

“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.

November 27, 2022

10:30 AM

Advent 1

Title Theme: Be Born In Us Today: Bringing Blessing

Theme Verse: And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. Genesis 12:2

After the ringing of the bell ...

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father

who cares for us by keeping his promise (*cross your arms across your chest*),

and of the Son,

who redeems us by fulfilling the promise (*make a cross with your fingers in front of you*)

and of the Holy Spirit,

who sanctifies us and puts that promise in us. Amen (*raise your hands up toward the sky*).

Let us confess our sins to God,

Father in heaven, I have sinned in my thoughts (*point to your head*), in my words (*point to your mouth*), and in my actions (*touch each hand*). I have not loved you with my whole heart, (*cross your arms over your heart*), and I haven't loved others well either. I don't deserve your love, but because of your love for me, you sent Jesus to take away my guilt and shame. Please forgive me, and help me to do better. Amen.

The Father has indeed kept his promise and forgiven your sin! God offers you mercy so that you will be a blessing, and his name will be great in you. Christ's great sacrifice on the cross is your ransom. He rose from the dead to win the victory over death and the grave forever. You will live forever. Rejoice!

Rejoice! *Victory is ours! God has made our name great! Amen.*

HYMN

My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness

WOV #730

**1 My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord;
I sing my Savior's praise!
You looked upon my lowliness,
and I am full of grace.
Now ev'ry land and ev'ry age
this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me,**

and holy is your name.

- 2 To all who live in holy fear
your mercy ever flows.
With mighty arm you dash the proud,
their scheming hearts expose.
The ruthless you have cast aside,
the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things,
the rich sent off unfed.**
- 3 To Israel, your servant blest,
your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made
their children will secure.
Sing glory to the Holy One,
give honor to the Word,
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High,
one God, by all adored.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One candle is lit as we sing the first verse from Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel LBW #34, vs. 1

**1 Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together.

Father in heaven, you promised Abram that one of his descendants would be a blessing to the whole human race. You have kept your promise in Jesus. Remind us that you always keep your promises even to us. AMEN.

FIRST READING Genesis 12:1-8

The call and blessing of Abram

Now the Lord said to Abram, ‘Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.’

4 So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, 'To your offspring I will give this land.' So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord.

SECOND READING Romans 4:1-8

Abraham believed God and it was counted to him as righteousness

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.' ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ⁶So also David speaks of the blessedness of those to whom God reckons righteousness irrespective of works:

⁷ 'Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered;

⁸ blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin.'

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 Luke 1: 39-56

Glory to you, O Lord.

Mary visits Elizabeth and sings the Magnificat

39 In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

46 And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,

⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

56 And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Includes the following Prayerful Action

PRAYERFUL ACTIONS

You and I

You and I (*point to another person and then to yourself*)

Have been blessed by God

Have been blessed by God (*point to the sky*)

To be a blessing

to be a blessing (*give yourself a hug*)

To others

To others (*give someone else a hug*).

PROCLAMATION

HYMN

Unexpected and Mysterious

R #108

1 Unexpected and mysterious

is the gentle Word of grace.

Everloving and sustaining

is the peace of God's embrace.

If we falter in our courage

and we doubt what we have known,

God is faithful to console us

as a mother tends her own.

**2 In a momentary meeting
of eternity and time,
Mary learned that she would carry
both the mortal and divine.
Then she learned of God's compassion,
of Elizabeth's great joy,
and she ran to greet the woman
who would recognize her boy.**

**3 We are called to ponder myst'ry
and await the coming Christ,
to embody God's compassion
for each fragile human life.
God is with us in our longing
to bring healing to the earth,
while we watch with joy and wonder
for the promised Savior's birth.**

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**

PEACE

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.

PRAYERS

Pastor Laura will offer prayers concluding with the following prayer:

O Holy Child of Bethlehem, you have brought us blessing upon blessing through your birth. We thank you for your birth among us. Let us treasure all the blessings that you bring and rejoice in the special gifts of grace you shower upon us this season. Let us enjoy this time of celebration as we await your coming among us.

Amen.

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.

BLESSING

The Lord God promised to Abram that he would be blessed and be a blessing to others. God has kept that promise in Jesus. God has kept that promise to you.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. **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.***

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