faith.*

## Prayer

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.*

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

**We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.**

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

**Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."**

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

**Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.**

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

**Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.**

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

**Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.  
**Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.**

## Offering

*Our Savior's ministries are supported by the joyful and generous gifts of her members. If you are not a member of Our Savior, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. It is our privilege and pleasure to serve you with God's Word today. You may make your gift in the following ways:*

**Give In person:** The offering is collected during each service.

**Give with the App:** Download the *Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement* app, search near me and select "Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran".

**Give Online** [Oursaviorgrafton.org/give](https://oursaviorgrafton.org/give).



*During the offering, please sign the friendship register located in each pew.*

## The Sacrament

*Stand*

### Preface

CW 183

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

CW 184

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er, God of might. Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - 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!

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **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  $\dagger$  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.**

## Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186



Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

*Be seated*

## Distribution

*Out of sincere love for the truth of God's Word and precious souls, we practice closed Communion in our congregation. This has been the practice of Christians for centuries and is thoroughly scriptural. It neither questions the faith nor judges the heart of any individual, yet expects that there be full doctrinal agreement among those who commune. For this reason, we ask that only members of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) join us for the Lord's Supper today. If you have any questions please speak with Pastor Fischer after the service.*

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

CW 327

## Creator of the Stars of Night

CW 323

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 you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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.**

## Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

CW 313



## Christmas Worship Opportunities

### Christmas at Our Savior

*A Children's Christmas Service*

December 14 @ 4:00 pm

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

December 24 @ 6:00 and 8:00

### Christmas Festival Service

December 25 @ 9:30 am

### Acknowledgments

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