



St. John's Episcopal Church



December 23, 2018
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
8am & 10am Eucharist
Coffee Hour to follow



Today's Service Leaders

8am

Reader – Kate Kipp

Prayers – Gina Crispell, Chalice – Drew Crispell

Ushers – Lee Hanks

10am

Reader – Pamela Glennon

Prayers – Will Fowle

Chalice – Jim Hawkins

Crucifer – *Needed*

Acolyte – Suzanne Gallant

Ushers – Steve & Shelley Miller

Counting – Pamela Glennon & *Needed*

Organ – Pat Metter

Coffee Hour – Richmond Hawkins

Close Building – Richmond Hawkins

December Altar Guild – Shelley Miller

*The heather on the altar is in anticipation of advent
and in memory of Art Dellenbach*

Service Leaders for December 30

9am

Reader – Dixie Terrell Wilhite

Prayers – Greg Lamansky

Chalice – Shelley Miller

Crucifer – Lily Burgess

Acolyte – *Needed*

Ushers – Will & Ginny Fowle

Counting – Vickie Richmond Hawkins & Steve Miller

Organ – Julie Burgess

Coffee Hour – *Needed*

Close Building – *Needed*

A Gathering of God's People

All standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
People And Blessed be His kingdom, now and forever.

Hymn

Lift up your heads

Hymnal 436

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

All sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule 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 brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15

The Song of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:5-10

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

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

through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Sequence

O come, O come, verse 7 & 8

Hymnal 56

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39-55

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. 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 powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon - The Rev'd Canon Ezgi S. Perkins

Nicene Creed

Please stand as you are able.

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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

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.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic 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.

Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

Come Emmanuel and be with us. Be with those who are in exile in body, mind or spirit. Be with those who are alone or lost. Be with those who *cannot find you*.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come O Wisdom from on high, and inspire us with knowledge and understanding. Reveal the path that reconciles us to you and each other, that we might live in love and justice.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come O Lord of might, and be with all your children. Bless the work of your families throughout the world, and let each represent and proclaim you faithfully. Let the vision of peace dwell among us and lead us.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come, O Branch of Jesse's Tree, and bless our families. Free us from whatever keeps us apart, and give us grateful hearts for the generations who have lived in faith, and shared their faith with us and others.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come, O Key of David, and open our eyes to the promise of life. In midst of suffering and sickness of any kind, let that promise give us hope and strength that you want healing and wholeness for all your children.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

We pray this day for those on our intercession list...

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come O Dayspring from on high. In this season of short days and long nights, cheer us with the anticipation of your birth, and the

light that comes with resurrection. Let the darkness that overwhelms us with our sins be turned to light in the power of your forgiveness.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

Come, Desire of nations, and bind in one the hearts of all mankind. Let our divisions cease. Guide the leaders of the nations, our state, and our communities.

People Come Lord Jesus, and hear our prayer.

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Silence

Celebrant and People

God our Creator: During this transitional period in our congregation, open our hearts to Your Holy Spirit, and help us to discern Your call. Guide each of us to realize our importance in the process. Help us to identify and use our individual spiritual gifts to develop the purpose and mission You have entrusted to us in your love and mercy. Sustain us as a vibrant, welcoming, and patient community that is ready to invite a new priest to share our journey. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Please kneel as able.

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Minister and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,

and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Peace

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Birthday and Anniversary Prayers

Prayers may be found on the bookmarks in the pews.

Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Come thou long expected Jesus

Hymnal 66

Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

S 125

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
AMEN.

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

This is God's table and it is God's meal we all share in as God's children. Please feel free to join us for Communion. If you need a gluten free host, let the priest know at the altar rail.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn

Tell out my soul

Hymnal 437

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

A Note on Today's Readings

In our readings and in the Collect for today, the major themes of The theme of the Fourth Sunday of Advent is the role of the Virgin Mary in the events that brought about our salvation. A related theme is the Lord's human nature.

The first reading deals with the Messiah's human origins. He will come from the village of Bethlehem within the clan of Ephratha, the smallest and least significant of all the clans of the Tribe of Judah. The importance of this prophecy from the book of Micah is that with the Messiah, as with all people, greatness comes from God rather than from human sources.

It was as an obedient human being that Jesus made the willing offering of himself for our salvation, says the author of the Letter to the Hebrews. The salvation of humanity was accomplished within human life not apart from it.

Human nature has a real and definitive role to play, a role revealed in the story of Mary. Today's Gospel reading is the story of Mary's visit to Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. Both Elizabeth and her unborn son rejoice in Mary's role. God's blessing of Mary, the lowly servant, will be extended in the ministry of Christ to all, especially the poor and the lowly. In her acceptance and cooperation with God's will, Mary becomes the model for our response to God and the human agent of God's gift of the redeeming Christ to the world.

IN NEED OF PRAYER....IN NEED OF CARE?

Please let us know when you are in need of prayer and care.

Vickie Richmond Hawkins, Sr. Warden

Email: warden@stjohnswausau.org

The Church Office: 715.845.6947

WHEN SHOULD YOU CALL?

When you become seriously ill, are dealing with a newly diagnosed disease or condition, or are hospitalized for treatment, surgery or rehabilitation. When you are experiencing a spiritual, physical, emotional or financial crisis. When you become concerned for the person who usually shares the pew with you because he or she has not been in church.

When you experience one of life's many transitions: a birth, a death, a job loss/change, a move, an empty nest, retirement, etc. When you need prayer and care but don't want to "bother" anyone with your troubles – please contact us anyway; you will not be "bothering" us!

Intercession List

Parish Members:

Betty Smith, Don Weinkauff, Alice (sister of Don), John Sukup, Pat Evenson, Barb Knutson, Peter and Betty Nielsen, Tatiana Ewenko, Jeff Buchholz, Evelyn Sommi, Carl & Sally Hertting, Tom Gallant, Jim Lapointe, Josh Nowinsky,

Our seminarian: Erik Evenson

Others to Pray For:

Taffy, Joyce, Keegan, Marina, Jack, Michele, David, Krista, Griff, Ruth, Richard, Terrie, Beth, Diane, Sally, Cullen, Allie, Carolyn & Elmer

Bishop Godfrey and the Anglican Diocese of Masvingo, Zimbabwe (our companion diocese)

Welcome to St. John's Church

If you are a regular worshiper or do not currently have a church home and would like to join our congregation, please contact us today with your name and address at communications@stjohnswausau.org

OR fill out the form below and place it in the plate at offertory, or give to any usher. We also welcome you to join us at coffee hour in Memorial Hall every Sunday after service.

Our Mission

To restore all people to God and each other in Christ.

Name: _____

Family Members: (including children and ages _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Home Cell

Email: _____

New to the area?: Yes No

I'd like you to know that:

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

330 McClellan St., Wausau, WI 54403

www.stjohnswausau.org

The Church Office: 715.845.6947



CHURCH STAFF & VOLUNTEERS:

Choir Director: Julie Burgess

Organists: Cathy Veldhuizen, Patricia Metter, Julie Burgess

Education: Jason Chan (Sunday School), Cyndi Strampe,
Ruth Schuette

Sexton: Kim Schoenberger

Office & Website: Theresa Ambord

Altar Guild: Ruth Schuette

ECW – Shelley Miller

Buildings & Grounds: Steve Miller

OUR VESTRY MEMBERS:

Sr Warden: Vickie Richmond Hawkins

Jr Warden: Steve Miller

Clerk of Vestry: Dixie Terrell Wilhite

Vestry: Julie Bliss (2020), Brad Bollmann (2020), Tom Gallant (2020),
Travis Jensen (2019), Tyler McCormack (2019), Patti Schaal (2019),
Pamela Glennon (2018), Georgia Moen (2018), Dixie Terrell Wilhite (2018),

Treasurer: Beverly Royer (since 2013)