



**November 27, 2022, 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 27, 2022, 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: Chorale Prelude on "Sleepers Awake" - Krebs

(At this time, you may wish to reflect on the following prayer: O God, we beseech thee to maintain thy Church in truth and patience, that her ministers may be faithful, her people loyal, her watchmen vigilant, her camp united, her weapons heavenly and her warfare spiritual through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Welcome, Announcements, Prayer, Joys, and Concerns

Council Nominations - Al Dickensheets

(Acolytes light the candles during the prelude music.)

Prelude: Comfort and Joy (An Advent Carol) – Choplin – Women's Ensemble

*Invocation and Confession and Absolution

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

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

P: Confident of receiving God's great mercy, let us confess together that we by nature are sinful and that through our thoughts, words, and deeds we have sinned against our God and deserve His punishment now and eternally.

C: Almighty God, we repent of our sins and ask for Your forgiving grace in our lives. Be merciful to us and for the sake of Jesus grant us remission of our sins so that, as Your redeemed people, we may greet you in Advent hope and with trusting hearts serve You in time and in eternity.

P: In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

*Opening Hymn:

32

Fling Wide the Door

F Dm C Bb F

1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; The King of glo - ry
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, The heart of mer - cy's
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands That live by their true
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; Our hearts are o - pen

C F C F Am F G C

comes in state; The Lord of lords and King of kings, The
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; His
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, The
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, Up -

F C F Am F G C Bb

Sav - ior of the world who brings His great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; He brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, And let your Ho - ly

F Dm Bb F

to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth And
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, And
 Son of bliss Who fills our lives and makes us his, Cre -
 Spir - it guide Our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We

Dm Gm C Gm C F

praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song and praise, For sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, Our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, From age to age the same!

*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.

14

Listen! You Nations

Refrain



Lis - ten! you na - tions of the world: lis - ten to the Word of the Lord. An -



nounce it from coast to coast; de - clare it to dis - tant is - lands.

1 The Lord who scat - tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and

he will keep watch o - ver them as a shep - herd watch - es his flock. *Refrain*

2 With shouts of joy they will come, their fac - es ra - diant - ly hap - py, for the

Lord is so gen - 'rous to them; he show - ers his peo - ple with gifts. *Refrain*

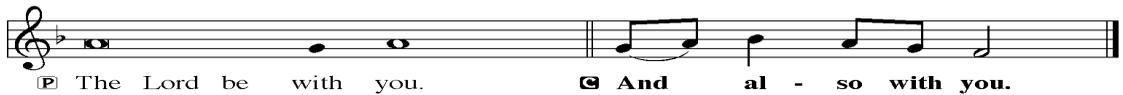
3 Young wom - en will dance for joy, and men young and old will make

mer - ry. Like a gar - den re - fresh - ed by the rain, they will nev - er be in want a -

gain. Break in - to shouts of great joy: Ja - cob is free a - gain! Teach

na - tions to sing the song: "The Lord has - saved his peo - ple!"

*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: **Isaiah 2:1-5**

(In the last days, the Messiah will come and bring peace to warring nations. Swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks as weapons are replaced with instruments of peace and productivity. War will be no more, and Israel will be a great blessing to all nations.)

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: **122 (read responsively)**

(In this pilgrimage psalm, the psalmist sings of peace within the walls of Jerusalem and for all those who love the Lord. There is joy in the house of the Lord, among God's faithful people.)

L:¹I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

C:²Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

L:³Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

C:⁴To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.

L:⁵For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

C:⁶Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

L:⁷Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

C:⁸For my brethren and companions' sake, I pray for your prosperity.

L:⁹Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good."

Second Lesson: **Romans 13:(8-10) 11-14**

(St. Paul instructed the Christians in Rome to refrain from owing anyone anything, but instead to practice loving each other. In this way they would be fulfilling the whole law of God. True love is characterized by doing no wrong to one's neighbor. He goes on to remind them that they are closer now to salvation than they have been at any time previous; therefore, they are called to walk in the light of Christ.)

[⁸Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.] ¹¹Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. ¹²The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Advent Candle Lighting Song: **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs. 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 thee, O Israel.

Reading and lighting of the candle by: Mike Barndt and Susan Batlouni

Children’s Sermon: Pastor Sally

*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 Matthew, the 24th chapter.



Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44

(The coming of the Son of Man will be at a time when people least expect it, Jesus said. People will be marrying and living their lives just as in the days of Noah before the flood came unexpectedly. Since we do not know the exact time or day, it would serve us well to be prepared for Christ’s return at any time.)

³⁶{Jesus said,} “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only. ³⁷For as were the days of Noah, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they were unaware until the flood came and swept them all away, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two men will be in the field; one will be taken and one left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one left. ⁴²Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he

would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”
 P: The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon: Pastor Paul

*The Votum

*Hymn of the Day:

631

Lift Up Your Heads, O Gates

1 Lift up your heads, O gates; the King of
 2 Who is this glo - rious King whose praise the
 3 Lift up your heads, O gates; the King of
 4 Sing ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, by heav'n and

glo - ry waits. Lift high, O an - cient doors, o - bey;
 na - tions sing? The Lord, the Might - y, Ho - ly One,
 glo - ry waits. Lift high, O an - cient doors, o - bey;
 earth a - dored: O God of pow'r, O God of might,

pre - pare the roy - al way.
 whose strength the vic - t'ry won. Ho - san - na,
 pre - pare the roy - al way.
 you reign in glo - rious light.

Refrain

ho - san - na! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Text: Ps. 24:7-9, vers. Bert Polman, b. 1945, st. 1-3; *With One Voice*, st. 4
 Music: Richard W. Dirksen, b. 1921

Text © 1987 CRC Publications, st. 1-3; © 1995 Augsburg Fortress, st. 4
 Music © 1974 Harold Flammer Music, a division of Shawnee Press, Inc. (A.S.C.A.P.)

*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: The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns - Keesecker

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

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

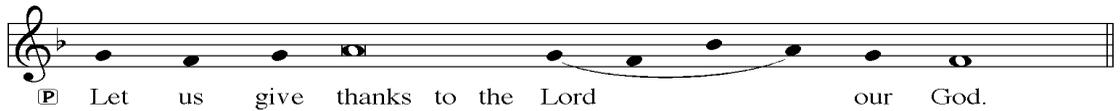
C: Christ is Coming! Lift your eyes! Sweep your hearts, prepare your lives. Spread your welcome. He is near. Soon Messiah will appear! He is life and peace profound. Trust His love and turn around! Christ is coming! Don't delay! He is Lord! Prepare His way! Words by Ken Bible © 2009 by LNWhymns.com.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

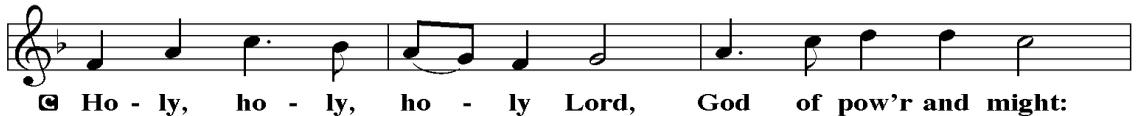
*The Great Thanksgiving



*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



***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.

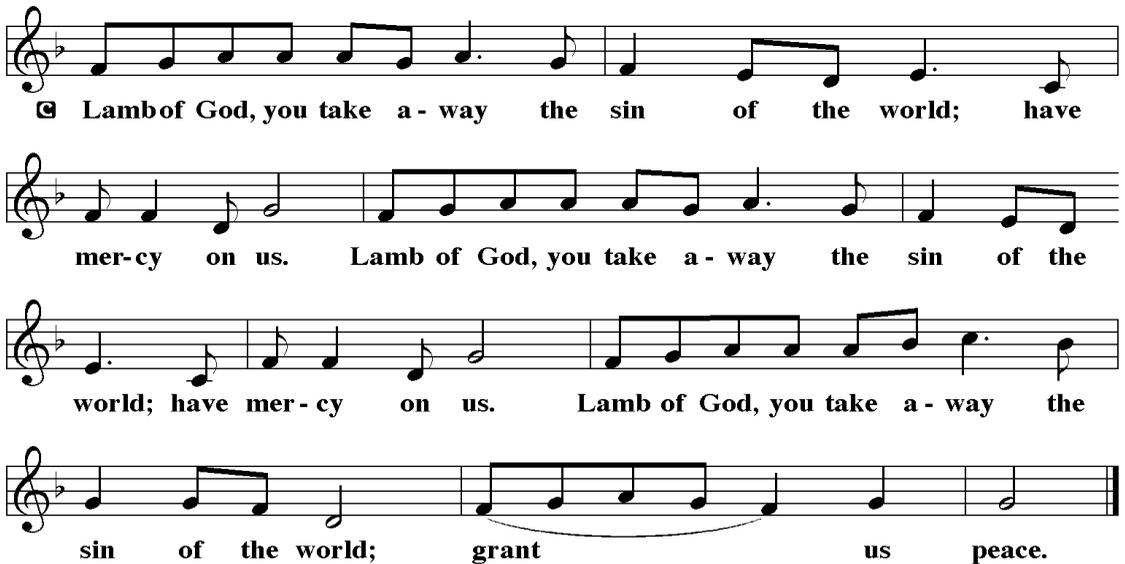
***The Words of Institution**

***The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray...

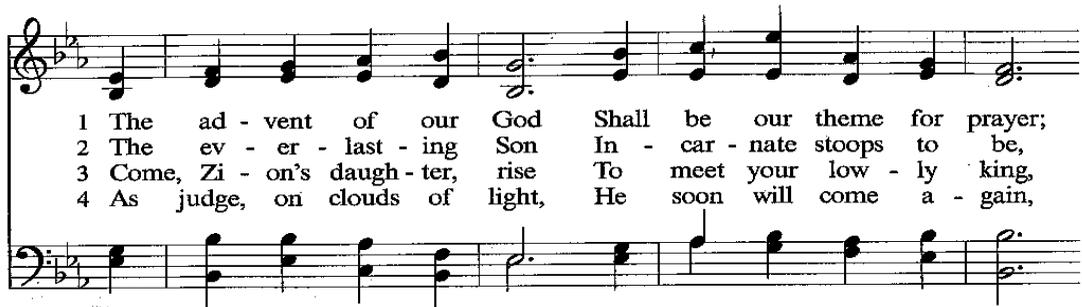
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Lamb of God

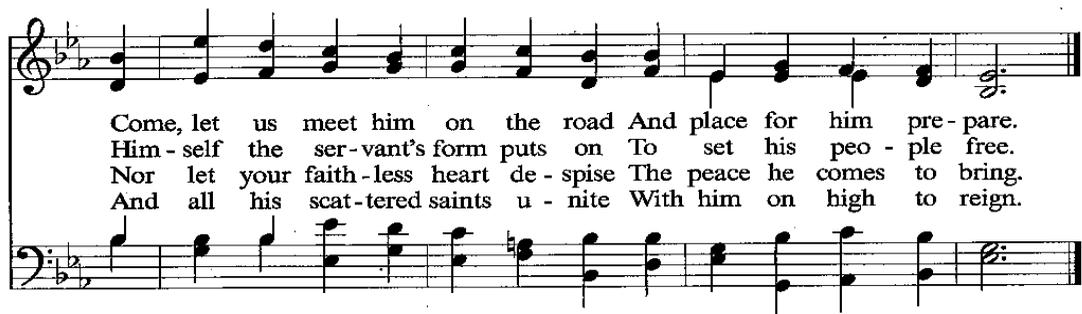


☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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.
OL-A-713240*

FRANCISCA
SM

*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.

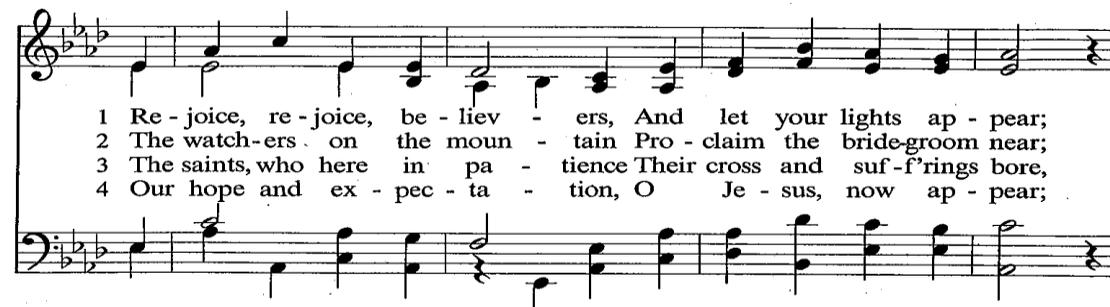
C: Amen

(Acolytes extinguish the candles during the hymn)

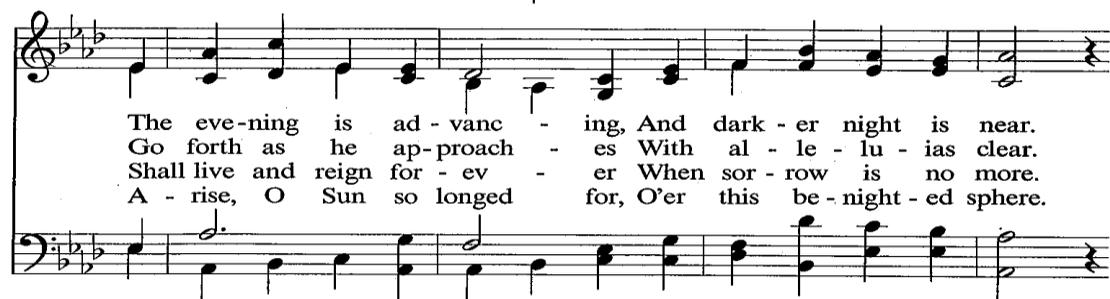
*Recessional Hymn:

25

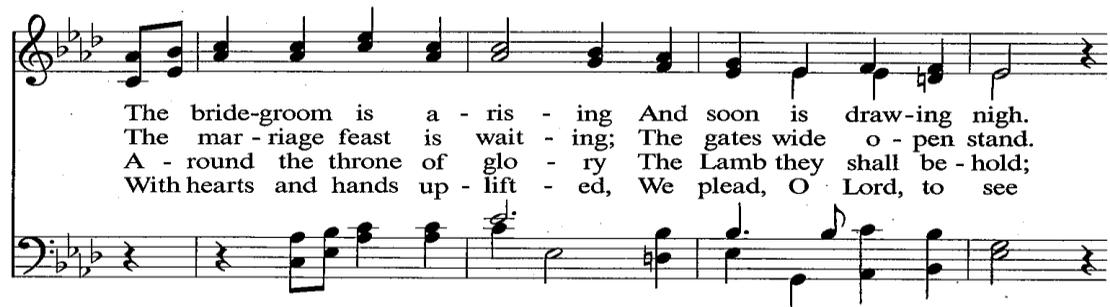
Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



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'nings 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 Laurentii, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt.
Tune: Swedish folk tune

Public Domain

HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG
7676 D

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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

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Theme of the Day: The First Sunday of Advent draws us into the promise for peace given to Jerusalem and her citizens as a sign of the coming Messiah who will rescue and redeem Israel. Paul reminded believers that they were closer now, in Christ, than ever before to the promise of salvation. Until Jesus returns, we are challenged to be ready, for no one knows the time or the day when he will come again in glory.

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! **Join us for coffee and hospitality** in Fellowship Hall after the service.

The deadline for including messages in the bulletin is 12 noon on Wednesdays.

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 past loved ones by Randy & Donna Barshinger **BREAD & WINE** in memory of past loved ones Randy & Donna Barshinger **MAILING** in memory of past loved ones by Randy & Donna Barshinger **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 27, 2022

Greeter: Brenda McCleary

Acolyte: Cindy Renehan

Head Usher: Daphne Conn

Sound: Matt Conn

Lay Reader: Ed Keefer

Altar Guild: Roxanne Donnan

Communion Assts.: Cindy Renehan / Becci Stair

Activities for the Week of November 27, 2022

- Sun. 11/27 **First Sunday of Advent / Council Nominations**
8:15 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:40 am Faith Builders
10:45 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
4:00 pm Games & Crafts
- Mon. 11/28 Office Closed
- Tues. 11/29 9:15 am Pastors Visit CYC Classrooms
3:00 pm CYC Director Meeting
4:15 pm Harvest of Hope
6:30 pm Girl Scouts
7:00 pm Hilltop AA
- Weds. 11/30 12:15 pm Advent Service (Parlor)
6:00 pm Pickleball
- Thurs. 12/1 9:30 am Pastors' Pericope Study – Camp Hill PA
6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal
- Fri. 12/2 7:00 pm Hilltop AA
- Sat. 12/3 9:00 am Friends in Christ Trip – Catoctin Furnace Christmas Village
9:00 am Christmas Party Set Up (Fellowship Hall)
- Sun. 12/4 **Second Sunday of Advent**
8:15 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
9:40 am Faith Builders
10:45 am Divine Service with Holy Communion
12:00 pm Christmas Party – Fellowship Hall

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: \$3,741

Daily Texts for 2023 are available on the table in the library area for \$10 each. They make a great Christmas gift!

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 on Wednesdays **November 30, December 7, 14, and 21, at 12:15 pm**, for a simple time of prayer, praise, and reflection on the Advent theme of light.

CRAFTS & GAMES NIGHT: Join us **TODAY, Sun., November 27, at 4:00 pm** for a fun time of fellowship as we play games and make Advent-themed crafts in fellowship hall.

FRIENDS IN CHRIST: Our December activity will be on **Saturday, December 3 (weather providing.)** We will go to Catoctin Furnace to see their Christmas Village. We will meet at the church at 9 am and return by 2 pm. Bring money for lunch. Please sign up by **TODAY, November 27.**

The Church Christmas party will be Sunday December 4, at noon. Enjoy lunch and entertainment by The Crull Family This Way Up Band. We will serve lasagna, spaghetti and meatballs with salad and dessert.

MEN OF FAITH

Men's Group will meet on **December 10 at 8 am.** Our Men's Group is an excellent time of fellowship, discussion and learning, as well as a good meal. This year we have been watching a lively teaching from Tony Evans entitled Kingdom Men Rising, an excellent series that explores the key role Christian Men can play in helping to support a healthier environment for the faith maturing of other Christian Men.



JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS CAROLING – DECEMBER 11

We will have a 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!

WOMEN OF THE WORD

Women of the Word will meet for Bible study on **Wednesday, December 21 at 1 pm.** We will continue our Bible study "*Experiencing Contagious Joy.*" Nadine Worley will lead us in "*A Reason for Rejoicing*". We invite all ladies to join us for Bible study and fellowship. If you are unable to attend but would like a copy of the study, please contact Barb Sloat.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The children of the church will be putting on a simple presentation of the Christmas story on **Sun., December 18 at the 10:45 am** worship service. It's called "Joseph's Story." There will be rehearsal during Faith Builders on December 4 and 11. 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, 2022.**

YEAR END REPORTS from each committee chair and staff member must be in the Church Office by **December 26th** in order to have them prepared for the annual meeting on January 15, 2023. 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 26th.** Thank you!

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!



The children are asked to bring to the 7:00 pm Christmas Eve or 9:30 am Christmas Day service a wrapped gift for the Baby Jesus. We are requesting items to complete the Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. Here are the items we are requesting. Please do not substitute any other item than what is what is listed because we cannot use it. - Cloth diapers, gowns, or sleepers without feet (shirt & pant sets can be used), dark-colored hand towels, t-shirts or undershirts, and diaper pins. Clothing should be sizes between 6 months and 24 months. Any questions please see Barb Sloat. Thank you!

Sermon Notes

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the House of the Lord" - Psalm 122:1

One of the things we have yet to do as a congregation is fully dedicate our new wing and our worship renovations thanking God for these great improvements and dedicating these spaces to be used always to the Glory of God.

Of course, each week we gather here knowing that the true host of our assembly is God himself who has promised that where two or more are gathered in His name that he is in their midst. The Church is not centralized in that wherever the word is rightly preached, and the sacraments rightly administered, the Lord is fully with it, whether in a great cathedral or the smallest of chapel, God wonderfully is fully present in both.

Taking a religious pilgrimage is an ancient tradition and faith exercise but we don't have to go to the Holy Land to have our faith renewed, our Sabbath gathering is a journey to the place where heaven and earth meet, where past, present, and future exist in harmony.

The start of a new church year reminds us how through our cycle of readings we take a virtual journey with Jesus from his birth to death and Resurrection, a verbal but also physical pilgrimage.

But unlike our Judean ancestors we have access to the fulness of God's presence. Through God's grace, the temple curtain has been torn in two, we see God in mystic sweet communion, we ascend with angels and archangels, cherubim, and seraphim... what a fulfilling message.

There is much that can and does at times distract us from our journey, much to make us stumble and fall, but here we remember God is right alongside of us, His forgiveness is a balm to help us continue on our journey to the promised land.

So, we can be glad when we come into the house of the Lord together, in the fulness of God's presence, where we belong as His people.

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

First Sunday of Advent – November 27, 2022

*“Therefore you also must be ready,
for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

-Matthew 24:44-

Traditionally Lutherans have observed Advent as a season that focuses on the different ways that God comes to us: he comes to us in the flesh in Jesus Christ; he comes to us through the proclamation and preaching of his Word; and he promises to come to us again. The word *advent* is derived from the Latin word that means “coming, arrival.” Over the years there have been many predictions made about the “end of the world.” Those predicted dates come and go. Jesus says in verse 36, “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.” Jesus does not even know when he will be returning to our world. So often we get caught up in the “when” and miss Jesus’ main point. It’s a promise that he will return. And so he urges us to be ready because it will occur when we least expect it.

So that begs the question: what do we do to be ready? In 2020 many of us (if not all of us) were caught by great surprise at the advent (arrival) of Covid-19. I was really caught off-guard by the lack of supplies and food like toilet paper, bottled water, milk, eggs, and bread. We can try to prepare all we want, but it does us no good. As for preparing for Christ’s return, we can give to all the charities, try to do all the good we can, treat others with kindness and respect, but if we lack one thing (the most important thing of all), all the preparations in the world won’t help us one iota.

So again, the question is asked: what do we do to be ready for Christ’s return? Well, it begins simply with faith. We place our faith and trust in Christ Jesus our Lord. And with that comes repentance and forgiveness of sin. We trust in God’s goodness and his promises for us and our lives. That’s all the preparation we need! Furthermore, because of that Spirit-given gift of faith, we have no reason to fear when Christ comes again. We have every reason to rejoice and humbly bow before him as he graces us with his presence once more.

Prayer: Gracious Heavenly Father, thank you for the promise of your Son Jesus Christ. Give us faith to believe in your goodness and mercy. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



TAKING FAITH HOME – November 27, 2022, 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 Matthew 24:36-44 The sudden coming of salvation

Monday Matthew 24:3-14 Persevere to the end

Tuesday Matthew 24:23-28 Don't be deceived

Wednesday Matthew 24:45-51 The faithful servant

Thursday Luke 17:22-37 The coming of the Son of Man

Friday Joel 3:14-21 The day of the Lord

Saturday Psalm 124 We have escaped like a bird

Sunday Matthew 3:1-12 Prepare the way of the Lord

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“So always be ready because you don't know the day your Lord will come.
” Matthew 24:42 (NCV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, keep us awake in our faith, always ready for you to return. Amen.
(Matthew 24:42)

Mealtime Prayer:

Lord Jesus, please bless our Advent eating and our Advent waiting. Give us hearts that are ready and faith that is steady. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you wait and watch for Jesus. May your faith burn bright each and every day.
Amen.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you were waiting for something or someone to come.
- Jesus asks his followers to be ready, as he could return at any time (Matthew 24:42). How do we stay ready for Jesus?
- How would you describe yourself as a Christian right now – tired, sleepy, awake or alert?

DEVOTIONS

Set up an Advent wreath to use in your home in the weeks leading up to Christmas. An Advent wreath contains five candles: four in a circle and one in the center. The circle represents the eternity of God, and the four candles are usually blue or purple. The center candle is usually white. It represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. In the first week of Advent, light the first candle.

Say: This is the first week of Advent. Advent means “coming.” We are waiting and watching for the coming of Christ. Let us light the first Advent candle, the candle of waiting. (The candle is lit.)

Read: Read one of the following verses: Matthew 24:42, Matthew 24:44, Romans 13:12, Luke 12:35, Colossians 4:2, Psalm 130:5, Psalm 130:6, Matthew 3:3.

Pray: Lord God, thank you for Advent. In this season of waiting, make us ready for Jesus to return. Amen.

People and issues to pray for in your devotions this week: That we would diligently embrace the new Church year as part of our Christian pilgrimages and for those mentioned today including _____ and _____.



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES (Prelude shortly before each service)

7:00 pm – Festival of Christmas in Word and Song with Candlelight
9:30 pm – Traditional Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY - DECEMBER 25 ONE SERVICE AT 9:30 AM

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