

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT



DECEMBER 7, 2025

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

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OPENING HYMN "PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY" 343

✠ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION ✠ P. 203

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT PSALM 105:4-8; ANTIPHON: ISAIAH 40:3B

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

**Seek the Lord and his strength;
seek his presence continually!**

Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,

**O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**

He is the Lord our God;
his judgments are in all the earth.

**He remembers his covenant forever,
the word that he commanded, for a thousand
generations.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

KYRIE P. 204

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT

ISAIAH 11:1-10

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

ZECHARIAH 9:9, PSALM 118:26, ALT.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

EPISTLE

ROMANS 15:4-13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to

confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ¹⁰And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." ¹²And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

P. 205

HOLY GOSPEL

MATTHEW 3:1-12

P The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" ⁴Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

P. 207

HYMN OF THE DAY "ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST CRY" 344
SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[P] Lord, in your Mercy,

[C] Hear our Prayer.

In Our Prayers:

+ Maya Radtke	+ Dan Gueningsman
+ Jeremy Radtke	+ Evelyn Dial
+ Darian Litzau	+ Angela Litzau
+ Karen Strei	+ Tracy Albers
+ Les Parpart	+ Call Process for Associate Pastor
+ Stewart Ruwersma, Sr.	+ Adam Barlau
+ Family and Friends of Chad Feltmann	

OFFERING

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

P. 272-274

XYLONA ROSE LOYCANO
MARK OSWALD MCCARTHY
BEVERLY JEAN PAULSON
ANNA MARIE TRACY

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠ P. 208-210

The Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His true body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us (Matt. 26:26-28; 1Cor. 11:23-29; Matt.6:15).

We practice closed communion. Why? (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Because our Lord says those who eat and drink His body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. If not yet instructed, in doubt, or holding a confession differing from that of the LCMS, you are lovingly asked not to commune at this time. Pastor is happy to make an appointment to discuss adult catechesis or questions you have regarding the Sacrament of the Altar.

Examination Questions: Please prepare by asking yourself — Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin?

Do I believe that I am receiving the body and blood of Christ along with the bread and wine? Will I try, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Prayers for “Before communing” and “Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament” are printed on the front cover of the hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“WHEN ALL THE WORLD WAS CURSED”	346
“WHAT HOPE! AN EDEN PROPHESED”	342
“REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS”	515

NUNC DIMITTIS	P. 211
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BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION	P. 212
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CLOSING HYMN “O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL” vs. 1,4,5	357
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Attendance Last Week

Sunday: 141

Sunday School/Youth: 35

Bible Study: 20

Organist:

Jane Holasek

Scripture Reader:

Larry Hoof

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. CHRISTMAS DINNER- A reminder that if you signed up for the Christmas Dinner, it is TONIGHT Sunday, December 7 at 5 pm.

2. ADVENT- Join us for our advent services on Wednesdays December 10 and 17th. Service times will be 5:30 and 7:00 PM. A meal will be served from 6:15-6:45 PM. The meal for December 10th will be a Spaghetti Meal, hosted by Elders. **(Please note that the December 17th Services and meal will be held at St. Peter Lutheran Church.)**

3. SPECIAL THANK YOU to all who came to help decorate the church and basement for Christmas- Deb Bahr, Angie Christen, Barb Kegler, Amy Bettcher, Jen Bebo and her girls, Kim Schauer and her boys, Addisyn Lind, Miriam and Naomi Barlau and the Lester Prairie Ambassadors! We sure appreciated your help! Lajeane and the LWML Ladies.

4. DONATIONS REQUESTED- We will be collecting new or gently used toys and quilts for the Marie Sandvick center. Please donate to the box in the basement before our sandwich making event on Thursday, December 18th.

5. SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be on Sunday, December 14 during the 10:30 AM service.

6. ACT will be selling baked goods in the church lobby after the children's Christmas program on December 14!

7. THE ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE received and approved a request to start a new fund for "Christian Education /Student Aid" from an anonymous donor, who donated \$10,000 to start the fund.

8. LWML - Christmas greeting cards are available for purchase on the LWML table for \$1.00 each. There are new choices available. As always, proceeds support the Mission projects. Thank you.

9. RED STOCKINGS! The Red Stocking is up to collect coins you have been collecting this year. Empty your stocking into the large red stocking hanging in the Upper Narthex. Take your stocking and begin filling it for the next collection. If you don't have a stocking, take one from the basket, along with the instructions, and start filling it. You can also just drop in coins now. These monies will go for National and Mn. So. District missions. Thank you!

10. HYGIENE KITS- LWML will be collecting items for these kits through Christmas. They will be assembled and sent to Orphan Grain Train. The tree is located in the lower narthex. Take a tag from the tree and bring item(s) (unwrapped) and place in the bin under the table. You can bring as many items as you would like from one tag. Monetary donations can be placed in the can. Do not bring items not on the tags. Orphan Grain Train is very specific in what they can use. Thank you for sharing what you have with those who have nothing.

11. MN SOUTH MISSION UPDATE is \$189,130.53 collected. Six months are remaining to meet the \$270,000.00 goal for the 13 mission projects. There is a December mite calendar on the LWML table if you'd like to use it for Mite giving. See Page 4 of the Lamplighter for updates.

12. LIVING NATIVITY- Harvest Community Church (Lester Prairie) is hosting a live nativity on Saturday, December 13th from 2 pm to 6 pm and Sunday, December 14th from 2 pm to 6 pm. We are offering drive through and walk through experiences, caroling, family photos, and refreshments.

13. SCHEDULE- December 14: Ushers: 1st Service- Ethan Schultz, Troy Lueck, Chip Hentges; 2nd Service: Jeff Engen, Harrison Engen, Wayne Mathews; Acolytes: 1st Service- T. Parpart, B. Thompson; 2nd Service: None; Greeters- 1st Service: Nick & Karissa Rasset; 2nd Service: Wayne & Tanya Mathews; Scripture Reader: N/A; Flowers: Jane Holasek/Shirley Minnick; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

Sun. Dec 7	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	WORSHIP W/ CONT. LINE COMM. Sun. School/Adult Bible Study/ACT WORSHIP W/ CONT. LINE COMM. Congregational Christmas Dinner
Mon. Dec. 8	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Release Time Classes Elder Meeting Council Meeting
Tues. Dec 9	7:30 p.m.	Dartball Home vs. Benton
Wed. Dec 10	Noon 5:30 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Deadline for Bulletin Release Time/Confirmation Classes ADVENT SERVICE Advent Meal ADVENT SERVICE
Thurs. Dec 11		Release Time Classes
Fri. Dec 12		Church Offices Closed
Sun. Dec. 14	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	WORSHIP W/ CONT. LINE COMM. Sun. School/Adult Bible Study/ACT SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM ACT Bake Sale (after 2 nd Service)