

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

Advent

6 p.m. Sat., Nov. 27 & 8:15 a.m. Sun., Nov. 28, 2021
Sermon: "Days More Important Than Others"
Text: Jeremiah 33:14-16



St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- a Family to Whom You Belong -

Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(6 p.m. Sat., Nov. 27 & 8:15 a.m. Sun., Nov. 28, 2021)

Servants of God's House

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

Organists: 6 p.m. Sat., Joyce Seymour; 8:15 a.m. Sun., Doris Hill

Usher: Nick Gunn

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

Readers: 6 p.m. Sat., Liz Sanders; 8:15 a.m. Sun. Jim Winckler

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 Some days in our lives stand out as more memorable than others. The birth of a child, a long-awaited graduation, a particular vacation, or a family gathering are all days of joy that become part of the stories of our lives. A terrible illness, the death of someone dear, the loss of a job—these days, too, stand out as moments seared in our memories of pain that never seems to go away entirely. Some days stand out more than others. Today's Readings declare the days when Jesus came into the midst of all our joys and sorrows to bring joy, restoration, and hope. Our salvation was won on Good Friday and Easter Sunday. And the day is still coming when Christ will return and all creation will be restored. Jesus fills our days—good or bad, joyful or sorrowful—with His gracious presence from now until He returns on that great Last Day.

Worship Service

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

The Ringing of the Bells

The Wave of Fellowship

Hymn of Invocation "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

LSB 334

(stand as you are able for the last verse)

(The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.)

The Invocation and Opening Sentences *Jeremiah 33:14–15; Luke 21:27, 33, adapt.*

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

C: Amen.

P: The LORD says, "I will fulfill the promise I made to the houses of Israel and Judah."

C: We thank You, O Lord!

P: The LORD says, “My righteous Branch will cause justice and righteousness to spring up.”

C: We adore You, O Lord!

P: The LORD says, “You will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”

C: We praise You, O Lord!

P: The LORD says, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.”

C: We worship You, O Lord!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—*One Advent candle is lit.*

P: Let us pray.

O Lord, let the lighting of this candle 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.

Psalm 25:6–7

Confession
Absolution

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 neither loved You with our whole heart nor loved our neighbors as ourselves.

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.

Introit—*Psalm 89:6, 14–16, 18; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

P: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

C: Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD?

P: Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.

C: Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face,

P: who exult in Your name all the day and in Your righteousness are exalted.
C: **For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel. 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.**

P: Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

The Salutation and Collect of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray.

C: **Ancient of Days, bring to all our days the hope and peace won for us by Jesus on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, that we may live by Your mercy until that day when Christ comes again to judge the living and the dead; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The First Reading Jeremiah 33:14–16 (The prophet Jeremiah foresees a day when God would come to bring righteousness to His people.)



¹⁴“Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual We praise God together in the words of the Gradual.
Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26, alt.

C: **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.**

The Epistle Lesson 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 (Paul reminds us that God can cause us to abound in love for one another as we await the coming of the Lord.)



⁹ What thanksgiving can we return to God for you, for all the joy that we feel for your sake before our God, ¹⁰as we pray most earnestly night and day that we may see you face to face and supply what is lacking in your faith?

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself, and our Lord Jesus, direct our way to you, ¹²and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you, ¹³so that he may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand as you are able)

The Alleluia *Psalm 24:7*

C Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Please remain standing for the Gospel and the Creed)

The Holy Gospel Luke 21:25–36 (The kingdom of God is near.)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Gospel Reading

²⁵“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and on the earth distress of nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea and the waves, ²⁶people fainting with fear and with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

²⁷And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹And he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. ³⁰As soon

as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

(on the back cover of the hymnal)

(Please be seated)

The Children's Message

Hymn of the Day

"The Advent of Our King"

LSB 331

TODAY'S SERMON 

"Days More Important Than Others"

Text: Jeremiah 33:14–16

Offering of God's People to their Beloved Savior



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.

2 Corinthians 9:6—*The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

Offertory Hymn

"What Hope! An Eden Prophesied"

LSB 342

(stand as you are able)



P: As we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's coming, we turn to the Lord in prayer.

P: O Wisdom from on high, guide Your Church throughout the world to be a demonstration of hope. Move the leaders, pastors, teachers, and all the people of our Synod to yearn for that coming day when Jesus will reign forever in justice and righteousness, and all creation will be restored. We pray,

PRAYERS
of the
CHURCH

C: hear us, coming Lord.

P: O Desire of nations, bless the leaders of nations, our president and Congress, our governors and local leaders. Move all leaders to cease envy and boastfulness, injustice and corruption. Guide our leaders to be honorable people who do not neglect the poor and who strive toward the flourishing of all human beings. Bless those who serve in our armed forces and lift up refugees and all victims of war. Bring peace between us and our enemies and let Your peace reign over this broken world. We pray,

C: hear us, coming Lord.

P: O Dayspring from on high, come to the aid of all who are in need. As You humbly entered this world as a vulnerable baby, help all of us to enter humbly the lives of those who are sick, facing surgery, or dying, to offer comfort and hope, *especially* Grace Wolfgram, Joseph Hood, Charles Striegel, Bernie Attema, Julius Clausen and Mary Kay Holiday. Bring healing according to Your will and peace to those

whose suffering endures including Natalie Powell, Deb Chellew, Lowell Chellew, Bethamy Lewis and Suzy Awe. Thank You for the work of doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals who work toward healing and restoration of wholeness. Guide scientists searching for cures for diseases that bring suffering to the world that their work might lead to healing for many. We pray,

C: hear us, coming Lord.

P: O Key of David, let Your joy, forgiveness, and peace flow freely in and among the families of this congregation. Empower parents and grandparents to love their children and children to love their parents. Watch over all who travel and comfort families who are separated by many miles. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. We pray,

C: hear us, coming Lord.

P: O Lord of might, help us during this Advent season both to look back to those days when our salvation was won in Your death and resurrection and to look forward to the day of Your return, when by Your power You will bring the dead to life and restore all creation. We pray,

C: hear us, coming Lord.

P: O Immanuel, You deliver Your people even from the grip of death. Comfort those who mourn and use us to express the hope that comes from trusting in You. Bring us to be with them on that great day to come, and until that day give us grace to endure life's difficulties, while also abiding in Your love. We pray,

C: hear us, coming Lord.

P: For those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Caitlyn Haller, Adeline Porter, Bobby Murphy, Judy Seaman, Denise Dodds, Randy Johnson, Tyler Neddermeyer, Rich Gilster, Michael Haller and Wilbur Westhoff. We pray,

C: hear us, coming Lord.

P: You, O Lord, know the thoughts of our hearts and hear those prayers that come to You in sighs too deep for words. All our prayer we entrust to You in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The
LORD'S
Prayer

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

+ + + + +

2021 Advent Midweek Services

“When Heaven Met Earth:

Advent Answers to Hard Questions Hardly Anybody Is Asking”

We all have questions, though for a variety of reasons some choose not to ask them. It is true in a classroom and in various aspects of life, and it is also true in our lives of faith. Some teachers tell their students, “There is no such thing as a bad question,” and for the most part that encouragement and attitude is a good one. Our heavenly Father would carry the same sentiment as He invites whatever we bring before Him, including our questions. This Advent season, a few hard questions will be asked about our Lord, and our answers will be found in His Word & through the awaited Savior born for us.

Date	Time	Theme
Dec 01	12:15 & 6 PM	The Birth of God: How . . . and Why? Luke 1:26–38
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

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

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