



Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 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: Debi Musick
Ushers: Gene & Blake Behrens, Gary & Diane Dewing, Bill Bandi & Ron Maxfield
Children's Message: Romi Behrens
Altar Guild: Kathy Knox
Communion Assistants: Janet Miller, Debi Musick, Susi Laffin, Carolyn & Elie Behrens,
Ann Lawton & Paula Schopflin
Video assistant: Steve Powell
Acolyte & Crucifer: Romi & Elie Behrens

PRELUDE:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Ron Wallace & Niki Higgins

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Corey & Paige Grubb

(Please see insert in pew for music and congregational responses)

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: #244

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

vs 1, 2 & 4

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bride-groom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bride-groom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bride-groom is at hand.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

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

Kyrie 1 & 2

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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

Malachi 3:1-4

3 See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. **2** But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; **3** he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. **4** Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

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

Luke 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;

he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,

born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers

and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear,
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
and to guide our feet into the way of peace

SECOND READING **Philippians 1:3-11**

³I thank my God for every remembrance of you, ⁴always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy ⁵for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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 3:1-6**

³In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Romi Behrens

SPECIAL MUSIC

Lo How A Rose E're Blooming

Canticle Ringers

MESSAGE

Pastor Stefanie Rowinski

HYMN

#260

The King Shall Come

vs. 1, 2, 4 & 5

The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die,
but crowned the glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see his face.

The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: come quickly, King of kings.

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.)

Most gracious heavenly Father, who knows our every need, we ask you to be with those who feel alone, the widows, those separated from family by distance or broken relationships. Let your light shine through each of us so that they may feel your presence and love for them in a real way. Glory to you Holy Father.

O Come Immanuel, God with us.

God of mercy & grace, you see our hearts and our souls. Forgive us for our unbelief, for our doubts & fears, for our shortcomings. Take away the darkness and shine your light into every inch of our being. For you are love, light, forgiveness & peace and fill us with your spirit,

O Come Immanuel, God with us.

Our heavenly Father, who knows our every need, watch over, protect and bless all those affected by war. Our hearts ache for the brokenness of this violent world. For in your name we know that all things are possible.

O Come Immanuel, God with us.

Jesus, the good shepherd, who keeps all your sheep safe, please help those who are homeless or in poverty. Let them find help & guidance in you. Glory to you forever.

O Come Immanuel, God with us.

Immanuel, Lord of Rest, help me find mine, so that like you, with us, I can learn to be more present more often with those whom I love. And to praise your name with my full attention.

O Come Immanuel, God with us.

To our Good Shepherd, whose sheep follow willingly, reach those who are hurting and find those who are lost. May we always follow your ways.

O Come Immanuel, God with us.

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, according to his command, O Father:

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

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

Ron Wallace

SENDING

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

DECEMBER ACTIVITIES

12/8- Worship & Education

5:00 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

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

12/15-Worship & Education

2:00 Adult Choir Christmas party & caroling

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

5:00 Youth Caroling & cookies

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*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WEDNESDAY SERVICES- December 11 & 18th

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

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

“BLUE CHRISTMAS” SERVICE—TONIGHT

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 tonight 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 help us greet these guests and make them feel welcome. We promise to put you in the Christmas spirit. Sign up in the narthex if you plan to stay for lunch so we have enough food.

WOMEN’S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The annual Women’s Christmas luncheon will be hosted by Jan Dumont on Saturday, December 14th 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 15th. Contact Nancy Krause with any questions.

XYZ

We will meet at church at 12:30 on Thurs., Dec. 19th to carpool to Cattlemen's Steakhouse (1309 S. Agnew) for lunch. Nancy & Kent Wallace will host. Please join us for an enjoyable lunch together.

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

With the passing of "Giving Tuesday" on December 2nd, the Endowment Committee asks that you consider a gift to the Endowment Fund in your giving program. Make the check out to St. Paul's Lutheran Church with "Endowment Fund" in the memo line. For seniors with IRA's with a required minimum distribution, it is suggested to make a qualified charitable deduction to St Paul's designated for the Endowment Fund. For maximum IRS deduction potential, the check must come directly from the investment company to SPLC. For questions talk to Terry Mock or Josh Davis.

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

ALTAR GUILD VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We all know the importance of the sacraments to our worship, but do you know what goes on behind the scenes in preparation? Altar Guild volunteers serve approximately four Sundays per year. Training is provided and scheduling within your assigned month is flexible. Oh, and despite a common practice this is not a "ladies only" way to serve. All are welcome! See Joyce Martin to have your questions answered and join the team.