



# Second Sunday in Advent

## December 10, 2023

### 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:	Carolyn Lewis
Ushers:	Tony Nutter, Bill Schopflin, Steve Botkin & Micah Moeller
Children's Message:	Carolyn Lewis
Altar Guild:	Joyce Martin
Communion Assistants:	Joyce Martin, Jill & Bali Botkin
Video assistant:	Tracy Caine
Acolyte & Crucifer:	Viktor & Pippa Teske

**PRELUDE:**                      *In the Bleak Midnight*                      Ron Wallace & Niki Higgins

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**                      **The Bainbridge Family**  
(Please see insert in pew for congregational responses & music)

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 we have received his forgiveness. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN:**                      #239      ***Hark the Glad Sound***                      vs 1, 3 & 4

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the savior promised long;  
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.

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

## Kyrie vs. 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 t  
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to t  
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . f  
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in t



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; tha  
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,



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

*Rc*

**Let us pray.** *Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.*

### **FIRST READING**

### **ISAIAH 40:1-11**

**40** Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. **2** Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. **3** A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. **4** Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. **5** Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." **6** A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. **7** The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. **8** The grass withers; the flower fades but the word of our God will stand forever. **9** Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" **10** See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him and his recompense before him. **11** He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms and carry them in his bosom and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

**PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13**

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you were favorable to your land; ***you restored the fortunes of Jacob.***

<sup>2</sup>You forgave the iniquity of your people; ***you pardoned all their sin. Selah***

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, ***to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.***

<sup>9</sup>Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, ***that his glory may dwell in our land.***

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; ***righteousness and peace will kiss each other.***

<sup>11</sup>Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, ***and righteousness will look down from the sky.***

<sup>12</sup>The Lord will give what is good, ***and our land will yield its increase.***

<sup>13</sup>Righteousness will go before him ***and will make a path for his steps.***

**SECOND READING**

**2 PETER 3:8-15**

<sup>8</sup>But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be destroyed with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and destroyed and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish, <sup>15</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation. So also, our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

***Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***

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

**GOSPEL READING**

**MARK 1:1-8**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup>so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

***Glory to God, Glory Alleluia***

*SPLC Cherub Choir*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Carolyn Lewis**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

***When Salvation was Born***

*SPLC Adult Choir w/Twilight Tones*

**MESSAGE**

**Pastor Stefanie Rowinski**

**HYMN**

#272

***Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming***

vs 1, 2 & 4

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung, it came a flow'r so bright,  
amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show Gods love a right, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know:  
bring us a length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.

## 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 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

*(These prayers were written by parishioners at our Wednesday Night Advent Service.)*

O come, O come Emmanuel, you are the God of hope. Guide our leaders as we navigate this era of political chaos and international unrest. Help us to focus on your advent message of hope for peace and joy for all. Thanks for infinite mercy and unending love for our world—even when we lose our focus on you. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, Heavenly Father, you have the power to heal broken hearts and calm hateful minds. Touch those who are at war and conflict. Help them to see a glimpse of your peace and guide them to lay down their weapons and lose their hatred. In all your glory, inspire us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, the one who protects us, help those who struggle in silence or hiding and those who feel they have no one to turn to in hard times. Bless us all with your tender love and grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Father, the one that holds us in your hands, help us to remember ones who are lonely. There are ones who feel hopeless. Give us ways to help them. You are always with us and provide comfort. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ever caring and living God, the one who embraces all of us and will always forgive and love us, bless the teachers. Help them to deal with their students. Thank you for providing for us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God the Father, the creator and great artist, help us to see your beauty in this hard world. Help us to see the helpers acting as your hands and feet. Thank you for the Imago Dei in all of us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The I Am, the Word, expression of he who Is, guide us through troubled waters. Hold us up when we are too tired to continue. Blessed is your greatness beyond what words can describe. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of love, who loved us even before we were born, heal the broken lives and broken relationships of this world. Help us to say words and act in ways that will bring reconciliation with others and with you. May the love you show us heal this broken world. We are undeserving but so very grateful. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty and powerful God, who knows what is best for us, heal us of any physical or mental problems. If it is not your will to heal, then give us strength to endure. Thank you for always being there for us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Dear Immanuel, who is always with us, help us to see your work even in the most mundane tasks so that we can be more a credit to you and those who need our help. Thank you for your presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God the rock, the steady, calming influence, allow all the ability to see the good through the storm. You are the one whom we can always depend on. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

## **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**



## **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, according to his command, O Father:

***We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.***

...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**

**COMMUNION MUSIC**     ***That Glorious Song of Old***

Twilight Tones & Ron Wallace

## **THE BLESSING**

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

## **POSTLUDE**

***How Great Our Joy***

***Ron Wallace & Niki Higgins***

## **SENDING**

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### DUE TODAY!! - OUTREACH BOARD DECEMBER MISSION

We will be working with the Youth & Family Ministry to collect money for Restore OKC, a charity serving NE OKC. They are also collecting blankets and pajamas (larger sizes are greatly needed) to be given to children at Thelma Parks Elementary School. Please place donations in the shopping cart in the narthex or give cash/check to Nola, Carolyn or Risa. Please note the deadline has been updated to 12/10!

### WEDNESDAY ADVENT SERVICES 12/13 – “SAINTS & SONGS”

We will hear from Restore OKC! We will begin with potluck soup supper @5:45, worship service @6:30 and a group activity @7. Soup sign-up sheets are posted in the activity center and on the information table in the narthex.

### CANTICLE RINGERS IN CONCERT

Join us on Wednesday, December 20 at 10:30am at Mayflower Congregational Church, 3901 NW 63<sup>rd</sup>. The Ladies Music Club of OKC has invited them to be the December program on their monthly music series. It is an honor for them to be invited to this elite program. We'd love to see many of our fellow St Paul's members in the audience! Bring a friend!

### YOUTH LOCK IN

Jan. 19-20 – \$25/person. All MS & HS attendees will need to fill out registration & medical forms. Forms can be found on the bulletin board outside the youth hallway and are due by Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>. Please email [articles@stpaulsokc.com](mailto:articles@stpaulsokc.com) with any questions.

### TIME & TALENT FORMS

Time and talent forms are available from an usher and please fill out turn in to the designated basket at the visitor's center table in the narthex.

### POINSETTIAS ON SALE

Sales help defer the cost of the Blackwelder Brass program & beautify our sanctuary on Christmas Eve! \$20/plant- please fill out a form, online or in person. Forms can be found on the bulletin board in the narthex and returned to the designated folder. If paying online, remember to note who or what your flower is in honor of or in 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.

*With the end of the year quickly approaching, please remember to allow enough time for any end-of-year donations to arrive in the mail!*

### December Activities

*Poinsettia sales – orders due 12/17*

**12/10**- Worship Services & Education

**3:00** Caroling & Cookies youth event

**12/13**-**5:30** Children's handbells

**5:45** Soup dinner

**6:30** Advent Service

**7:00** Choir Practice

**12/17**-Worship Service -Blackwelder Brass  
Kids/Teens Birthday party for Jesus!!

**12/20**- **5:30** Children's handbells

**5:45** Soup dinner

**6:30** Advent Service

**7:00** Choir Practice

**12/25-31** *No Activities/practices*

**12/24**- **9:30am** Sunday Worship Service

**4 & 7 pm** *Christmas Eve services*

**12/25-26**- Office closed/holiday hours TBA

**12/31**- Worship Service