



November 28, 2021, AD
First Sunday of Advent
8:15 am

Saint Paul Lutheran Church
250 Trinity Road
York, PA 17408
www.saintpaultrinity.org

First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 2021, AD 8:15 am

(P=Pastor, C=Congregation. Please silence all electronic devices as we give our attention to God's presence in this holy place.)

Gathering Music: Wachet Auf - Bach

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer, Joys and Concerns
Council Nominations Sue Dickensheets

(Acolytes light the candles during the prelude music.)

Prelude: Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying - Manz

(During the Prelude you may wish to reflect on the following prayer. Almighty God, grant to us all an increased awareness of your presence amongst us, and make us sensitive to those signs around us which point to your present and future Kingdom. May this season of Advent be a time of reflection and hope in our lives as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus in all his glory. Amen).

*Invocation and Confession and Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The voice of the prophet cries out to us: Prepare the way of the Lord. The gracious God whom we know in Christ comforts us with the promise of grace bigger than every sin. God alone makes us clean and makes us ready to meet Jesus. He comes as a Shepherd to carry us in His arms and to lead us home clothed in forgiveness and His very own righteousness.

P: Restore us, O God, and let Your face shine on us,

C: That we may be saved. *Psalm 80:3*

P: Give ear to Your people, O Shepherd of Israel,

C: and lead Your people like a flock. *Psalm 80:1, adapted*

(Please kneel or stand and observe a moment of silence for self-examination).

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know---the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed---but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace. Amen.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

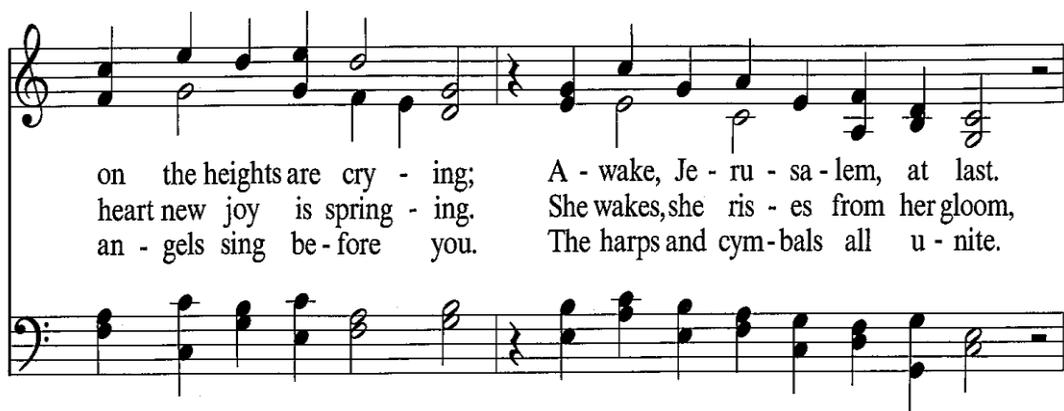
*Opening Hymn:

31

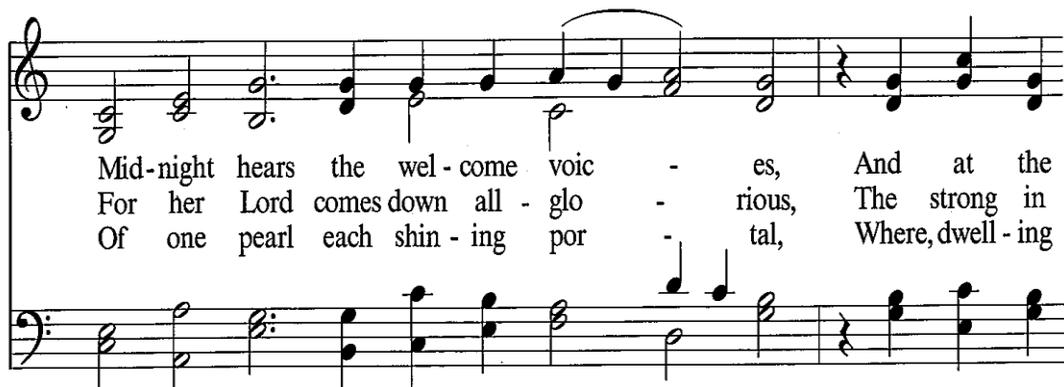
Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, The watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, And in her
3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you, And saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart new joy is spring - ing, She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom,
an - gels sing be - fore you. The harps and cym - bals all u - nite.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, And at the
For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in
Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, dwell - ing

The bride-groom comes! A - wake; Your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Oh, come, you Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has seen, no ear Has yet been trained to hear.

Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare your-selves to meet the
 Sing ho - san - na! We go un - til the halls we
 What joy is ours! Cre - scen - dos rise; your halls re -

Lord, Whose light has stirred the wait - ing guard.
 view Where you have bid us dine with you.
 sound; Ho - san - nas blend in cos - mic sound.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt.
 Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608

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WACHET AUF
 PM

***Apostolic 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.

***Kyrie**



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



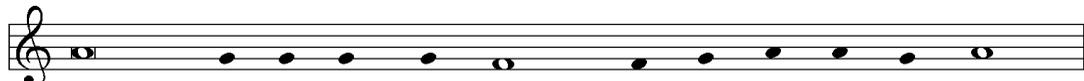
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



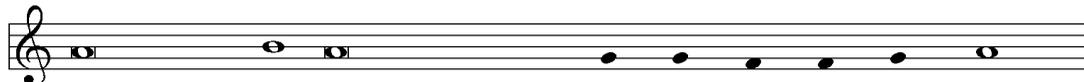
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,

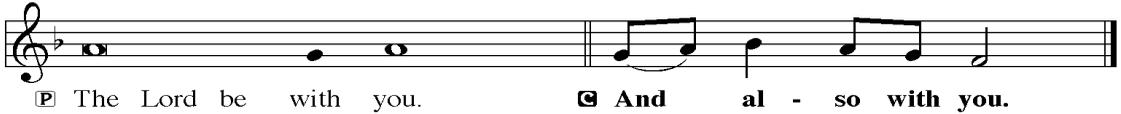


let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - - men

*Salutation



*Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray... Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

(The Word of the Lord came to the prophet Jeremiah concerning the renewal of God's people. The people were idolatrous, and the Lord had all but given up on them when he remembered his great love for them and promised them a new beginning in Jerusalem. A righteous branch of the line of David would be their king.)

¹⁴"Behold, the days are coming, declares 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 dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'"

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 25:1-10 (read responsively)

(The psalmist asked for God's intervention in his life. He did not want to be put to shame or humiliated by his enemies. He pleaded with God not to count the sins of his youth against him, but to instruct him in the Lord's holy ways and to remember him always. The need for forgiveness is present in all human beings.)

L:¹To 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.

C:²Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

L:³Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

C:⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

L:⁵Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

C:⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

L:⁷Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

C:⁸He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly.

L:⁹All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

C:¹⁰For your name's sake, O Lord, forgive my sin, for it is great.

Second Lesson: **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

(St. Paul sought to provide for the believers in Thessalonica, especially for whatever was lacking in their faith. His great desire was to return to them, to see them face to face, and to encourage them in fervent love toward one another for the sake of Christ Jesus. Paul looked forward to Christ's return and the future judgment.)

⁹What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith? ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Advent Candle Lighting Song: **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs. 1** LBW #34

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 thee, O Israel.

Reading and lighting of the candle by: Richard McCoury & Becci Stair

Children's Sermon: Pastor Paul

*Alleluia Verse+ (sung to the tune of Once in Royal David's city)

C: Lord your Word is hope and promise, gives us light to guide our way. Open now this sacred good news to our hearts and minds we pray. Alleluia, Allelu, all You say is good and true.

*Gospel Announcement

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

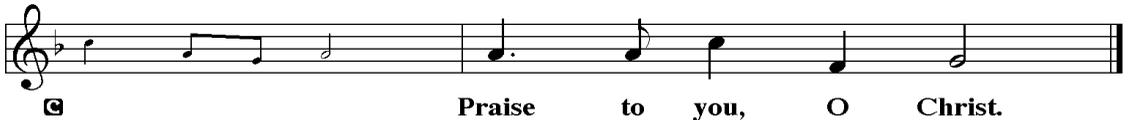


Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

(When signs appear in the heavens, it is the time that redemption is near, Jesus proclaimed. Christ urged people to keep awake and be aware of what is going on around them because if they pay attention, there will be no mistake of his return as he will come in glory on the clouds. Meanwhile, his Word will never pass away.)

²⁵{Jesus said,} “There will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

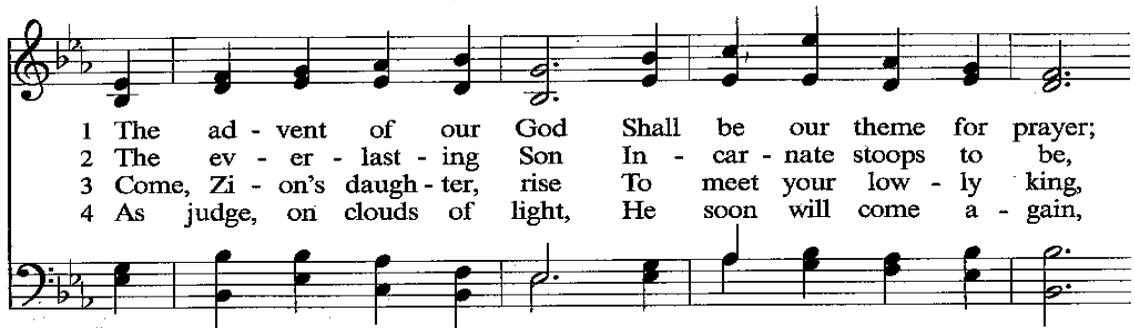
P: The Gospel of the Lord.



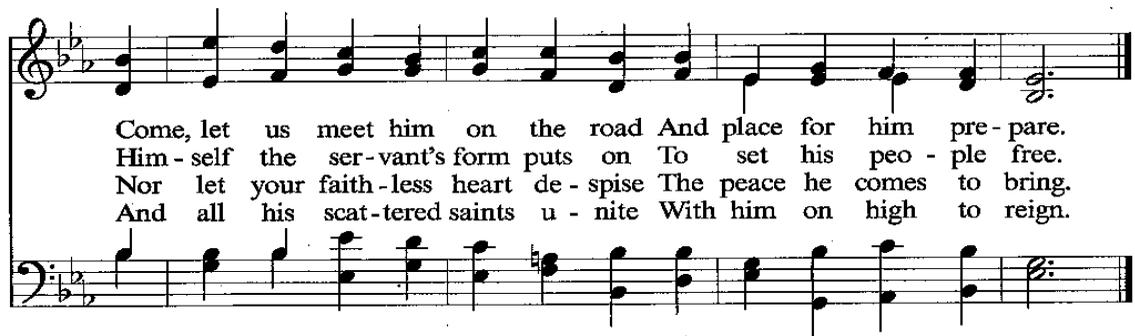
Sermon: Pastor Sally
*The Votum



The Advent of Our God



1 The ad - vent of our God Shall be our theme for prayer;
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate stoops to be,
3 Come, Zi - on's daugh - ter, rise To meet your low - ly king,
4 As judge, on clouds of light, He soon will come a - gain,



Come, let us meet him on the road And place for him pre - pare.
Him - self the ser - vant's form puts on To set his peo - ple free.
Nor let your faith - less heart de - spise The peace he comes to bring.
And all his scat - tered saints u - nite With him on high to reign.

5 Before the dawning day
Let sin be put to flight;
No longer let the law hold sway,
But walk in freedom's light.

6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

*Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt.
Tune: Johann B. König, 1691-1758, adapt.*

FRANCONIA
SM

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*The 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; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. 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; With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He 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

*P: The Prayers (Please respond "Hear our prayer.")

C: Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you. (We share the peace with one another.)

Offertory: Let Desert Wasteland Now Rejoice – Schutz, arr. LeBlanc / Choir

*Offertory Response: **Christ is Coming! Lift Your Eyes!**

(We sing to the tune of "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise") **Vs. 1 LBW #90**

C: Christ is Coming! Lift your eyes! Sweep your hearts, prepare your lives. Spread your welcome. He is near. Soon Messiah will appear! He is life and peace profound. Trust His love and turn around! Christ is coming! Don't delay! He is Lord! Prepare His way! Words by Ken Bible © 2009 by LNWhymns.com. CCLI Song License 1757631

*Offertory Prayer:

P: Blessed are you,

C: O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us. Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Great Thanksgiving

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G-clef, 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a 'P' (Piano) dynamic marking. The second staff has a 'C' (Crescendo) dynamic marking. The third and fourth staves have a 'C' (Crescendo) dynamic marking. The lyrics are: "The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give him thanks and praise."

P The Lord be with you. **C** And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

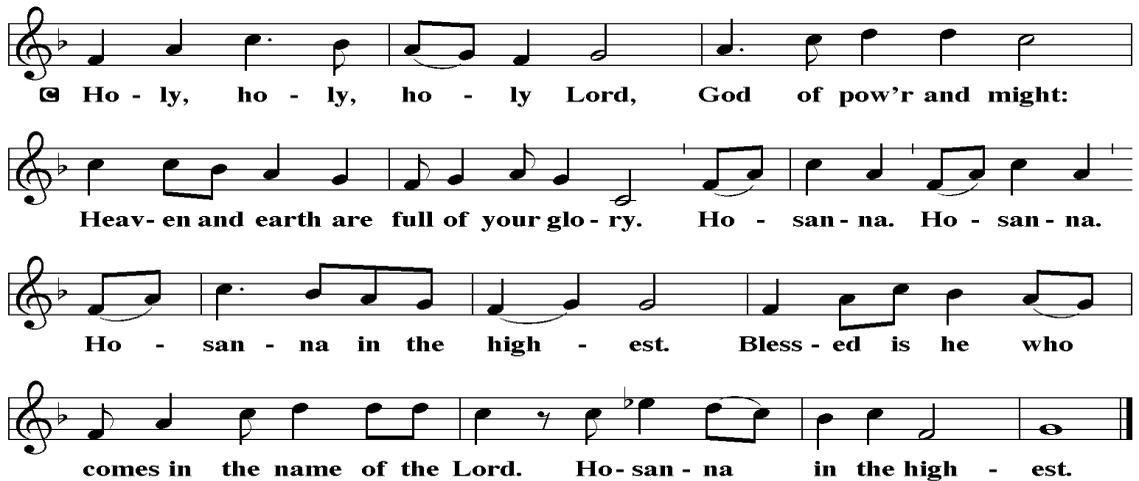
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

*Preface: §

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has chosen to visit us with His merciful presence so that we would be united to Him and reconciled to You. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

*Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Eucharistic Prayer:

P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Bless us as Your children through the working of the Holy Spirit that as we gather to receive Christ's holy body and blood, we may be filled with Your heavenly peace and joy.

C: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

*The Words of Institution

*The 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.

Lamb of God

C Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion (Hymn sung during distribution)

What Feast of Love WOV #701 OL A-713240

(Please feel free to kneel in pews after receiving communion)

*Blessing

*Post Communion Canticle **Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray (vs. 5)**

All: Lord Jesus Christ, we humbly pray; Oh, keep us steadfast to that day, That each may be thy welcomed guest When thou shalt spread thy heav'nly feast.

*Post Communion Prayer+

P: Let us pray...

All: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, Oh Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(Acolytes extinguish the candles during the hymn)

*Recessional Hymn:

ADVENT

All Earth Is Hopeful

Toda la tierra

629

1 All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!
 2 Peo-ple of Is-rael, you heard the proph-et tell:
 3 Moun-tains and val-leys will have to be pre-pared;
 4 We first saw Je-sus a ba-by in a crib.

Fur-rows lie o-pen for God's cre-a-tive task: this, the
 "A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el"; she con-
 new high-ways o-pened, new pro-to-cols de-clared. Al-most
 This same Lord Je-sus to-day has come to live in our

la-lor of peo-ple who strug-gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth-er, whose birth re-
 here! God is near-ing, in beau-ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres-ent, in neigh-bors we see our

God's truth and jus-tice set ev-'ry-bod-y free.
 stores hope and cour-age to chil-dren of this earth.
 clear ev-'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je-sus is with us, and ev-er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946
 Music: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; arr. Skinner Chávez-Melo, b. 1944-1992

Text and tune © 1972 Alberto Taulé, admin. Virgil C. Funk
 Tr. © 1995 Madeleine Forell Marshall, admin. Auesbure Fortress; arr. © Estate of Skinner Chávez-Melo

TAULÉ
 11 11 12 12

OLA-713240

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Savior of the Nations, Come - Bach

~ © 2019 – Sola Publishing (www.solapublishing.com); §Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish

Theme of the Day: Jeremiah was to inform an idolatrous people that the Lord would not forsake them, even though they had disregarded his love and his ways. He would send a righteous branch of the tree of David to be their king. This king would be eternal, and his reign would be characterized by justice and mercy. We know this one as King Jesus, and he will return to earth once more and take his people unto himself for all eternity.

WELCOME! Thank you for joining for worship! **In the name of Jesus Christ, Saint Paul Lutheran Church is committed to praising, praying, and proclaiming the Word of God.** All baptized Christians who have received their first communion are invited to join us for Holy Communion believing as we do that Christ is truly present in this holy meal. Please join us again.

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

250 Trinity Road York, PA 17408 717-792-1650

PASTORS Rev. Sara “Sally” Gausmann e-mail: pastorsally@saintpaultrinity.org

Cell phone: 717-487-1790

Rev. Paul Gausmann

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ADMIN ASST: Jean Strine

Church office: 717-792-1650

E-mail: parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org

Website: www.saintpaultrinity.org

WIFI: John3:16

OFFICE HOURS

M-Th 8:00am-2:30pm, Fri 8:00-12 noon

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Carol Moscony

musicdirector@saintpaultrinity.org

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Carol Frey

financialsecretary@saintpaultrinity.org

MINI SEXTON: Jack Hall

minisexton@saintpaultrinity.org

CYC DIRECTOR: Malinda Grube

CYCdirector@saintpaultrinity.org

Missionaries: Andy Stump in Haiti, Luke & Ruth in the Philippians

SPONSORSHIPS to the Glory of God: FLOWERS in memory of all cancer patients by Esther & John Jacobs / in loving memory of Elwood Bahn Sr. and Edith & Luther Mummert by Sharon & Dennis Mummert & Family **BULLETIN** in memory of Delores by Carl Smyser **BREAD & WINE** to the glory of God by Gloria Witmer **MAILING** in loving memory of Delores by Carl Smyser **PARISH MESSENGER** in honor of our grandchildren by John & Esther Jacobs **SANCTUARY LAMP** in honor of our grandchildren by Donna & Gordon Huckenberry

Our Lord's Helpers on November 28, 2021

Greeter: James Tice

Acolyte: Wyatt Myers

Head Usher: Donna Rinehart

Sound: OPEN

Lay Reader: Cindy Renehan

Altar Guild: Diane Workman

Communion Assts.: Diana Fake / Malinda Grube

Activities for the Week of November 28, 2021

- Sun. 11/28 First Sunday of Advent
8:15 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 am Faith Builders
10:45 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
- Tues. 11/30 10:00 am Bible Study
11:30 am Advent Prayer Service
7:00 pm Hilltop AA / Zoom Bible Study
- Thurs. 12/2 9:30 am Pastors' Text Study – Camp Hill PA
6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Fri. 12/3 7:00 pm Hilltop AA
- Sun. 12/5 Second Sunday of Advent
8:15 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:30 am Faith Builders
10:45 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
12:30 pm Christmas Party – Fellowship Hall

Our Lord's Helpers on December 5, 2021

Greeter: OPEN

Acolyte: Lawrence Smyser

Head Usher: Lawrence Smyser

Sound: Jacob Eash

Lay Reader: Lawrence Smyser

Altar Guild: Jack & Sandie Smyser

Communion Assts.: OPEN / OPEN

SPECIAL APPEAL FOR NOVEMBER – Samaritan's Purse

The story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) gives a clear picture of God's desire for us to help those in desperate need wherever we find them. After describing how the Samaritan rescued a hurting man whom others had passed by, Jesus told His hearers, "Go and do likewise." For over 40 years, Samaritan's Purse has done our utmost to follow Christ's command by going to the aid of the world's poor, sick, and suffering. We are an effective means of reaching hurting people in countries around the world with food, medicine, and other assistance in the Name of Jesus Christ. This, in turn, earns us a hearing for the Gospel, the Good News of eternal life through Jesus Christ. Funds to date: \$3,563



Our Greatest Gift: A wonderful Life in Christ. Join us for a fun and Inspirational Bible Study on Tuesdays, November 30, and December 7, at church at 10 am, or at 7 pm via Zoom. Based on the classic film "*It's a Wonderful Life*," and with references to it, this

bound to get you into the mood for Advent and for Christmas. The suggested price for the study booklet is \$7.

Our missionary in the Philippines, Luke, has an interesting new project--publishing Sama folktales in English and Sanama languages. The first book, *The Monkeys and The Sea Cucumber*, is nicely illustrated by an 11-year old and deals with the Golden Rule. The dual purpose of these books is to promote literacy in Sama people (so they can read the Bible) and to raise money for the ministry of Luke and Ruth. Available on Amazon for \$6; a copy is on display in our church library area.

ADVENT starts today! There are devotional books available for home use on the table in the library area. Prepare your hearts for the coming King!



In Advent, there is a small Christmas tree in the narthex. We are asking if anyone would like to make a monetary donation to the **Margaret Moul Home** by placing your money or check (made out to Saint Paul Lutheran with a note 'Margaret Moul Home' in the memo line) in the Christmas stocking & hang the stocking on the tree. Thank you for your support of this worthwhile cause.

ADVENT PRAYER SERVICE

Join us Tuesday mornings November 30, December 7, 14 and 21 at 11:30 am for a simple time of prayer, praise, and reflection on the Advent theme of light. The service will end by noon and those who wish to can bring a packed lunch to enjoy a simple meal together.

MEN OF FAITH

Men's Group will meet on December 11 at 8 am. The topic this time will be Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, the great organizer of Lutheranism in America, who led a colorful and inspiring life, bringing many to faith while protecting and popularizing much of the strength of our Lutheran Confessions. Join us for breakfast and a stimulating program.

WOMEN OF THE WORD

Women of the Word will meet for Bible study on Wednesday, December 15 at 1:00 pm. We will continue our bible study, "*Adventurous Prayer*". Brenda Shorts will lead our study "*Prayer Closets*". We invite any woman to join us for bible study and fellowship.



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING – DECEMBER 12

We might not be able to visit any nursing homes, but we will go to as many shut-ins and other individual homes as possible. We will have pizza lunch after second service church, and then set out in groups. Any age can join the fun of bringing Christmas cheer to our loved ones! Look for the sign-up sheet in the library area.



Friends in Christ will go out for lunch at Hoss's on White Street on **Sunday, December 19 at 12 noon**. Sign up on the sheet in the library area by December 12.

Children's Christmas Program



Children's
Christmas Program

The children of the church will be putting on a simple presentation of the Christmas story on Sun., December 19 at the 10:45 am worship service. It's called "Mary's Story." There will be rehearsal during Faith Builders on December 5 and 12. All boys and girls are invited to participate.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Articles for the January newsletter need to be in the church office by **December 15, 2021**.

YEAR END REPORTS from each committee chair and staff member must be in the Church Office by **December 27th** in order to have them prepared for the annual meeting on January 16, 2022. Please e-mail these to parishadmin@saintpaultrinity.org Thank you!



In order to receive credit for your contributions, they must be received **no later than December 27th**. Thank you!

If you have paid for your 2022 Daily Text, please stop by the office to pick up your copy.

OUR DAILY BREAD

Our dessert for December is **ice cream dixies**. If you would like to contribute toward their cost, please use an envelope and mark it "December Our Daily Bread." Thank you!

Sermon Notes

To you O Lord I lift up my soul – Psalm 25:1

The Great Thanksgiving (from Lamentations 3:41, Psalm 84:4 and most notably for us today: Psalm 25:1. To you O Lord I lift up my soul)

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 him thanks and praise

Giving thanks is essential for our physical and spiritual lives. Romans 1:21 and following describes what happens when people fail to give thanks. I lift up my soul or I lift up my heart means that we will be placing our lives in God's hands. For Orthodox Christians, this is the psalm that they say at their earliest prayer service of the day and their last prayer service at night. These words bracket the day and indicate an acknowledgement that God can be trusted and that we have confidence in God's goodness.

Jesus warns us that we should not have hearts that are weighed down. Troubled times can make us discouraged, but they should never take away our thanksgiving and our trust in the Lord.

Look to the fig tree (look to signs of life.) What greater sign of life do we have than the resurrected Christ, the one who lives forever and ever.

The old bedtime prayer, Now I lay me down to sleep, is a simple acknowledgement of our trust in God, every night we close our eyes trusting that awake or asleep, living or deceased, God is in charge of our lives – he holds our souls, our hearts in his hands.

Lifting up our souls doesn't mean that we are able to reach up to heaven, rather we know that it is Christ who has come down to us. That is our Advent theme, we celebrate, Immanuel, God with us.

Much like St. Paul talks about in Colossians 3 verses one and following, we are to set our minds on things that are above, we are to think about Christ and not let our hearts get weighed down by earthly cares. Jesus says, where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also, so we put our treasure, our hearts, in the very hands of Christ and we ask him to rule our lives, and to deliver us from all evil.

When things are difficult, when our end time comes, or the worlds end time comes we do not need to despair because Jesus will vanquish the foe, he will clear away the darkness, he will forgive our sins and he will bless us with endless light and hope and peace, now and forever and ever.



TAKING FAITH HOME – November 28, 2021, AD

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday Luke 21:25-36 The coming of the Son of Man
Monday Daniel 7:13-14 A vision of the Son of Man
Tuesday Joel 3:14-18 The day of the Lord is near
Wednesday Micah 4:1-7 The Lord's coming reign of peace
Thursday Luke 17:22-37 The day of the Son of Man
Friday Romans 13:11-14 Our salvation is near
Saturday Psalm 90 Prayer for life from God
Sunday Luke 3:1-6 Prepare the way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

(Jesus said) "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."

Luke 21:33 (NIV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. In you I place my trust, O God. Amen.
(see Psalm 25:1-2).

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, bless our home with hope this Advent. As we enjoy your gifts, make us ready for your coming again. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord help you to stand strong in your faith, so that you are ready when Jesus comes again. (see Luke 21:36; 1 Thess. 3:13)

CARING CONVERSATION

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about something you really looked forward to.
- Jesus tells us that one day he will come again in glory. How do you imagine his return? What can we do to "watch" for his return?

DEVOTIONS

The Advent Wreath is a great home devotional tool. Set up four purple or blue candles with a white candle in the center. Light one candle during the first week of Advent, another during the second week and so on. On Christmas Day, light the white candle in celebration of the birth of Christ. Use this simple liturgy for lighting your first Advent candle this week:

Leader: The prophet Isaiah said that Jesus would be the hope of the nations. Our first Advent candle is the candle of hope. As we light it, let us celebrate the hope that Jesus gives us. (Light the candle.)

All: Thank you, Lord Jesus, for giving us hope. Fill our home with hope this Christmas. Amen.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Have you set up and decorated your Christmas tree? When this is done, take some time for a Christmas Tree Blessing. Gather round the tree and use the following ritual.

Leader: This tree is a blessing to our home. It reminds us of all that is beautiful and of God's goodness. It stands in our home as a tree of light, a sign of Jesus' presence with us as the Light of the World. He was the shoot that grew from the stump of Jesse to become a branch that gives us shelter.

Reader: Jeremiah 33:15-16

All: God of all Creation, we thank you for this tree. Bless us as we gather around it. May it light up our hearts with your love, joy, and peace, and may the gifts placed under it remind us of the great gift of your Son Jesus. Amen.

Finish the ritual with a "countdown" towards the lighting of your tree. Have each family member point out their favorite Christmas tree decoration.

People and issues to pray for in your devotions this week: For those who find this time of year to be bittersweet or lonely, that they may find peace and acceptance in the family of God, and for those mentioned today including _____ and _____.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES (Prelude shortly before each service)

3:00 pm – Miracle of Christmas Service

7:00 pm – Festival of Christmas in Word and Song with Candlelight

9:00 pm – Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

1st SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS - DECEMBER 26 ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 AM

Holy communion and lots of Christmas Carols!
(No Faith Builders Sunday School that day)