

St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School
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SECOND SUNDAY IN

Advent

10:45 a.m. Sunday, December 5, 2021
Sermon: *The Obedient Child: Did He Know?*
Luke 2:41-52



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- A Family to Whom You Belong -
Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

The Second Sunday in Advent

10:45 a.m. Sunday, December 5, 2021

Servants of God's House Today:

Pastor: Rev. Kenny Hsu **DCE Intern:** Grace Wolfgram

Elder: Don Lantis **Praise Team Leader:** Doris Hill

Usher: Mike Popken

Missionaries: Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf, Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump,
Rev. Paul Flo, Charles Cortwright

Reader: Coleen Reich

WELCOME! We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

AS WE GATHER "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding" (LSB 345) is a cherished Advent hymn. That thrilling voice is that of John the Baptist crying out in the wilderness, "The Savior is near! The kingdom of God is near! Repent, and live out your new life in Christ! Produce fruits worthy of repentance!" In many ways, we still live in the wilderness. Our nation continues to polarize, causing us to lose friends and feel as though we are alone in the world. Many of us walk through the wilderness of serious disease, job loss, or watching our children or grandchildren walk away from faith. There is also the self-created wilderness of our own sin—the damage we have done in relationships with others. But John's thrilling words bring us hope. While we are powerless to make it through the wilderness ourselves, God is powerful and sees us through. By the gift of repentance in turning to Him in our desperation and pain, God restores a right relationship to us and then sets us free to bear fruit worthy of repentance. We are not stuck. God can change and restore us! A thrilling voice indeed!

HOLY COMMUNION The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod believes the Biblical teaching that in communion we receive not the symbolic but the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the same Biblical teaching, and if you agree with the announcement on our communion card and the confession of our faith, please join us to receive the gifts that Jesus Christ has prepared for us in communion. If you have any questions or uncertainties, please feel free to make an appointment to talk with the pastor during the week before communing with us.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP 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. Amen.

Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond in the words written in **bold**.)

The Ringing of the Bells

The Wave of Fellowship

The Invocation

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

C: Amen.

Opening Sentences *Malachi 3:1, 6; Luke 3:4; Philippians 1:6, adapt.*

P: The LORD says, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

C: We thank You, O Lord!

P: The LORD says, "The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming."

C: We adore You, O Lord!

P: The LORD says, "I the LORD do not change; therefore you are not consumed."

C: We praise You, O Lord!

P: The LORD who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

C: We worship You, O Lord!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *Two Advent candles are lit.*

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of these candles signify that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Opening Song **"Come, Now Is The Time To Worship"**

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God, come.

(repeat)

Chorus: One day ev'ry tongue will confess you are God. One day ev'ry knee will bow.
Still the greatest treasure remains for those who gladly worship you.

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship. Come, just as you are before your God, come.

(chorus)

Come, now is the time to worship. Come, now is the time to give your heart.

Come, just as you are to worship.

Come, just as you are before your God, come, come, come.

(Words & music by Brian Doerksen, 1998 Vineyard Songs, used by permission CCLI
#11440148 and 20162974 and 20162974)

Nicene Creed

First Lesson *Malachi 3:1–7b* (Malachi declares the coming of a messenger, which would be fulfilled in John the Baptist.)

¹“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap.

³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the LORD of hosts.

The Epistle *Philippians 1:2–11* (Paul encourages that the Church be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.)

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace,

both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

(Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

Holy Gospel *Luke 3:1–14* (John the Baptist urges everyone to repent, and he points to Jesus.)

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of

Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

⁷He said therefore 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? ⁸Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not

begin 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. ⁹Even 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.”

¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹²Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

Children’s Message

The Song of Instruction “Thy Word”

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (Repeat)

When I feel afraid, think I’ve lost my way, still You’re there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near. Please be near me to the end.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (Repeat)

I will not forget Your love for me and yet, my heart forever is wandering.
Jesus be my guide and hold me to Your side, and I will love You to the end.

Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. (Repeat last line)

(Words & music by Amy Grant & Michael W. Smith, copyright 1984 Bug and Bear Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Word The Obedient Child: Did He Know? Luke 2:41–52

WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

St. Paul’s members have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings. Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

To our guest: Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please put your **Welcome Card** in the box at the back of the church.

Deuteronomy 14:22-23—You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that He will choose, to make His name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always.

Offertory “I Worship You, Almighty God”

I worship You, Almighty God, There is none like You. I worship You, O Prince of Peace,

That is what I want to do. I give You praise for You are my righteousness.

I worship You, Almighty God, There is none like You. (Repeat)

There is none like You.

(Words & music by Sondra Corbett, 1992 Integrity's Hosanna! Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

The Prayer of the Church

Invitation with Confession and Absolution

P: Concerning the Lord's Supper, Apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11:27–29

“Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.”

P: Having emerged from the waters of Baptism as God's new creation in Christ, we confess our sins to God and one another.

(A time of silence is observed.)

P: We confess to You, O Lord, that we are captive to sin in thought, word, and deed. We have not borne fruit worthy of repentance. We have sinned against You and our neighbors.

C: Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

P: Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

C: according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INVITATIONAL SONG (“Praise Team):

He said come to the table

Come join the sinners who have been redeemed

Take your place beside the Savior now

Sit down and be set free

Come to the table

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

READING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT CARD FOR HOLY COMMUNION

(Praise Team will be served communion at this time.)

DISTRIBUTION

“Breathe”

This is the air I breathe, This is the air I breathe Your holy presence living in me.
This is my daily bread This is my daily bread Your very word spoken to me
And I ---, I'm desperate for you And I ----, I'm lost without you, (repeat)

And I ---, I'm desperate for you And I ---, I'm lost without you
I'm lost without you I'm lost without you, I'm lost without you, I'm lost without you
This is the air I breathe This is the air I breathe

(1996 by Marie Barnett and Vineyard Music, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

“Sanctuary”

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true
With thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for You.

It is you, Lord who came to save
The heart and soul of every man.
It is you Lord, who knows my weakness,
Who gives me strength, with Thine own hand.

Lead Me on Lord from temptation.
Purify me from within.
Fill my heart with Your Holy Spirit.
Take away all my sin.

When He comes in shouts of glory,
And my time on earth is done.
How I long to hear Him saying,
“Faithful servant, well done.”

(Words & music by John Thompson & Randy Scruggs, 1982 Whole Armor Publishing Co., CCLI License 11440148 and 20162974)

The Lord's Prayer

The Benediction

The Going Out Song

“Way Maker”

[Verse 1]

You are here, moving in our midst, I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, working in this place, I worship You, I worship You.

[Repeat]

[Chorus 1]

Hey, waymaker, miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness.
My God, that is who You are.

Waymaker, miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness.
My God, that is who You are.

[Verse 2]

You are here, touching ev'ry heart, I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, healing ev'ry heart, I worship You, I worship You.

[Verse 3]

You are here, turning lives around, I worship You, I worship You.
You are here, mending ev'ry heart, I worship You, I worship You.

[Chorus 2]

Hey, waymaker, miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness.

-- That is who You are.

Waymaker, miracle worker, promise keeper, light in the darkness.
My God, that is who You are.

You are here, touching ev'ry life, I worship you, I worship You.

You are here, meeting ev'ry need, I worship You, I worship You.

Words and Music by Osinachi Okoro CCLI #11440148 and 20162974

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2021 Advent Midweek Services

"When Heaven Met Earth: Advent Answers to Hard Questions Hardly Anybody Is Asking"

(There will be a meal provided following the 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Service)

Date	Time	Theme
Dec 08	12:15 & 6 PM	The Obedient Child: Did He Know? Luke 2:41–52
Dec 15	12:15 & 6 PM	The Man's Man: Why Would Jesus Ever Cry? Luke 19:41–44; John 11:30–36

Christmas Eve Services— 6 and 11 p.m. Friday, December 24

Christmas Day Service— 9 a.m. Saturday, December 25

New Year's Eve—6 p.m. Friday, December 31st

All these services will be In Person, Live Streamed on Facebook, and also available on our Church Website and App the following day.

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/stpaulslutheranchurchschool

Website: www.siouxcitystpauls.org

App: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sioux City