



# First Sunday in Advent

## December 1, 2024

### **Welcome to St Paul's Lutheran Church!**

*If you are a guest today, we are delighted that you're here to share in the Good News!  
If you have any questions, please ask anyone near you.*

### **SERVING TODAY:**

Reader: Robert Adair  
Ushers: Gene & Blake Behrens, Gary & Diane Dewing, Bill Bandi & Ron Maxfield  
Children's Message: Jill Botkin  
Altar Guild: Donna Jantz  
Communion Assistants: Joyce Martin, Carolyn Lewis, Susi Laflin, Debi Musick NEED 3  
Video assistant: Steve Powell  
Acolyte & Crucifer: Atticus & Arabella Veit

### **PRELUDE:                      *Blackwelder Brass***

### **ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

**Dave & Ginger Burris**

*(Please see the insert in the back of your pew, we will begin with congregational responses and end with the song.)*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(Pause for silent reflection)*  
Gracious God,

***Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion, forgive us our sin, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may serve you in the newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.***

God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved and in the name of Christ, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

### **OPENING HYMN:            #254 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and 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.

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.

The Lord be with you.  
**And also, with you.**

## Kyrie 3 & 4

*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour - ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



*Refrain*  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

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

### **FIRST READING**

### **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

<sup>14</sup>The 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. <sup>15</sup>In 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. <sup>16</sup>In 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 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD,

***I lift up my soul.***

<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,

***nor let my enemies triumph over me.***

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;

***rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.***

<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD,

***and teach me your paths.***

<sup>5</sup>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.***

<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,

***for they are from everlasting.***

<sup>7</sup>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.***

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

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
***and teach the lowly your way.***

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

**SECOND READING                      1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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 RESPONSE:                      *Savior of the Nations, Come***

Savior of the nations, come; virgin's son, make here your home.  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth: God has chosen such a birth.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark. ***Glory to you, O Lord***

**GOSPEL READING                      Luke 21:25-36**

<sup>25</sup>“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. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“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, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be 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, Lord Jesus Christ.***

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

***An English Carol***

Twilight Tones

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Jill Botkin**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

***Christmas Gloria***

SPLC Adult Choir w/Blackwelder Brass

**MESSAGE**

**Pastor Stefanie Rowinski**

**HYMN**

#257

***O Come O Come Emmanuel***

vs 1, 6 & 7

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

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

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

## **THE NICENE CREED**

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 worshipped 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**

*(Prayers were written by parishioners at our 2023 Wednesday Night Advent Services.)*

Father, true source of peace, we pray for peace and reconciliation amongst families, churches, nations, and all peoples. Cease the words of hate and weapons of war for true peace is found in you and the example set by your Son.

***O Come Immanuel, God with us.***

Dear Good Shepherd, who always guides us through hard times, warm those who do not have homes or shelters as the cold creeps in. Thank you for your guidance.

***O Come Immanuel, God with us.***

Heavenly Father, who knows our needs and directs our paths, comfort and strengthen those who are struggling with illness and those who care for them. Give them hope for healing and peace to trust in your will. Thank you for all you do for us, for knowing us and loving us.

***O Come Immanuel, God with us.***

Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, be with those who are in the dark this Advent season. Send your people out to be a light in their darkness. Bring them into your loving family.

***O Come Immanuel, God with us. Amen.***

## **COMMUNION**

The Lord be with you. **And also, with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to the glory of your Name:

### **HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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 all of 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

...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 forever. **AMEN.**

## **THE 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. AMEN***

## **DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS**

*(Please note, there are gluten free wafers available if you need them.  
The cups in the center of the trays are juice, and the outer rings are wine.)*

***Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.***

## **THE BLESSING**

May the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.  
**Amen.**

## **POSTLUDE**

***Blackwelder Brass***

## **SENDING**

Go in Peace. Remember the poor. ***Thanks be to God.***

***We would like to thank everyone for supporting our Pie In the Sky fundraiser this year! We raised over \$4000 that will help fund the 2025 MS & HS Mission Trips!***

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **ADVENT WEDNESDAY SERVICES BEGIN: DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**

We will have a potluck soup supper at 5:45pm, all church Advent service at 6:30, then a group activity from 7:00-7:30pm. Choir will meet at 7:00pm. Mark your calendars for the 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>! **Please bring cookies to share on December 4<sup>th</sup>!** We will be boxing them to be passed out to others.

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Our Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 & 7pm.

### **DECEMBER OUTREACH – ROC CHRISTMAS STORE**

We will be serving at the ROC Christmas Store, Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 10am- 1pm. The items donated in November will be available at drastically discounted prices for parents and caregivers. There will be multiple stations for you to help and make it a fun event. There will be a sign up sheet at the visitor's center in the narthex. Proceeds will support ROC's food pantry and community outreach.

### **“BLUE CHRISTMAS” SERVICE—SUNDAY, DEC 8<sup>TH</sup>**

For those who are grieving or having a hard time entering into the joy of the Christmas season, this service is for you. Join us Sunday night at 5:00pm for a quiet, reflective service with music, a sermon, prayers and communion.

### **CHRISTMAS HANDBELL CONCERT**

By our own Canticle Ringers: **MONDAY, DECEMBER 9** at 10:30 am in the sanctuary, followed by a free lunch in the activity center. We are also inviting members of local retirement communities. It would be nice to have some of our own members who are free at that time to welcome these guests. We promise to put you in the Christmas spirit. Sign up in the narthex if you plan to stay for lunch.

### **WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

The annual Women's Christmas luncheon will be hosted by Jan Dumont on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30. More details to come!

### **POINSETTIAS**

Help defer the cost of the Blackwelder Brass program & beautify our sanctuary on Christmas Eve! \$25/plant- Forms can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex and returned to the designated folder. If paying online, remember to tell us who or what your flower is in honor or memory of so they can be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Also please tell us if you will be taking your flower home on Christmas Eve. Order deadline is December 15<sup>th</sup>. Contact Nancy Krause with any questions.

### **MUG WASHERS NEEDED**

If you are looking for an EASY volunteer opportunity, this is it! This is for singles, couples, or families. And the more volunteers we get, the less everyone has to wash! If you are interested in knowing more, please contact Susi Laflin 405-202-7065, or [mailladysusi@gmail.com](mailto:mailladysusi@gmail.com)

### **DECEMBER ACTIVITIES**

#### **12/1- Worship & Education**

#### **12/4- Wednesday Night Advent**

5:30 Children's Handbells  
5:45 Potluck Soup Supper  
6:30 Advent Service  
7:00 All church activity & Adult Choir practice

#### **12/8- Worship & Education**

5:00 –Youth Caroling & cookies  
Blue Christmas Service

#### **12/9- Handbell Concert @10:30am**

*Lunch following*

#### **12/11- Wednesday Night Advent**

5:30 Children's Handbells  
5:45 Potluck Soup Supper  
6:30 Advent Service  
7:00 All church activity & Adult Choir practice

#### **12/14- Women's Christmas Luncheon 11:30**

#### **12/15- Worship & Education**

2:00 Adult Choir Christmas party & caroling

#### **12/18- Wednesday Night Advent**

5:30 Children's Handbells  
5:45 Potluck Soup Supper  
6:30 Advent Service  
7:00 All church activity & Adult Choir practice

#### **12/19- XYZ**

#### **12/22- Worship No education**

#### **12/24- Christmas Eve Services 4 & 7 pm**

#### **12/25- MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**

#### **12/29- Worship No education**

**12/25-1/2 Office closed – Ashley will check in 12/31 & 1/2**