



**Sunday, November 28, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m.**

## Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

### St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

### Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00am Tri-Church Online Worship Service on our website

or call toll-free 1-888-975-5536 anytime

10:00am In-person worship with Holy Communion;

9:00 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September 19 – May 2020

### Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

### Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

### Children's Offering

In November and December the children's offering will be supporting the ELCA Good Gifts Family Farm. **Help a family break the cycle of hunger and poverty — for good.** With eggs, milk and meat to eat and sell, and tools and training to increase the harvest, this gift can create a world of opportunity for a family living in poverty. Remember to all money to your bank box at home and bring it back to church no later than December 26.

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815-625-3069

Pastor Makayla Dahleen

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[www.stpaulsterling.com](http://www.stpaulsterling.com)

## First Sunday of Advent

### Advent Theme: The Dawn Draws Near

#### PRELUDE

*“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”*

Mark Hayes

*“Canticle of the Turning”*

Anne Kurtz Organ

#### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### GATHER

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: When we wait for Christ to come,

**All: God is with us.**

Leader: When we wait in the deep of the night.

**All: God is with us.**

L: When we wait as the dawn draws near,

**All: God is with us.**

L: Today, as we wait, we light the first candle to encourage us that

**A: We have hope.**

L: Like Zechariah and Elizabeth,

**A: We have hope.**

L: We praise God today because

**A: We have hope.**

*(Light the first candle)*

L: Let us pray, O God for whom we long,

**All: We praise you for walking with us while we wait. We thank you for the gifts of speech and silence. Teach us to listen from our hearts and speak of your love with our words and actions. Stir up our hearts to have hope. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

#### ADVENT SONG

*“He Came Down”*



1 He came down that we may have hope ; he came down that we may have hope ;



he came down that we may have hope ; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.

## GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

## WORD

### FIRST READING

#### Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from Jeremiah:

<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."

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 7/8 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a sharp sign, and a 7/8 time signature. The lyrics are: "1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive". The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here". The third staff has a "Refrain" marking above it and lyrics: "un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!". The fourth staff concludes the piece with lyrics: "Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el." The score uses various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some notes beamed together and some having slurs or ties.

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here

un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 1:5-25**

P: The holy gospel according to Luke the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. <sup>6</sup>Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. <sup>7</sup>But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

<sup>8</sup>Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, <sup>9</sup>he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense.

<sup>10</sup>Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.

<sup>11</sup>Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

<sup>12</sup>When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. <sup>13</sup>But the angel said to him,

“Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. <sup>14</sup>You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,

<sup>15</sup>for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>16</sup>He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup>With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of

parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” <sup>18</sup>Zechariah said to the angel, “How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” <sup>19</sup>The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. <sup>20</sup>But now,

because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

<sup>21</sup>Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. <sup>22</sup>When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. <sup>23</sup>When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

<sup>24</sup>After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, <sup>25</sup>“This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**SONG OF THE DAY**

*“Hark the Glad Sound”*

ELW #239

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long;

let ev'ry heart prepare a throne  
and ev'ry voice a song.

- 2 He comes the pris'ners to release,  
in Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav'n's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

## **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,\*  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who 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 INTERCESSION

### PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you!**

P: Let us a sign of Christ's peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

## MEAL

### OFFERING

*"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

Anne Krentz Organ

### OFFERING PRAYER

### DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C: 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,**

**and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

## **COMMUNION**

### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

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

Mark Hayes

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

### **SENDING**

#### **BLESSING**

**P:** The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**C: Amen.**

#### **SENDING SONG**

*"Canticle of the Turning"*

ELW #723

- 1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

#### *Refrain*

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.

- 2 Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*

- 3 From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. *Refrain*
- 4 Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat  
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## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Christ is near.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*“O Come, O Come Immanuel”*

Jason Tonioli

**We Remember in Prayer;** those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Lori Dewey, Berta Beyer, Dave Kendall, Michael Harding, Shelly Fullmer, MacKenzie Gorman, and Marcia Fields.

## **Worship Assistants:**

Head Usher – Janie Billings

Ushers – Karen Wright. John Renner

Readers –JoAnn Garcia

Acolytes – Ordean family

Sound – Jim Gorman

## **Musicians:**

Virginia Schumaker

Julie Woessner

## **Next week's assistants – December 5**

Head Usher – Jim Gorman

Ushers – Keith Peugh, Nancy Beck  
Reader – Keith Peugh  
Advent Readers & Acolytes – Shore family  
Sound – Jim Gorman  
Altar Guild – Janie Billings, Ann Beswick

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