COME GROW SERVE

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2026

Second Sunday of Advent

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

Our gospel today is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

*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

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

PRELUDE *Sarabande* from *Suite 1* **J.S. Bach**
Diane Mues, viola

The assembly is invited to stand.

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 TWO

Candle is lit while all sing

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

L: This week as we enter our second week in Advent, we sing another O'Antiphon, these ancient prayers inviting us to prepare for Christ among us. This week's O Antiphon calls our Savior the "Root of Jesse." It rejoices that, from the stump of David's family line, cut down and seemingly lifeless, God brings forth new life. Kings fall silent before him, and the nations seek him. Through the prophet Isaiah, God promises us…

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. (Isaiah 11:1-2)

Let us pray.
Faithful God, from the stump of Jesse you raised up a tender shoot, bringing life where all seemed lost. Where our hope has been cut down, let new growth spring up. Free us from the powers that hold us captive, and give us victory over sin and death. Fill us with your Spirit of wisdom and understanding as we wait for Christ, and make us a sign of your love to all people.

All: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *Christ is Made the Sure Foundation* **ELW 645 v. 1-3**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray.
O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

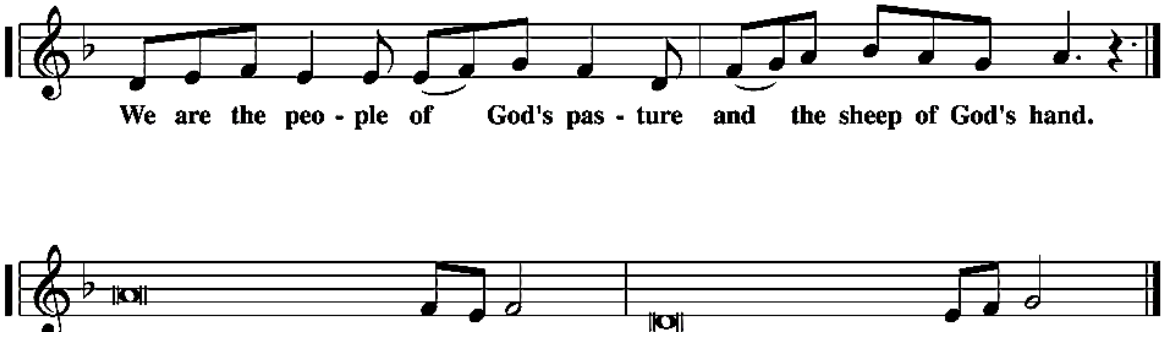
A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

11 Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. 12 As
shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my
sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of
clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the
countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel,
by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with good
pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in
good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself
will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. 16 I will
seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will
strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.
20 Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep
and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and butted at all the weak
animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they
shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge between sheep and sheep.
23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them; he shall

feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the LORD will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the LORD have spoken.

Word of God. Word of Life.
All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95:1-7a



1 Come, let us sing | to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.
3 For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are | also yours. R
5 The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.
6 **Come, let us worship | and bow down,**
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.
7a For the LORD | is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand. **R**
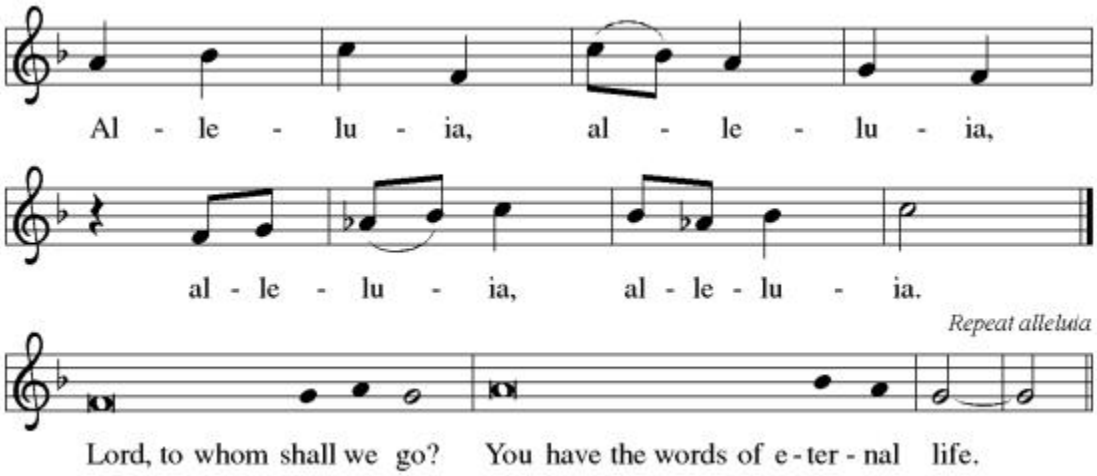
SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23
A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

15 I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18 so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20 God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22 And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with
him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him,
and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the
goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king
will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the
kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave
me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you
welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I
was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it
that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And
when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing?
39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will
answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters
of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed,
depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry
and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger
and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and
you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry
or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he
will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did
not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into
eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON **Pr. Julie Boleyn**

Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY *The King Shall Come* **ELW 260, v. 1-4**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: Prepare your people for your reign to come among us. Where the church is wary, make us bold; where we are complacent, stir us to action; where we are anxious, assure us of your never-ending care. God, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

A: All the heights, depths, and expanses of the earth belong to you. Deliver every corner of your creation from disaster. Restore lands ravaged by floods, fires, drought, or contamination. God, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

P: Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

A: Bind up the wounds of all your people. Give courage to all who experience uncertainty, guide all people facing difficult decisions, and lift the spirits of any who are in need. God, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

P: Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. God, in your mercy,
All: hear our prayer.

P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

All: Amen.

PEACE

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

All: And also with you.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING *An offering is gathered and the Table is set.*

MUSICAL OFFERING *Jesus, Name Above All Names* **Nadia Hearn**
Kurt Westerberg

Rachel Blaustein and Mackenzie Minguillo, sopranos; Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Holy Creator, we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.
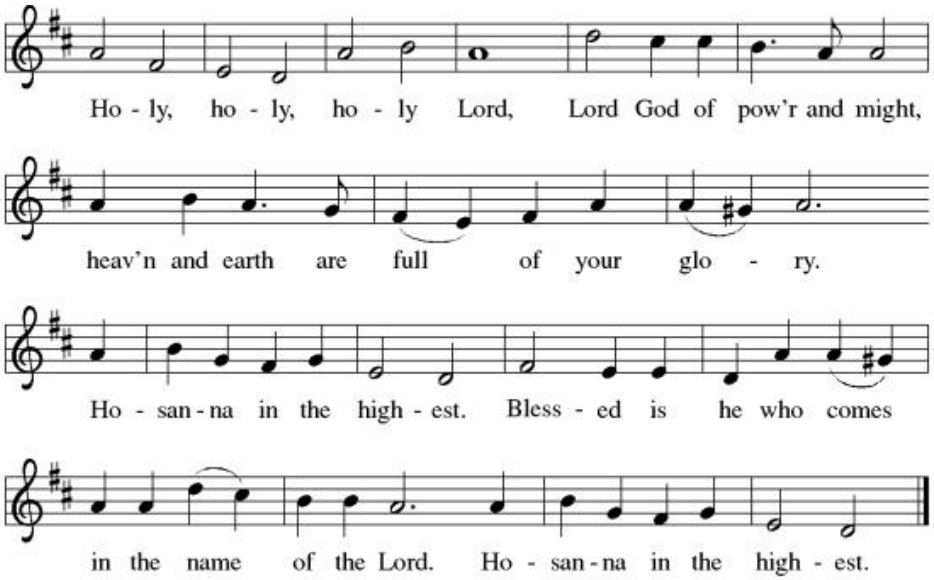
All: We lift them to the Lord.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the

Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

All: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, 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 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNE

P: The glory of the Lord is revealed! Come and taste God's presence.

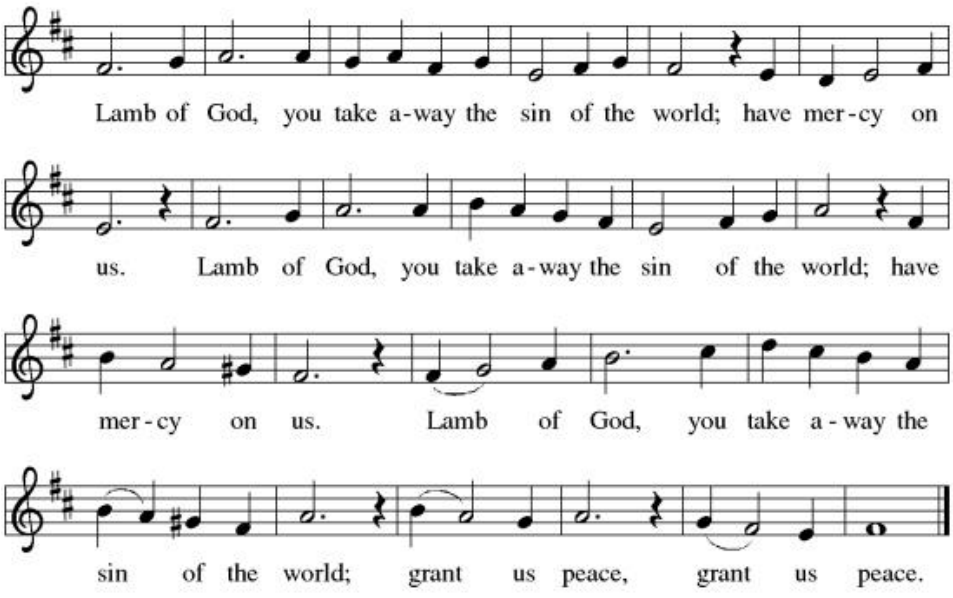


DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will commune one side of the church at a time. Please come forward to receive the bread first. Gluten free wafers are available.
You may choose a cup of red wine or white grape juice.
Move to the side eat and drink.
Place your empty cup in the tray provided.

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

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMNS *Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending* **ELW 435**
Jesus, Remember Me **ELW 616**

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Providing God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: Amen.

SENDING

Please be seated for the announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand.

SENDING BLESSING

P: God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Soon and Very Soon* **ELW 439**

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted.

All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Now Thank We All Our God* **Michael Helman**

Next Week's Theme for Artifacts: *How We Matter to Each Other*

THANK YOU

To our musicians: Rachel Blaustein and Mackenzie Minguillo, sopranos; Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano, Diane Mues, viola.
To the Altar Guild for supplying greens for Advent to beautify our sanctuary.
To David Foster & Melissa Wynne for hosting coffee fellowship.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For Joan Brandt.
For Jan Rock as she recovers from stenoses.
For Bill Kastilahn, as he recovers from an eye interaction with medication.
For Deborah Green, friend of LuAnne Origer, as she recovers from brain surgery.
For Katie Roeck, friend of Michele Kruse, as she recovers from back surgery.
For Anita Young, partner of Diane DiFrancesco, hospitalized and undergoing tests.
For Joanne Gauger, mother of Melissa Gauger, in hospice care.

To donate via Zelle, aim your device's camera at the code on the left, click on the link and follow the instructions. Or you can go to your bank's website, go to Zelle payments and look for "office@stpaulevanston.org."

Please be aware of the grass roots effort *Evanston Community Cares* to assist families struggling with food insecurity. ***See our bulletin board***. Their goal for November's drive is to provide food and essentials for **500 drive-up and walk-up families** across Evanston and surrounding neighborhoods as we head into the winter season, and to collect grocery gift cards for the ECC fund that will go to students/ families in our D65 & D202 community who receive free and reduced lunch (FRL). Volunteers, gift cards and food donations needed.
Please share this message with our network and membership.

Donations:
Donate to Evanston Community Fridges
In the MEMO/Message write "FOOD Drive" or "Evanston Community Cares".
--- In gratitude, Interfaith Action of Evanston



WELCOME BACK
PASTOR JULIE BOLEYN

We are delighted to welcome back to St. Paul's Rev. Julie Boleyn, who will lead us in worship for Advent - Christmas Eve. Pr. Julie is well known and loved by our congregation. For those who know her less well, here is a bit more background:

A long-time member and now alum of St. Paul's, Rev. Julie Boleyn was both married and ordained at our church. She is the Executive Director of the Kaleidoscope Institute, a non-profit that works with churches across the country as they seek to welcome diversity and creatively imagine new ways of being the church. Projects this year have included supporting pastors serving in cross-cultural settings, strategic planning, and mission developer training.

From 2011 to 2021, she served as pastor at Unity Lutheran of Berwyn. During that time, Pr. Julie led the founding of Awake, activating community members across cultures to work for leadership, justice, and relationship. She also led the founding of Project 88 Music Academy, offering children in the community a way to engage classical music at a high level. Additionally, she accompanied the development of Unidad, a Spanish Language mission development that serves the LGBTQ community.

Pr. Julie and her family of St. Paul's alums – spouse Rev. Jeanine Reardon and 17-year-old son Max – have big developments in their lives this year. In October, Jeanie accepted a wonderful call from St. Francis Lutheran in San Francisco, CA, and has already picked up stakes and moved to the Bay Area to serve her new congregation. Through year-end, Julie and Max will continue living in Berwyn, while they pack up and prepare to leave their longtime Berwyn home before heading out to San Francisco to join Jeanie. We are extraordinarily grateful that Julie and her family have made it possible for her to spend one more Advent season with us before relocating to the West Coast.



St. Paul's 125th