

COME GROW SERVE

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

*Words printed in **bold** are spoken by all. Visitors are invited to sign the guest registry in the Narthex or fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate.*

THIS SERVICE IS LIVE STREAMED. TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

GATHERING

WELCOME

PM: Welcome to those who are joining us online. Welcome to worship at St. Paul's!

PRELUDE

Awake, My Soul

Johann Walther

The assembly is invited to stand

GATHERING HYMN

Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow

ELW 327, v. 1-3

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT 2

L: The Spirit and the church cry out:

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

L: All those who await his appearance pray:

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

L: The whole creation pleads:

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

L: At the burning bush, Moses encounters God as Adonai—that is, "my Lord." This is the same Adonai who will call Moses into the mysterious storm cloud atop Mount Sinai to receive the Law. The name *Adonai* suggests the awe and intimacy of encountering God face-to-face. When we call upon Christ as Adonai, we declare our belief that the baby born in Bethlehem is the

incarnation of the same eternal God who appeared to Moses in the burning bush, who gave the gift of the Law, and who led God's chosen people to freedom.

L: As we light the Advent candles, we call upon Christ, who gives the law. Adonai, you are our judge, our ruler, our king.

All: **Adonai, you will save us. Come quickly to us, Christ Jesus.**

Candle is lit while all sing

**O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you O Israel**

L: Let us pray.

O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

All: **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The assembly is invited to be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2a

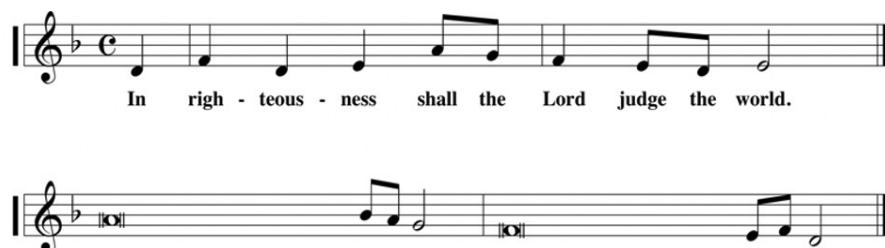
A reading from Malachi.

¹See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a}But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 98



- ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.
- ² O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.
- ³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.
- ⁴ Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing. R
- ⁵ Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.
- ⁶ With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.
- ⁷ Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.
- ⁸ Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge the earth.
- ⁹ The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity. R

SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

A reading from Second Thessalonians.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 102

GOSPEL: Luke 21: 5-19

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” ⁸ And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

⁹ “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” ¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Julie Boleyn

HYMN OF THE DAY

O God, of Every Nation

ELW 713, v. 1-3

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PM: Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

PM: God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ’s call. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

PM: God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind especially those on our prayer list and those we pray for either silently or aloud (*pause*). Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

PM: God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

P: God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

PM: We offer these and all our prayers, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PEACE

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

All: And also with you.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

THE OFFERING

An offering is gathered and the Table is set.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand

Kenyan

arr. Kurt Westerberg

Rachel Blaustein, soprano; Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

All: Amen.

MEAL

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 102

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

All creation sings your praise. Sun, moon, and stars reflect your glory. Mountains, lakes, and forests declare your wonders. With Sarah and Abraham we go out in faith, trusting your promise. With Miriam and Moses we celebrate our deliverance from bondage. With Naomi and Ruth we bind ourselves together in covenant love. With Jonathan and David we delight in the gift of deep and abiding friendship. With Mary and Elizabeth we welcome your presence in the birth of Jesus, the Holy One. With Lazarus, Martha, and Mary we give thanks for the blessings of family. With disciples and followers we marvel at the reign of God come near. With saints through the ages we ponder the mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

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.

With hearts full of memories and hopes, we break this bread and share this cup, remembering the death and resurrection of Christ, and his promise to be with us always as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O Divine Lover, you are the breath within us. You are our heart's desire. You are our priceless treasure. You are the garden of paradise. Come down, O Love divine. Come among us, O passionate Fire. Come within us, O Spirit of unity. Come, Holy Spirit.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts, which we are about to receive from your bounty. Bless our table and the feast we share. Bless us with gladness of heart. Come, Holy Spirit.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: At this table make us your body. Form us to be people of justice and peace. Fill us with gratitude and generosity that we may bear the fruit of love in word and deed. Come, Holy Spirit.

All: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Praise to you, Author of creation. Praise to you, O Beloved One. Praise to you, O Giver of all good things. Praise to you, blessed and holy Trinity, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Together as one body, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNE

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ's Table. We believe Jesus is the host and the gifts of God are for everyone. Children will be offered communion unless otherwise indicated by parents. The wine is red and grape juice is white.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 112-113

COMMUNION HYMN

In the Singing

ELW 466

TABLE BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

P: Now may the power of Christ's body and blood reach deep into your heart, your mind, and your body to heal your wounds and, through your healing to all the earth. In Jesus' name,

All: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

All: **Amen.**

SENDING

Please be seated for the announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand.

SENDING BLESSING

P: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.

The holy Trinity bless you ☩ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

God Alone Be Praised

insert

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Keep awake.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying

Johann Walther

THANK YOU

To our musicians, Rachel Blaustein, soprano, and Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano.

To Kristine Westerberg, for donating altar flowers to beautify our sanctuary.

To Linda Nagatani for hosting coffee fellowship.

To Craig Lanadis for shoveling snow last week.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the family of Linda Dunn, as they mourn her passing.

For Sue Murphy, as she undergoes chemotherapy for breast cancer.