

*“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 1, 2024

10:30 AM

**Advent 1**

*After the ringing of the bell ...*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Ellery Elick, Organist

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.  
Amen.

HYMN

*My Lord, What a Morning*

**WOV #627**

**Refrain:**

**My Lord, what a morning;  
 My Lord, what a morning;  
 Oh, my Lord, what a morning,  
 When the stars begin to fall,  
 When the stars begin to fall.**

**1 You'll hear the trumpet sound,  
 To wake the nations underground,  
 Looking to my God's right hand,  
 When the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]**

**2 You'll hear the sinner cry,  
 To wake the nations underground,  
 Looking to my God's right hand,  
 When the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]**

**3 You'll hear the Christian shout,  
 To wake the nations underground,  
 Looking to my God's right hand,  
 When the stars begin to fall. [Refrain]**

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.  
 You call all nations to walk in your light  
 and to seek your ways of justice and peace,  
 for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.  
 Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.  
 Rouse us from sleep,  
 that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes  
 and welcome him into our hearts and homes,  
 for he is our light and our salvation.  
 Blessed be God forever.

**AMEN**

The first candle is lit while we sing *O Come, O 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.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to you, O Israel.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

p. 81-82

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,  
and honor and blessing and glory are his.  
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.  
Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing and honor and glory and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.  
This is the feast of victory for our God,  
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

14 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. 15 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. 16 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."

PSALM 25:1-10

- <sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you;  
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- <sup>2</sup>**Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**
- <sup>3</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD,  
and teach me your paths.
- <sup>4</sup>**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.**
- <sup>5</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love,  
for they are from everlasting.
- <sup>6</sup>**Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.**
- <sup>7</sup>Gracious and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- <sup>8</sup>**He guides the humble in doing right  
and teaches his way to the lowly.**
- <sup>9</sup>All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

**<sup>10</sup>For your name's sake, O LORD,  
forgive my sin, for it is great.**

SECOND READING            1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?  
10 Night 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.

GOSPEL VERSE            *Holy Child within the Manger*            *WOV 638, vs.2*

**Once again we tell the story  
How your love for us was shown,  
When the image of your glory  
Wore an image like our own.  
Come, enlighten with your wisdom,  
Come and fill us with your grace.  
May the fire of your compassion  
Kindle ev'ry land and race.**

GOSPEL READING            Luke 21:25-36

**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."

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PROCLAMATION

HYMN

*Creator of the Stars of Night*

**R #104**

Sung to the Tune DET KIMER NU TIL JULEFEST (LBW #62)

**1 Creator of the stars of night,  
Your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all,  
We pray you hear us when we call.**

**2 In sorrow that the ancient curse  
should doom to death a universe,  
You came, O Savior, to set free  
Your own in glorious liberty.**

**3 When this old world drew on toward night,  
You came; but not in splendor bright,  
Not as a monarch, but the child  
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.**

**4 At your great name, O Jesus, now  
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:  
All things on earth with one accord,  
Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.**

#### 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 OF THE CHURCH

**Lord, in your mercy,  
receive our prayer.**

PEACE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Love Has Come*

R #116 vs. 3

**Love has come and never will leave us!**  
**Love is life everlasting and free.**  
**Love is Jesus within and among us.**  
**Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.**  
**Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.**  
**Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!**

OFFERING PRAYER

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.  
 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

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

#### 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

God feeds us with tender mercy.  
 Come to the table  
*Today, we gather at the communion rail. Please sanitize your hands before you commune.*

#### 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.  
**Amen.**

#### HYMN

*People, Look East*

*WOV #626, vs.1-3*

**1 People, look east. The time is near  
 Of the crowning of the year.  
 Make your house fair as you are able,  
 Trim the hearth and set the table.  
 People, look east, and sing today:  
 Love, the guest, is on the way.**

**2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
 One more seed is planted there.  
 Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
 That in course the flower may flourish.  
 People, look east, and sing today:  
 Love, the rose, is on the way.**

**3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
 One more light the bowl shall brim,  
 Shining beyond the frosty weather,**

**Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.**

DISMISSAL

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