

MUSIC *Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mild* Jill Sousek, piano

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

SENDING

BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Adore and Be Still* Jill Sousek, piano

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Into this scene appears a figure surrounded by streaming light. The angel Gabriel appears over the town of Nazareth, to Mary, to give her the message that she will bear the Son of God, Jesus. The figure of Mary then appears. The painting transitions from an outside scene to a view from within a simple Palestinian home, looking out the doorway to the angel's silhouette peering in. The one-room living quarters are separated from the animals by a drop in the level of the floor. The animals would help to warm the home. The subtle figure of the dove indicates the Holy Spirit descending on Mary. One of Mary's hands is visible in a posture indicating that she is both troubled by this news, and also receiving it as it is declared upon her. Her other hand, though not visible, may be considered to be on her chest as if to question if she is really the recipient of this news. The postures of the sheep and donkey give curious looks to what is transpiring before their eyes. - *Paul Oman*

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Welcoming All,
Growing,
and Sharing God's Love.*



Rev. Scott Ludford, senior pastor
Debbie Bernard, administrative assistant
Jill Sousek, organist and music director
Jennifer Greiert, parish nurse



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Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1254 S. Union Street, Shawano, WI 54166



Holy Communion

PRELUDE Jill Sousek, piano

Welcome and Announcements

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross ☩ *may be made in remembrance of Baptism.*

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires. Loving and forgiving God,
we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free— free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ☩ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

MUSIC *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Jill Sousek, piano

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLES

We have lit three candles – for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle – the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger than death. We love, because God loves us.

Candle of love is lit.

MUSIC *Variation 3 on a French Noel* Jill Sousek, piano

ADVENT PRAYER

Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

WORD

HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary

said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

DRAWN TO THE WORD VIDEO

REFLECTIONS Pastor Scott Ludford

MUSIC *Waiting for Messiah* Jill Sousek, piano

APOSTLES' CREED

We have been made God's people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

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 CHURCH

Hear us, O God. / **Your mercy is great.**

The petitions conclude: ... Jesus Christ our Lord. / Amen

COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

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.

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