

The 1st Sunday of Advent

December 1st, 2024 ~ 8:30am



+ Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +

2451 Saucon Valley Rd. Center Valley, PA 18034

Office: 610-865-4144

The Rev. Lisa K. Borrell, Pastor ~ 610-762-2139

Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist



WELCOME

(Please stand as you are comfortable and able*

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

*Opening Litany for Advent

P: In a world of war, famine, and disease, where families go hungry, and entire regions face destruction by natural disasters ...

C: We call upon You, Lord of Hope, to come.

P: In a world where so many have lost faith and courage ...

C: We call upon you, Lord of Hope, to come.

P: In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Hope into our world.

C: We await the birth of the Christ-child, the coming of God into our lives in a new way.

P: Messiah, come, and save us.

C: May we become hope that is alive in our world. Amen.

*Hymn #253

“He Came Down”

*Prayer of the Day

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. ~ Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of

P: our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lighting of the 1st Candle on the Advent Wreath

(Prayer ~We praise You, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when He comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome Him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen).

Sing vs. 1 of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"

O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

The 1st Reading ~ Jeremiah 33: 14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name —"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 25 (selective verses, read responsively)

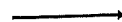
¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**



⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰ **All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

The Second Reading ~ 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** (sung by all ~ hymn tune #510)

Word that speaks God's tender love,

one with God beyond all telling.

Word that sends us from above

God the Spirit, with us dwelling.

Word of truth, to all truth lead us;

Word of life, with one bread feed us.



God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

The Holy Gospel according to the 21st chapter of St. Luke
Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said: ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹Then Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ!**

The Sermon

*Hymn #436 “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”

*The Apostles' Creed (professed together)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under

Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

***Prayer of the Church**

Merciful God ... Receive our prayer

Anthem "A Little Child Will Come to Lead Us"

The Blessing of the Communion Elements

The Lord's Prayer (traditional ~ prayed by all)



+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

This morning, the sacrament will be received by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer in the juice and will hand it to each communicant so that they may receive it between thumb and forefinger and place it in their own mouth. Children and youth not yet instructed in the meaning of the sacrament are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing and a cracker. †

Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

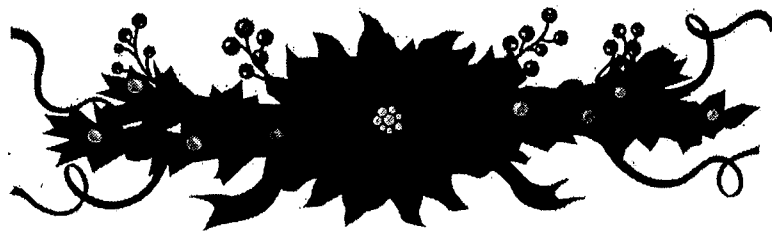
P: O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give You thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of Your Son. By Your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be His body in the world, that more and more we will give You praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, + Creator, Savior, and Comforter, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

***Hymn #260**

"The King Shall Come"

***The Dismissal**



If you would like to order poinsettia plants which will adorn our church nave on Christmas Eve, please speak with Nancy Filler or Karen Bugger today.

The cost is \$7.25 per plant.



Diane Ernst will be retiring from the position of Church Treasurer at the end of this year. While we are very grateful for her faithful service to our congregation, this means that we are in need of someone to assume this position (overseeing the finances of the church, paying bills, organizing the annual audit, etc.). Diane is willing to spend time to train a new person so that there will be a smooth transition into the responsibilities. Additionally, the Council has spoken about resuming counting teams on a Sunday morning (in the new year) to assist with these responsibilities.

If you feel like you have the time and skills to undertake this very necessary position, please speak with Diane (610-966-6262) or Pastor Lisa (610-762-2139) as soon as possible. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

We need
YOUR HELP!

Go in peace and serve the Lord in love. ♥

Thanks be to God!

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*thank
you*

... to Kevin Filler for serving as our lector
... Diane Ernst for serving as our usher & counter
... to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech
... to Leona Callahan for providing missionary support



To be remembered in prayer ... Ann Blacker, Leona Callahan, CJ, Sharon Edwards, Cathy Filler, Hope Geary, Helen Kerositz, Kathleen Tuomela May, Zachary, people living in war-torn countries, and others whom we name before God.

The altar flowers have been sponsored by Patricia Hosler in loving memory of her husband.

