

Third Sunday of



Advent

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Dec 15, 2024

Welcome to St. Paul

We are **broken** and **blessed** followers of Christ providing a **home** for all who wander the weary road.

We invite you to sign a guest card in the pew rack, noting your attendance and place it in the offering plate as the offering is taken or you may sign the attendance book in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Mission

Gaining and nurturing disciples for Christ through the Word and Sacrament, and proclaiming to all people traditional Biblical truths as a congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

Holy Communion

To Our Guests: We're glad you're here! Lutherans believe this sacrament is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine. Here he gives himself and all that he promises. Receiving the sacrament is also an expression of full unity in faith with those with whom you are communing. Based on this theological principle, if you are a member of a congregation that shares the confession of faith of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod and have been instructed concerning the Lord's Supper, you are welcome to commune with us today. We continue to pray for the day when all divisions in the body of Christ will cease. Anyone who wishes may receive a pastoral blessing by kneeling at the altar rail with your arms folded across your chest. If you desire to commune at St. Paul and would like to learn more about the Lutheran Church, please speak with the pastor.

To Those Communing Today: God's Word instructs those who come to the Lord's Table to first examine themselves. You may use the "Christian Questions with Their Answers" found on p.329-330 in the hymnal to guide you in self-examination.

The pastor will distribute the body of Christ followed by an usher with a tray of individual cups. The pastor will then follow with the Chalice.

Gluten free bread is available. Please ask the pastor or an usher before the service.

DIVINE SERVICE

(Setting by Marty Haugen)

Prelude

“Lo, How A Rose”

Choir

Arr. Hugo Distler

- 1 *Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming As prophets long have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.*
- 2 *Isaiah 'twas 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.*
- 3 *This flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us And lightens ev'ry load.*
- 4 *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 to the endless day.*

Confession and Absolution

Stand as you are able and face the baptismal font

“Repentance, therefore, is nothing else than a return and approach to baptism, to resume and practice what has earlier been begun but abandoned” (Large Catechism)

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads,
Ye Mighty Gates”

LSB 340



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the King of
2 A righ - teous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot is hu -
3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where Christ the rul - er
4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a tem - ple
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to Thee; here,



glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing near; The
mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness, His
is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py homes To
set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em - ploy, A -
Lord, a - bid! O en - ter with Thy grace di - vine; Thy



Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal - va - tion
scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of all our
whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less sun of
dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your Sov - reign
face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly Spir - it



He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To
 woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings. To
 joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free. To
 en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin. To
 guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won. E -



God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
 ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.

Kyrie

Refrain

Assistant:

Congregation:



In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord, have mer-cy,



Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)



Help, save and de - fend us, O



God. A - men.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

After the reading

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:1-12



A LORD, you were favorable ♪ to your land;
you restored the fortunes of ♪ Jacob.

C You forgave the iniquity of your ♪ people;
you covered ♪ all their sin.

A You withdrew ♪ all your wrath;
you turned from your hot ♪ anger.

C Restore us again, O God of our sal- ♪ vation,
and put away your indignation ♪ toward us!

- A** Will you be angry with us for- ever?
Will you prolong your anger to all gener- ations?
- C** **Will you not revive us again,
that your people may re- joyce in you?**
- A** Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your sal- vation.
- C** **Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them
not turn back to folly.**
- A** Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.
- C** **Steadfast love and faith- fulness meet;
righteousness and peace kiss each other.**
- A** Faithfulness springs up from the ground,
and righteousness looks down from the sky.
- C** **Yes, the LORD will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase**
- A** Righteousness will go be- fore him
and make his foot- steps a way.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

After the reading

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse

Congregation:



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



go? You have the words of e - ter - nal



Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Holy Gospel Reading

Luke 7:18-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the seventh chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’” ²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.”

After the reading

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es



throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51 Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820

Sermon

“The Mighty One is Coming” Zephaniah 3:14-20

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

(All may bow:

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man); and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the

prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Greeting of Peace

Offering

Offertory

“A Shoot Shall Come Forth”

Choir

Arr. Richard Horn

*A shoot shall come forth out of Jesse, And a bud shall grow out of his roots
The spirit of life shall be with him, The spirit of wisdom and truth.
Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard, and the lion eat straw with the ox,
For the hand of a Child shall lead them, To the peaceable kingdom of God.
From out of the wells of salvation Will be draw us the water of life;
His waist shall be girdled with justice, The heart of his heart shall be Love.
Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard, and the lion eat straw with the ox,
For the hand of a Child shall lead them To the peaceable kingdom of God.
He'll come from the end of his heaven, and the earth shall be torn from its place;
Our lives shall be filled with his radiance As flooded-waters cover the sea.
Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard, And the lion eat straw with the ox,
For the hand of a Child shall lead them To the peaceable kingdom of God,
To the peaceable kingdom of God.*

Offering Prayer

P Merciful Father,

C We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-- our selves, our time, our income, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ and Lord. Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

Presider: *Congregation:*



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*



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

Presider: *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is



right to give Him thanks and praise.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy

Congregation:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!



Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -



Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You...one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

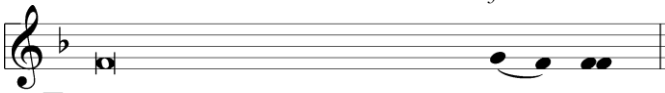
P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Pax Domini

The Peace of the Lord



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Invitation to Communion

P Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to His Supper. *John 1:29; Revelation 19:9*

C Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed. *Matthew 8:8*

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us. *(Repeat)*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution Hymn

“Canticle of the Turning”

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

Text: Luke 1:46-58; Rory Cooney, b.1952
Tune: STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN; Irish traditional; arr. by Rory Cooney, b.1952
© 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Post-Communion Canticle

1., 3. Praise to you, O God of mer - cy! Thanks be to you for
2. From of old you loved and sought us! Thanks be to you for
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:
ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have taught us:
Thanks be to you for ev - er!
Thanks be to you for ev - er!
Strong is your faith - ful-ness, strong is your love, re -
mem - b'ring your cov-e-nant of life with us. D.C.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
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If you have not had a chance to fill out an attendance card today, please do so and place it in the offering plate near the back of the center aisle, Thank you.

Postlude

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Preparing Yourself For Worship

In order to help prepare your selves for our worship services, we are listing below the scripture readings for the coming week.

December 21 & 22 – 4th Sunday in Advent
Micah 5:2-5a, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-56

- **Salvation Army Food Pantry** - For the month of December we are collecting the following items for the Food Pantry:

Pasta Spaghetti Sauce Canned Fruit Toothpaste
Tuna Deodorant Toilet Tissue Garden Produce



Flowers On The Altar Are For

Dennis & Barb Waugh
in memory of Dennis's parents

December 7 & 8 Statistics

In-Person Attendance:	88
Views* on Facebook:	15
Overall Participation:	103

*The number of devices playing our service for one minute or longer. This does not account for groups who watched together on the same screen.

Worship Assistants

	Sat. Dec 14 – 5:30pm	Sun, Dec 8 – 9:00am
Head Usher:	Dr. Jon Barz	Greg Kittle
Organist:	Dr. David Pitt	Dr. David Pitt

Anniversaries This Week

None

Baptismal Birthdays

16-Erin Hassler	17-Judy Marcue	19-Dan Pergande
20-Cael Jorgensen	20-Bruce Schaal, Sr.	20-Sheila Zasada

Birthdays This Week

15-Sue Hass	15-Jane Kalvelage
18-Diane Schultz	18-Kip Weland, Jr.

- **Building Healthy Families:** This time of the year finds many of so busy shopping, wrapping, baking, hosting parties, attending concerts...you know the list! While these activities aren't bad, let this be your friendly reminder to slow down, be still, and not miss the reason we celebrate. Refocus if you need to! "Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:2 Lutheran Family Service www.lutheranfamilyservice.org.
- **Mission Circle News:** Our Christmas giving will be the Open Closet for the Dubuque Community Schools again. Grab an ornament off the tree, shop and return your item in the store bag (**it does not need to be wrapped**)--The deadline to return your gift giving is Sunday, December 15th. If you want to make a cash donation instead of shopping, you can make your check out to "**Foundation for Dubuque Public Schools**" and put it in my mailbox in the fellowship hall and I will get it to Chelsea when I deliver the gifts. Thank you so much for all your giving, they appreciate everything we do. Any questions give me a call. Nancy 563-599-3885.

Advent soup suppers will be on Wed. Dec 18th from 5:30 to 6:00. A suggested donation of an item for the food pantry. There are sign-up sheets for each night in the fellowship hall.

Prayer Requests

Mindful of the Father's great mercy shown to us in Jesus, we pray on behalf of those who are in need.

For those undergoing cancer treatment:

Roger Riechmann (father of Teri Riechmann & Sheila Zasada)

Jayne Niemeier (nephew of Dave & Sue Krause)

Raymond Kruser (brother-in-law of Dave & Sue Krause)

Zeke Pergande (son of Dan & Doris Pergande)

Mark Goetschius (brother of A.J. Osterkamp)

Toni Jo Stelpflug (niece of Doris Pergande)

Matthew Kittle (brother of Greg)

Brittni Strege (niece to Richard & Kim Weed)

Jerry (family friend of Richard & Kim Weed)

Rhonda Kittle (sister-in-law to Greg Kittle)

Heidi Zimmer & Pat Zimmer her caregiver (friends of Mist Lutz)

Dan Pergande, Debra Spear, Richard Weed, Jill Adams

For our members who are homebound:

Laverne Ball (Ennoble Manor), Nancy Clark, Jean Henningsen

(Sunnycrest Manor), Judy Pergande, Doris Pergande, Dusty Colby,

Anne Priske (Care Initiatives), Jayson Eichman (Harmony),

Jan Anderson

Additional Prayer Requests

- Lori Ollendick (daughter of Charlotte Tigges)

- the Walker family

- Donetta Spohr

- Jill Adams

- Trudy Clark

- Marlene Weber

**Note: The "additional" section of the prayer list will be cleared at the beginning of each month. If you would like a name to remain on the list into the next month, please contact the church office and we would be happy to continue praying for your intention.*

KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE

The Advent of Christ

As you may remember, the word Advent means “coming.” During the season of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. But that is not the only coming of Jesus that we hear about in the Advent story.

What is the rest of the Advent story?

The Advent of Christ has three parts. God’s Word tells us that Jesus not only came to earth as a man at Christmas, but that He comes to be with His church through His Word and Sacraments. Finally, God’s Word reminds us that He will return in judgement on the Last Day. If you think about it, there sure are a lot of great things to remember and look forward to during the season of Advent!



Parents:

When Holy Communion is offered, allow your children to attend the altar with you. Remind them that Jesus is truly present here in the Sacrament, and that we will see Him face to face on the Last Day!



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St. Paul Lutheran Church

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Schedule For The Week

Family Christmas Service Sat., Dec 14	5:30 pm	Family Christmas Service with refreshments following
3rd Sun in Advent Sun., Dec 15	8:00 am	Choir Practice
	9:00 am	Divine Service
	10:30 am	Bible Study/Sunday School
Mon., Dec 16	12:30pm	Golden Age Euchre Club with chicken
Tue., Dec 17		
Wed, Dec 18	8:00am	Tops
	5:30pm – 6pm	Advent Soup Supper
	6:30pm	Advent Midweek Service
Thur. Dec 19	4pm – 5:30pm	Confirmation (Year 3 & 4)
Fri., Dec 20		NO CONFIRMATION
4th Sun in Advent Sat., Dec 21	5:30 pm	Divine Service
4th Sun in Advent Sun., Dec 22	9:00 am	Divine Service
	10:30 am	Bible Study/Sunday School