

things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers.”

Sermon Hymn: 24 – The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Sermon: Wonder at the Promise Fulfilled

Offering: *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

Hymn: 7 – Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Benediction

Closing Song: Silent Night – *Senior Choir*

Ushers: This Week – Tyler Danielson & Tim Walsh
Christmas Eve – Please Volunteer to Help
Christmas Day – Please Volunteer to Help
Next Week – Russ Schuld & Justin Draeger

Greeters: This Week – Larry & Patti Zastrow
Christmas Eve – Please Volunteer to Help
Christmas Day – Please Volunteer to Help
Next Week – Richard & Shirley Pfeifer

St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church

The 4th Sunday in Advent - December 23rd, 2018



P.O. Box 86, Helenville, Wisconsin

Pastor: Mark Swanson Church Tel: 920-674-3307

Principal: Craig Winkler School Tel: 262-582-3010

Organist: Wendy Winkler

We Welcome You!

Order of Worship: p. 38

Opening Song: A Quiet Carol – *Senior Choir*

Prayer of the Day:

M: 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.

C: Amen.

First Lesson - Micah 5:2-5a

Verse 1 calls on the city to prepare for the onslaught of God's judgment upon rebellious Judah. Yet what follows is a message of deliverance for the faithful. A king will be born to bring peace. But not just a descendant of David. He will trace his roots to Abraham, Adam, indeed before the creation of the world. This same passage that pointed the Magi to Bethlehem and the Savior, points us to this God-man who will rule more than the clans of Judah. He will bring peace and justice to the ends of the earth.

²“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.” ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴ 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. ⁵ And he will be their peace.

Senior Choir – Noel, Noel

Second Lesson - Hebrews 10:5-10

The writer to the Hebrews explains the significance of God made flesh by stressing the sacrificial purpose for the Christ's body. Quoting Psalm 40:6-8, the Lord gives us confidence in willingness of the Christ to make the only true sacrifice once for all. He had to become man, so that by his body we might be made holy once and for all.

⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, ‘Here I

am - it is written about me in the scroll - I have come to do your will, O God.’”

⁸ First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them” (although the law required them to be made). ⁹ Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Verse of the Day: *Alleluia. Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia. (Mathew 1:23)*

Senior Choir – Coventry Carol

Gospel - Luke 1:39-55

The exclamation of Elizabeth, the leaping of baby John, and the song of Mary are all Spirit-wrought reactions to the imminent fulfillment of God's promised deliverance. We join Mary in marveling at the great things done by the Mighty One. The contrast of judgment for the wicked and deliverance for the faithful illustrates the depth of God's mercy to every generation in Christ.

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

⁴⁶ And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good