

**Sunday, December 1, 2024
9:00 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

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

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

The November and December children's offering will be for the God's Global Barnyard through the ELCA Good Gifts. A gift to God's Global Barnyard will be used where needed most to support livestock, agriculture and other sustainable-development projects, which help farmers and families with the resources they need to thrive.

1701 16th Ave. Sterling, IL 61081

815-625-3069

Church email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

www.stpaulsterling.com

Prelude

"Advent Contemplation"

Edward Broughton

Welcome/Announcements

GATHER

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy, we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts. God of might, we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises. God in our midst, we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us. A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

All: Amen.

GREETING

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

All: And also with you.

Gathering Hymn

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

ELW #244



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

All: 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. Amen.

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵In 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. ¹⁶In 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.”

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

R: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

All: My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

R: Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

All: Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

R: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

All: Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

R: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

All: You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.

R: You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

All: All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³ And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

All: Thanks be to God.

Advent Alleluia



Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 21st chapter

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch

you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

Family: Today is the first Sunday in the season of Advent. Advent means “coming,” and in this season we prepare for the coming of Christ. We light the candle on the Advent wreath to remind us of the blessings that Christ brings to the world. The Advent wreath includes many symbols. The wreath is in the circle, with no beginning and no ending. This reminds us that there is no beginning and no ending to God, and that God’s love and caring for us never ends. The green branches are a sign of ever new life. The candles tell us of the light shining into the world with Jesus Christ. The colors of the Advent candles remind us of our need for God’s help to be the people we should be. The white candle, which we light on Christmas Eve, signifies the birth of Jesus.

Family: Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope
(the family lights the first candle)

All: The prophet Jeremiah spoke words of hope to Israel. He talked about the promise of Shalom and of a new beginning. We hope and pray for a world of peace and harmony.

Family: Hope is like a flame that warms and comforts us. As we light this candle, we celebrate the hope of the prophets and the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

All: We continue to hope in God’s promise that Christ will continue to fill our lives and the life of the world with love and joy and peace.

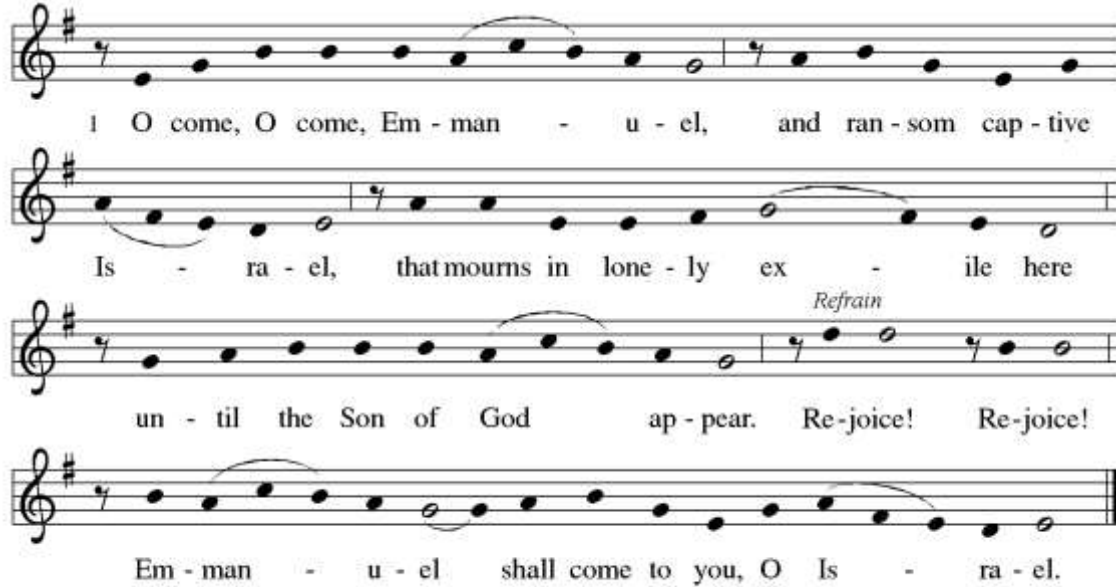
Family: Let us pray: Thank you, God for the flame of hope. As we prepare for Christ’s coming, help us to share our hope with others.

All: Amen

* from the Moravian Church in America

Advent Song

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”



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. *Refrain* Re-joice! Re-joice!
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
from Moravian Church in America

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

“We Are Waiting for Jesus”



1 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
2 We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
Sun of jus - tice, shine up - on us; we are trust - ing in your prom - ise.
Lov - ing Shep - herd, walk be - side us; stir our hearts, and gent - ly guide us.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.
We are wait - ing for Je - sus; Je - sus brings peace.

Text: John Helgen, b. 1957
Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen
Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

Prayers of Intercession

P: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God’s presence.

Each petition ends with these words:

P: Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you!

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

MEAL

Offering

"Mary's Heart"

James Michael Stevens

Offering Prayer

P: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

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

**All: 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

P: Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

Communion Music

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

Sing through twice

Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful
Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord,
Em - man - u - el, God is with us,
bless - ed Re - deem - er, liv - ing Word.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 12/8 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Text and music: Patricia Cain
Text and music © 1974 Scripture in Song, a division of Integrity Music, Inc.

“Now in This Banquet”

God of our jour - neys, day - break to night:
lead us to jus - tice and light.
Grant us com - pas - sion, strength for the day,
wis - dom to walk in your way.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Text: Marty Haugen
Music: NOW IN THIS BANQUET, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Prayer after Communion

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

All: Amen.

P: Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

All: Amen

Blessing

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

All: Amen.

Sending Song
“People, Look East”
 ELW #248

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965
 Music: BESANÇON, French carol
 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

Dismissal
 P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude
“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”
 Stg. Michael Burkhardt

We Remember in Prayer; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Steven Julifs, Bev Julien, Phyllis Jacobson, JoAnn Garcia, Barb Lenn, Lori Dewey, Betty Steinke, Michael Harting, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Sandy Julifs, and Lila Edeus.

Worship Assistants:
 Presider: Pastor Susan Davenport
 Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean
 Advent Readers – Ordean family
 Acolytes – Ordean family
 Greeters – Bob & Judy Bartel
 Ushers – Bill & Carolyn Duncan
 Reader – Bill Duncan
 Sound – Greg Zeigler
 Altar Guild – Debbie O’Brien, Diane Yoeckel

Musicians:
 Julie Woessner
 Amy Zeigler
 Dawn Zeigler

Next week – December 8
 Presider: Pastor Kathy Burkheimer
 Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Greg Zeigler
 Advent Readers – Bartel family
 Acolytes – Bartel family
 Greeters – Bartel family
 Ushers – Diane Yoeckel, Gary Fields
 Reader – Marilyn Geiger
 Sound – Bradyn Arians
 Altar Guild – Debbie O’Brien, Diane Yoeckel
 Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*