

“Landmark of the Gospel Since 1834”

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Purpose: Led by the Word of God, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is a family who lives and shares the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.

December 4, 2022

10:30 AM

Advent 2

Please pick up your Memorial Ornament before worship if it was turned it for a hanger and a bow.

Title Theme: Be Born In Us Today: Bringing Renewal

Theme Verse: *They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31*

After the ringing of the bell ...

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father

who renews our daily breath (*take a deep breath in through your nose and out through your mouth*)

and of the Son,

who renews our salvation day by day, (*make a cross with your fingers in front of you*)

and of the Holy Spirit.

who renews our faith minute by minute. Amen. (*put your hands on your heart*)

Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

Father in heaven, I keep on doing the same old, bad things. Even though I've told you time and again that I hate it when I do, I still do it. I don't understand myself. The good things I want to do, I don't do, but the bad things I don't want to do, I keep on doing. Create in me a new heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

God, who keeps promises, has forgiven your sin. God renews your strength and fills you with love and compassion. Christ lives in you and through the Spirit, you are made new!

Victory is ours! Our strength is renewed! Amen

HYMN

Praise to the Lord

LBW #543, vs.1&2, for verse 3 see below.

**1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration!**

**2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning,
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining?**

**3 Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief ever has failed of relief?
Wings of his mercy did shade you.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Two candles are lit as we sing the fourth verse from Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel LBW #34, vs. 4

**4 Oh, come, blest Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by your advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]**

Refrain:

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Loving God, we are weary of this world. We need your help. We need your rest. Thank you for giving it to us in Jesus. AMEN.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:21-31

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to live in;

²³ who brings princes to naught,
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows upon them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see:
Who created these?

He who brings out their host and numbers them,

calling them all by name;
because he is great in strength,
mighty in power,
not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
'My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God'?

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:7-10

In him we have redemption

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

GOSPEL VERSE

Away in the Manger

LBW #67, vs. 3

**3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:18-25

Glory to you, O Lord.

The birth of Jesus

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph,

son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ ²²All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
 and they shall name him Emmanuel’,

which means, ‘God is with us.’ ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Includes the following Prayerful Action

PRAYERFUL ACTIONS

We can soar like eagles.

We can soar like eagles. (*put arms out and pretend you are flying*)

We can run and not grow weary.

We can run and not grow weary. (*run in place as fast as you can*)

We can walk and not faint.

We can walk and not faint. (*march in place*)

PROCLAMATION

HYMN

Christ be Our Light

R #127

1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see. [Refrain]

[Refrain] Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice. [Refrain]

3 Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others,

Shared until all are fed. [Refrain]

4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.

Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others,

Walls made of living stone. [Refrain]

**5 Many the gifts, many the people,
 Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
 Let us be servants to one another,
 Making your kingdom come. [Refrain]**

APOSTLES' CREED

p. 85

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS

Pastor Laura will offer prayers concluding with the following prayer.

Christ our living light, we glorify you for bringing renewal into our lives. We savor the new life we have in you through the forgiveness of sins and the hope we have of life in heaven with you when we die. Keep us mindful that your mercies are new every morning, and your love for us is ever-new forevermore.

Amen.

PEACE

During the Sharing of Christ's Peace you may come forward to hang your Memorial Ornament. We will place them on the garlands hanging behind the pulpit and lectern.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Sung to CRANHAM

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
 If I were a wise man I would do my part?**

Yet what I can I give him--- give my heart.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. (Repeat after leader): Dear Jesus - Thank you for giving me everything I need (*cross your arms in front of you and hold them to your chest*) - and making me able - to give back to you (*put your arms out in front of you*) – Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

p. 88-91

The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

DISTRIBUTION

Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Today, we commune continuously. Please sanitize your hands before you commune.

PRAYER

Faithful God,
in this meal you have remembered your mercy,
bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ.

As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled,
 sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery.
 Guide us toward your promised future,
 coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
We will mount up with wings like eagles.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
We will run and not grow weary.
 The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
We will walk and not faint. Amen.

HYMN

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

LBW 41, vs. 4

**4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
 descend to us, we pray;
 cast out our sin, and enter in,
 be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels
 the great glad tidings tell;
 Oh, come to us, abide with us,
 our Lord Immanuel!**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.

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Serving in mission together: Pastor Laura Cavendish and the members of St. Paul
 6046 St. Paul Rd., Ashville, OH 43103 ● 740-983-3188
www.stpaulashville.org ● Pastor's Cell 937-248-9821