

## **St. Paul's Lutheran Family, ELCA**

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Chad R. Adamik, Pastor

### ***EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP***

#### ***BRIEF ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION***



**Third Sunday of Advent**

**December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*The congregation is invited to reply in places  
where the **bold** print appears.*

### **PRELUDE – Norse Song by Robert Schumann (Instrumental)**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who alone does wonders,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another,**

**we confess our sin before you.**

**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**

**We find our sense of self in material wealth.**

**We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children**

**and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One,**

**and assure us again of your saving grace.**

**Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

✝ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,  
inheritors of the eternal promise,  
and recipients of divine mercy.  
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG: Hymn #519, Both verses**

- 1 Open your ears, O faithful people,  
open your ears and hear God's word.  
Open your hearts, O royal priesthood,  
God has come to you.

*Refrain*

Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!  
Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!  
Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!  
Torah ora, Torah ora, hallelujah!

God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!  
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!  
God has spoken to the people, hallelujah!  
God has spoken words of wisdom, hallelujah!

- 2 They who have ears to hear the message,  
they who have ears, now let them hear;  
they who would learn the way of wisdom,  
let them hear God's word. *Refrain*

Text: Hasidic traditional; Willard F. Jabusch, b. 1930, English version  
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### **THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT – Lighting the Third Candle**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness. Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.

Strengthen our hearts

as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.

May he give water to all who thirst,

for he is our light and our salvation.

Blessed be God forever.

**Amen.**



### **ADVENT HYMN: ACS Hymn #902**

Come, put an end to our self-serving madness.

Come, while the world is enshrouded in sadness.

Come, turn the tears of our mourning to gladness.

Come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

### **GREETING**

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

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

*The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book,*

*prophecies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing  
<sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*A time of silence follows the reading.*

## **PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6, Year C Book, Page 9**

*Refrain:*



Isaiah 12:6

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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*In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)*

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has  
become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you will draw water  
from the wells of salvation. R**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's  
name;

make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim  
that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. **R**

*A time of silence follows the psalm.*

## **GOSPEL: Luke 3:7-18**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.*

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

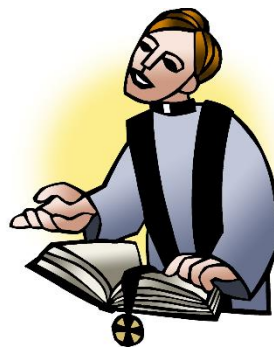
<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON – The Reverend Chad Adamik**

*A time of silence follows the Sermon.*



## **CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and  
places that yearn for God's presence.**

*A brief silence.*

**Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your  
good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the  
midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees.  
Hear us, O God.  
Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians (*especially*). With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace (*especially*). By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.  
**Amen.**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And with you, too.\***

*\*Please share a sign of peace, maintaining physical distance (Pastor will demonstrate)*



## **TITHES AND OFFERINGS ARE BROUGHT FORWARD**

### **OFFERING HYMN: Hymn #253, All verses**

- 1 He came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
he came down that we may have love;  
hallelujah forevermore.
- 2 He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.
- 3 He came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
he came down that we may have peace;  
hallelujah forevermore.
- 4 He came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
he came down that we may have joy;  
hallelujah forevermore.

Text: Cameroon traditional

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of our waiting and watching,  
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives  
to the service of all your people.  
Prepare the way before us  
as we meet you in this simple meal,  
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.  
**Amen.**

*The table is set for Holy Communion.*

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,  
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,  
in the harmonious world of your creation,  
the plants and animals,  
the seas and stars  
were whole and well in your praise.  
When sin had scarred the world,  
you sent your Son to heal our ills  
and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore,  
his acts of healing,  
his body given up,  
and his victory over death,  
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth  
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:  
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:  
**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, Setting 10, Page 208, All verses**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace, grant us peace.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to Christ's banquet.  
Feast on God's gift of grace.

### **COMMUNION**

*As we commune, we sing...*



## **COMMUNION HYMN: Hymn #482, All verses**

- 1 I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.
- 2 I come with Christians far and near  
to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love  
in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.
- 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,  
each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one,  
and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.
- 4 The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
alive among us here,  
alive among us here.
- 5 Together met, together bound  
by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world  
the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

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## **COMMUNION HYMN: #471, All verses**

- 1 Let us break bread together on our knees;  
let us break bread together on our knees.

### *Refrain*

When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

- 2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;  
let us drink wine together on our knees. *Refrain*

- 3 Let us praise God together on our knees;  
let us praise God together on our knees. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

## **COMMUNION HYMN: #466, Both verses**

- 1 In the singing, in the silence,  
in the hands expectant, open,  
in the blessing, in the breaking,  
in your presence at this table,

### *Refrain*

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,  
be the wine of grace;  
Jesus, Christ, Jesus Christ,  
be the bread of peace.

- 2 In the question, in the answer,  
in the moment of acceptance,  
in the heart's cry, in the healing,  
in the circle of your people, *Refrain*

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

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## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Most High God,  
you have come among us at this table.  
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,  
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,  
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.  
**Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

The God of hope  
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that we may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.  
**Amen.**



### **SENDING SONG: Hymn #248**

- 1 People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
  
- 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim,  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Star, is on the way.

4 Angels announce with shouts of mirth  
him who brings new life to earth.  
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming  
with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east, and sing today—  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965

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## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE – Gavotte by Johann Sebastian Bach (Instrumental)**



## ST. PAUL'S VITAL STATS

### OFFERINGS



11/15/2021 – \$735.00  
11/21/2021 – \$1,402.00  
11/28/2021 – \$1,567.00  
12/01/2021 – \$1,375.00  
12/05/2021 – \$4,071.00

***Please help St. Paul's reach its weekly goals.***

**Offering amounts include budgetary receipts.**

### CONTRIBUTIONS

To meet our **2020-2021 budget**, we need average unrestricted donations of **\$4,719 per week**.

The Simply Giving Program is promoted by  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
and administered by Vanco Payment Solutions.

If you are interested in using this service,  
or have any questions,  
please call Holly McPhail at 775 443-6639.  
You may also pick-up Thrivent forms at the church office.

"For it is in giving that we receive." St. Francis of Assisi

*Thank you for your continuing support of our ministry!*

## **PRAYERS FOR HEALING**

Bill Sandell, surgery, Bev Steinert, upcoming cervical spine surgery, Susan Lowther (daughter of Karen Lowther), a knee problem, Kathy Edwards, a wound on her leg, Stacy Akhtar (Kathy Edward's niece) COVID-19, Jason Wildblood, a diverticulitis cyst, Judy Lowther, a bad fall that injured her arm and knee, Mary Burgeson and family, Glendanne Block, knee surgery, Gerry Kinder (nephew of Wayne and Cheryl Kinder and son of Julie Watt), massive heart attack, Mike Harrell (Dave and Ellen Harrell's son), COVID-19, son-in-law John Samp, a growth on his skull and spine, son-in-law Dan Ranger, cancer, and daughter Vicki, Dan's wife, who has early onset dementia, Bev Steinert's son-in-law (Ken's brother) Larry, cancer, Betty Clamp, Hannelore Hanke, Frank Bartlett, Glenn Laursen, Edward Yoho, Madelene Yoho, Fern Yoho, Maxine McGregor (Madelene's sister), Norman Breuer (Mary DeFelice's brother), Katherine, cancer (Susie Anderson's sister), Holly and Trevis (Requested by Deon Ferguson, a friend of St. Paul's), Richard Bradshaw, cancer (Ruth Fitzgerald's cousin), and a special prayer for all the victims of COVID-19 and those living with devastating diseases and life-threatening injuries.

## **CONTINUING PRAYERS FOR**

Wayne Opperman, Bill Sandell, Frank and Shirley Bartlett, Bev Gutzman, Sandy Danforth, Sarah Jevne, Carol Kalleres, continued health issues, Bev Steinert, ongoing vision issues, James Wilson, continued health issues, Mary Ann Adamik, healing, Ellen Harrell, medical issues, Betty Razor, healing, Debbie Revelle, healing from severe heart and lung disease, Maxine Bowton, Harold Nolte, Karen (Hone) Nolte, and Diana Johns.





DECEMBER 12TH

Jeanne Russell

Marla Johnson

**Sunday 8:00 a.m.**

Greeter – Jeanne Russell

Reader – Vera Logie

Communion Assistant: Jeanne Russell

Usher – TBA

**Sunday 10:30 a.m.**

Greeter – Jean Opperman

Reader – Steve Ranson

Communion Assistant: Deanna Fine

Usher – Dave Harrell

Acolyte – Clay Woslum

Counters – David Harrell and Sharon Gesick

Live-streaming Team – Jay Olshen, Nick Cotsonis, and Deanna Fine



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for Faith L.I.N.K. on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. with a gathering in Friendship Hall for Sunday school opening with worship and prayer.



Children's Sunday school runs from 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Pastor Chad leads adult Sunday school with Lectionary Bible Study from 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

The WELCA Bible Study group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. Vicki Hamilton is the leader wonderful group. We look forward to seeing you there.



New Members Class  
Date and time TBA.



If you want to become a Lutheran or simply refresh your knowledge of the faith, this class is for you.

**STITCHERS** meet in Friendship Hall the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. to noon. No experience is necessary to join.



FYI Envelopes for Christmas staff gifts can be found on the sideboard next to the Sunday bulletins.