



# Third Sunday in Advent December 11, 2022



**Welcome to St Paul's Lutheran Church! If you are visiting, we are delighted that you're here to share in the Good News. If you have any questions, please ask anyone near you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Christmas Poinsettias, ONLY TWO SUNDAYS LEFT TO ORDER-** Please consider supporting The Blackwelder Brass Ministry by purchasing 1 or more beautiful poinsettias for Christmas and help to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas Eve services! We have a new wholesaler this year, and unfortunately the price has gone up. Plants will cost \$20. Checks can be made out to St Paul's, with Blackwelder Brass on the memo line. Forms can be found on the Narthex Bulletin Board. You may purchase your flower in Honor of or in Memory of a loved one. We will print those names in the Christmas Eve bulletins. You can then take home your plant after the Christmas Eve or Christmas Day service. If you have any questions, see Nancy Krause. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**
- **Pine Pantry Collection-** see the attached calendar with the most requested items for the Pine Pantry. Gifting bags are available in the Narthex, once the bag is full, deliver the food to one of the Pine Pantry locations or place it under the Christmas Tree in the activity center or in the shopping cart in the Narthex.
- **Updating Picture Board-** We are asking everyone to bring a current 4 x 6 picture of your family with your faces clearly showing. Please give your picture to any Outreach Board member (or put it in our church mailbox. Outreach Board members- Nola Pirog, Carolyn Behrens, Joyce Martin, Debi, Vahla Todd, or Bobbie Garrity. Thanks to everyone for helping us with this project!

## **SERVING TODAY:**

Reader: Nancy Krause  
Communion Assistants: Jill Nobles-Botkin, Carolyn Behrens & Liddy Kilpatrick  
Altar Guild: Susan Hughett  
Video Assistant: Steve Powell  
Children's Message: Tom Todd  
Ushers: Terri Mock, Patti Spain, Mike Thompson, Keith Kilpatrick & Luke Green  
Acolyte and Crucifer: Celest & Corbyn Wisniewski

**PRELUDE Ron Wallace & Niki Higgins**

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Hardison Family**

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

## **BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Leader: In that spirit of preparation and waiting, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Pause for silent reflection)*

Leader: Gracious God,

**People: 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.

Leader: 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: #272      *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming* vs 1, 2 and 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.

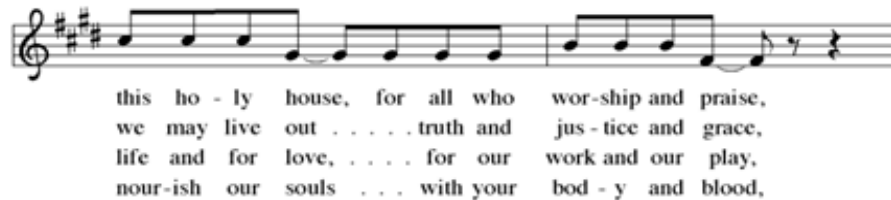
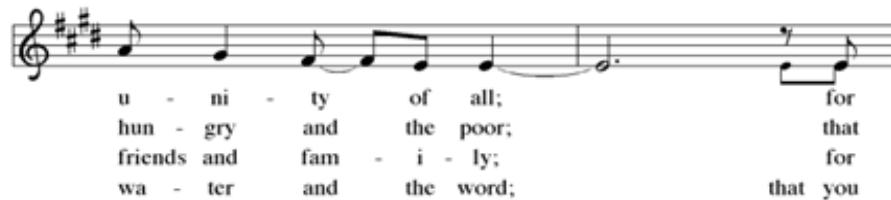
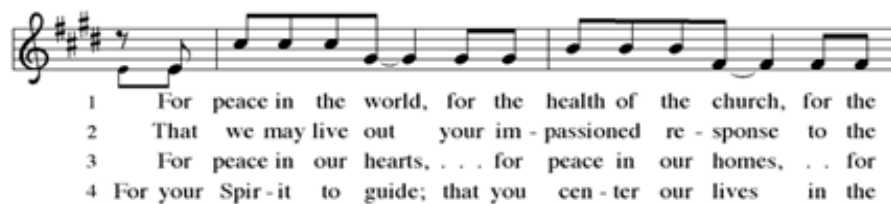
Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior when half-spent was the night.

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

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also, with you.**

**KYRIE Vs 1 and 2**



## PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Leader: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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 35:1-10**

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup>Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup>then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; <sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. <sup>8</sup>A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. <sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. <sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God**

## SECOND READING:                    **James 5:7-10**

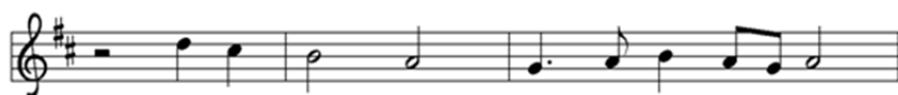
<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup>Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, Word of Life

**Thanks be to God**

## GOSPEL RESPONSE                    *Alleluia*

### Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia.                    Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life.                    Al - le - lu - ia.

## The Holy Gospel according to **Matthew 11:2-11**

### **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup>“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

**CHILDREN’S SPECIAL MUSIC**                      *Joy to the World*                      **Children’s Bell Choir**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**                      **Tom Todd**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**                                      *I Shall Know Him When He Comes*                      **SPLC Adult Choir**

**MESSAGE**    **Pastor Stefanie Rowinski**

**HYMN:**                      **#263**                      *Savior of the Nations, Come*                      vs 1, 2, 4 & 6

Savior of the nation, come; virgin’s son, make here your home.

Marvel now, O heav’n and earth: God has chosen such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood, but the mystic Breath of God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

From God’s heart the Savior speeds, back to God his pathway leads;  
Out to vanquish death’s command, back to reign at God’s right hand.

Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, virgin’s son, incarnate Word!

To the holy Trinity praise we sing eternally!

### **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: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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

*(The prayers of the people are written by members of the congregation at our Wednesday Night Advent Service each week in Advent.)*

## 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.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

## 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.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 THE ELEMENTS**

#### **THE BLESSING**

May the blessing of God the +Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

#### **POSTLUDE**

Ron Wallace

#### **SENDING**

Go in Peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**





## ADVENT 2022 PRAYER CALENDAR

Below is a list of people and needs you can pray for each day of December until Christmas Day. Some groups listed are specific while others are very broad. Let the Holy Spirit guide you as you pray. Maybe a person or family comes to mind, pray for them. Maybe you remember another prayer request someone asked you to pray about, great! Pray for it too. It is very possible that as you are praying you might also have an idea of something you could do (call, write, give, etc)—trust that is the Holy Spirit at work and do what you feel led to do. The more you act on those promptings the more you will recognize them in the future. If you don't have a regular rhythm of prayer, I suggest reading a portion of scripture, praying for the specific request below, anything else that comes to mind, and then close with saying The Lord's Prayer. It can be as simple as, "Heavenly Father, I pray for those giving and those receiving at the Pine Pantry at Sunnyside Diner." The Lord is always inviting us into prayer. May you be blessed as you respond to Jesus' invitation.

1. Those giving and those receiving at the Pine Pantry at Sunnyside Diner on MacArthur
2. Those effected by war
3. Those who are grieving the loss of a loved one
4. Those who are hungry
5. Those giving and those receiving at the Pine Pantry at Andrew Johnson Elementary
6. Those who are unemployed or underemployed
7. Those who are waiting for God to speak to them
8. Those giving and those receiving at the Pine Pantry at Sunnyside Diner on 6<sup>th</sup>
9. Those who have a something joyful to celebrate this season
10. Those who are serving the community around them
11. Those who feel tired
12. Those giving and receiving at the Pine Pantry at Sunnyside Diner on E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St
13. Those who are sick
14. Those giving and those receiving at the Pine Pantry at Grill on the Hill
15. Those who are worried
16. Those who are visiting a church for the first time ever or in a long time
17. Those who have been displaced from their homes
18. Those who have questions
19. Those who are taking a step of faith
20. Those giving and receiving at the Pine Pantry at Sunnyside Diner on SW 89<sup>th</sup>
21. Those who are alone
22. Those who work while others sleep
23. Those who are experiencing disappointment
24. All who are celebrating the light of Christ coming into our world and pray for peace on Earth
25. Us, that we would receive Christ in our hearts and lives once more this Christmas day

"You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." Romans 13:11-14

### **Pine Pantry Locations:**

Sunnyside Diner 9148 N MacArthur Blvd  
Andrew Johnson Elementary School 1810 Sheffield Rd  
Sunnyside Diner at 916 NW 6<sup>th</sup> St  
Sunnyside Diner 824 SW 89<sup>th</sup> St  
Sunnyside Diner 7 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St  
Grill on the Hill 324 SW 25<sup>th</sup> St