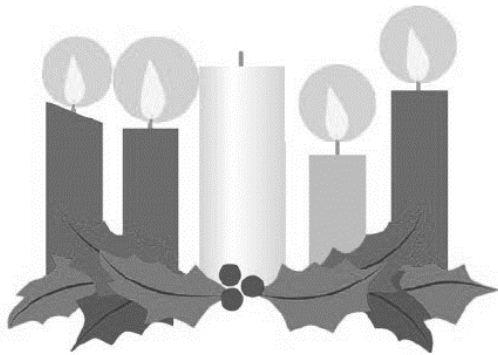


Healing Waters Parish  
December 20, 2020  
Bergen Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday  
OF  
*Advent*

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## OPENING

♪ Emmanuel, God with us.

1        *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 you, O Israel.*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

♪ Emmanuel, God with us.

2        *O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
          embracing all things far and nigh:  
          in strength and beauty come and stay;  
          teach us your will and guide our way.*

*Refrain*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.*

We worship you, our wise God,  
through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and  
ever.

♪ Emmanuel, God with us.

3      *O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.*

*Refrain*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel*

## PRAYER

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.  
May we, with Mary, sing your praises and magnify  
your name. As we worship, renew our vision that  
we may do your will. In your name we pray,

**Amen.**

♪ Emmanuel, God with us.

4      *O come, O Branch of Jesse, free  
your own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell your people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.*

*Refrain*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel*

# THE WORD

## PSALM

Psalm 146 — (From the Message bible version)

<sup>1-2</sup> Hallelujah! O my soul, praise God! All my life long I'll praise God, singing songs to my God as long as I live. <sup>3-9</sup>  
Don't put your life in the hands of experts who know nothing of life, of salvation life. Mere humans don't have what it takes; when they die, their projects die with them. Instead, get help from the God of Jacob, put your hope in God and know real blessing! God made sky and soil, sea and all the fish in it. He always does what he says—he defends the wronged, he feeds the hungry. God frees prisoners—he gives sight to the blind, he lifts up the fallen. God loves good people, protects strangers, takes the side of orphans and widows, but makes short work of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> God's in charge—always. Zion's God is God for good! Hallelujah!

♪ Emmanuel, God with us.

5        *O come, O Key of David, come,  
          and open wide our heav'nly home;  
          make safe the way that leads on high,  
          and close the path to misery.*

*Refrain*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel*

# Gospel Luke 1:26-55

The Holy Gospel is from Luke chapter 1

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>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. <sup>36</sup>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. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>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. <sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." <sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from

generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

## Message & Reflection

Something to think about ...

The angel said to Mary, "Don't be afraid, you have found favor with God." Where might you leave fear behind?

How does worship of God give you clarity of vision?

How will you magnify the Lord today?

## Offering

### Prayers

God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need. Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community.

Hear us wise God,

through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever.

♪ Emmanuel, God with us.

5 *O come, O Key of David, come,  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.*

*Refrain*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever.

♪ Emmanuel, God with us.

6 *O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;  
O Sun of justice, now draw near.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadow put to flight.*

*Refrain*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever.

♪ Emmanuel, God with us.

7 *O come, O King of nations, come,  
O Cornerstone that binds in one:  
refresh the hearts that long for you;  
restore the broken, make us new.*

*Refrain*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.*

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all who cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence especially Bette, Theodora, Sheldon, Savannah, Betty, Joyce, Vivian, Bonnie, those in our community Cheryl, Tim, Sallie, Landyn, Libby, Gail, Janet, Gary, Jill, Tony, those in our hearts and those who do not wish to be named as God knows who they are and exactly what they need.

Hear us wise God,  
through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever.

♪ Emmanuel, God with us.

8 *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 you, O Israel.*



Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may worship with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace. **Amen.**

### ♪ Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

<i>1</i> Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears & sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art, dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.	<i>2</i> Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king; born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.
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*Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-178*

### 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.

### SENDING

#### ♪ Joy to the World

*1* Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

- 2 *Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*
- 3 *No more let sin and sorrow grow  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.*
- 4 *He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.* Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

## BLESSING

Even as we wait, watch, and wonder, and  
worship,  
God is with us.  
Go in peace as you worship the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYER LIST

**A** – Bette Schweer; **B** – Betty Peterson, Joyce Pederson, Vivian Anderson, Bonnie Westfield;  
**SL** – Theodora Miller, Sheldon Haaland, Savannah Rausch; **Community** – Tim Yerigan, Sallie Bellicot, Landyn Berends, Libby Dack, Gail Gregoire, Janet Tantow, Gary Johnson, Jill Boehne, Cindy Buyert, Tony Rodriguez + *Please let Angie or Mort know of any change that should be made to the prayer list.*

### SUNDAY MORNING IN-PERSON WORSHIP

**Augustana** – 9:30 am

**Bergen** – 8:30 am\*

**St. Lucas** – 10:45 am

\*Live Zoom worship every Sunday at 8:30 am. It will also be recorded and posted on the Healing Waters Parish website for viewing later.

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIMES w/Communion:

**Augustana** – 5:30 pm

**Bergen** – 4:00 pm -- Drive-Up Communion 3:15 – 3:45

**St. Lucas** – worship at 7:00 pm

**Mort will be on vacation 12/25-12/31** – Please contact Angie with any emergencies.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is Tuesday, **December 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Submit information or articles to Angie Thostenson at [office@healingwatersparish.org](mailto:office@healingwatersparish.org).

**“LIKE” HEALING WATERS PARISH** on Facebook! Get the latest parish news and photos by “liking” HWP’s Facebook page!

**UPCOMING ANOUNCEMENTS** If you want anything added to the announcements, or for information or questions about worship Angie Thostenson at [office@healingwatersparish.org](mailto:office@healingwatersparish.org) or 507-766-0909 or Mort at [mortm60@gmail.com](mailto:mortm60@gmail.com) or 320-841-1085

# BERGEN OPPORTUNITIES

## Bergen Worship

will be both in-person and virtual starting Sunday, Dec. 20th. Worship is at 8:30 am. Connect to Zoom using the Virtual Worship/Sermons link on the Healing Waters Parish website. Bergen has had the internet installed which should help improve delivery of the service.

## Bergen Christmas Eve Worship with Communion will

**be 4:00 pm.** There will also be drive-up Communion offered on Christmas Eve from 3:15-3:45 pm for those not attending in-person worship.

### LOOKING AHEAD:

**December 20<sup>th</sup>** – 8:30 am Worship In-Person and Virtual

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** – 3:15-3:45 pm Drive up Communion

**December 24<sup>th</sup>** – 4:00 pm Service In-Person and Virtual

**December 27<sup>th</sup>** – No Worship

**January 3<sup>rd</sup>** – 8:30 am Worship with Communion  
(In-Person and Virtual)

**January 10<sup>th</sup>** -8:30 am Worship  
(In-Person and Virtual)

*Thank you* to those that have been providing special music for our Sunday worship. It has been wonderful to hear the talents of our young members! Anyone else – young or older – are welcome to join this elite group of performers! Just let Mort know.

*Thank you* to those that put up the outdoor lights and wreath, put up the Christmas tree and other indoor decorating to make our church festive for the season.

**December Work Group** – David & Janet Gabrielson

**January Work Group** – Rick & Tina Klosterboer

There are copies of the *In-Person Worship Procedure* following CoVid Guidelines on the table downstairs – feel free to take.

*Thought to Remember:*

God bless you and all whom you love.