



# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 14, 2025 – The Third Sunday in Advent



## Imminent Arrival of the Messiah

**Welcome!** Thank you for joining us for worship. In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word, and through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

**Restrooms and a drinking fountain** are located on the right in the hallway outside the sanctuary. We have **personal hearing devices**. If you need one, please let an usher know before the service. If you are a parent with young children, we want you to know that we love having children worship with us since worship includes them, too. At the same time, we know that children sometimes like to make their presence known in spite of the best efforts to keep them quiet. For your convenience and in consideration of those seated near you, we have a **Family Room** located through the door in the back of the Fellowship Hall. The facility includes a TV, a window, and speakers so that you can still follow along with the worship service. **Busy bags** are also available near the central sanctuary doors.

**Prayer before worship:** Lord Jesus, the time is near to commemorate your birth as our Savior. Though our hearts are stained with sin, help us receive you rightly. Heal us and root out all our unrighteousness with distractions, keep us looking forward to your coming, not only as the baby in Bethlehem, but as the King of kings returning in the skies! Come quickly, Lord Jesus. Amen.

## Personal Preparation for Holy Communion

*Q: What does God tell me about myself in his holy Word?*

A: He says I am a sinner and deserve only his punishment.

*Q: What should I do if I am not aware of my sins or am not troubled by them?*

A: I should examine myself according to the Ten Commandments and ask how well I have carried out my responsibilities as a husband or wife or single person, as a parent or child, an employer or employee, a teacher or student. Have I loved God with all my heart, gladly heard his Word, and patiently endured affliction? Have I been disobedient, proud, or unforgiving? Have I been selfish, lazy, envious, or quarrelsome? Have I lied or deceived, taken something not mine, or given anyone a bad name? Have I abused my body or permitted indecent thoughts to linger in my mind? Have I failed to do what is right and good?

*Q: When I realize that I have sinned against God and deserve his punishment, what should I do?*

A: I will confess before God all my sins, those which I remember as well as those of which I am unaware. I will pray to God for his mercy and forgiveness.

*Q: How do I receive his gracious forgiveness?*

A: His Word assures me that Jesus led a pure and holy life for me and died on the cross for me to pay the full price for all my sins. Through faith in Jesus, I have been clothed in my Savior's perfect righteousness and holiness.

*Q: What further assurance do I have that Jesus is mine and I am his?*

A: In Holy Communion he gives me his body and blood together with the bread and wine as a truly life-giving food and drink to unite me with him and my fellow believers. By means of this sacrament, Jesus not only forgives my sins but sweeps away all my doubts about his love for me, gives me his own strength to live a God-pleasing life, and grants me a joyful foretaste of heaven.

*Q: How can I be sure that I receive all these blessings in the Lord's Supper?*

A: I have his own word spoken as his last will and testament on the night before he died. There he tells me: ***"Take and eat; this is my body. Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."***

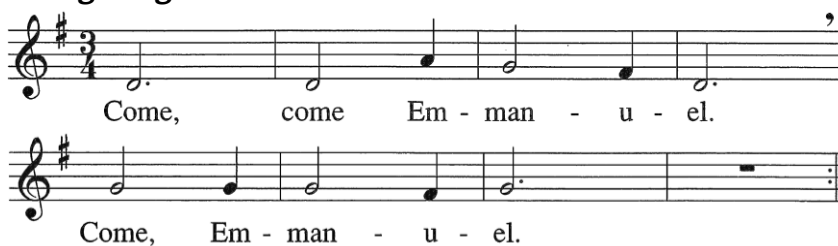
*Q: How will I respond to this priceless gift from Jesus?*

A: I will daily thank and praise him for his love to me. With his help I will fight temptation, do my best to correct whatever wrongs I have done, and serve him and those around me with love and good works.

Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

## Advent Gathering Song

James J. Chepponis



### ***Verses chanted by the pastor:***

*See the glory of God—and... [refrain]  
Oh be strong,—fear not—and... [refrain]  
For our God comes to save us, so... [refrain]  
Oh be patient, the Lord—will... [refrain]  
Bring good news to the poor—and... [refrain]  
For the way is prepared,—so... [refrain]*

### **Invocation**

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

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **Advent Candle Lighting**

P: We light three Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

**C: We remember Jesus, who came in answer to his people's prayers. John proclaimed him the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.**

P: We hear his call to see the light.

**C: We light three Advent candles as a sign of our trust and confidence.**

P: Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C: Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*Three Advent candles are lit.*

## Confession

P: Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

**C: Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

P: As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**C: Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

P: God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan’s power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## Sacrament of Baptism

Aria Grace Myers

-Reading from Mark.

-Baptism

-Sign of the Cross

-Baptismal Blessing

-Exhortation

-Prayer

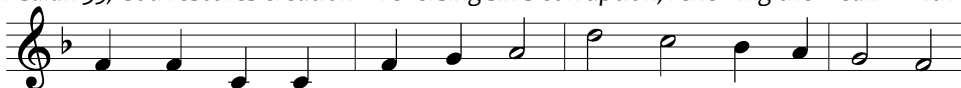
## Adult Confirmation

Eric Myers

## When the King Shall Come Again

CW 307

Based on Isaiah 35, God restores creation—reversing sin's corruption, renewing the weak—with rejoicing!



1 When the King shall come a - gain, all his pow'r re - veal - ing,  
2 In the des - ert trees take root, fresh from his cre - a - tion;  
3 Strength-en fee - ble hands and knees, faint - ing hearts be cheer - ful!  
4 There God's high-way shall be seen where no roar - ing li - on,



splen - dor shall an - nounce his reign, life and joy and heal - ing,  
plants and flow'rs and sweet - est fruit join the cel - e - bra - tion.  
God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fear - ful.  
noth - ing e - vil or un - clean walks the road to Zi - on.



earth no long - er in de - cay, hope no more frus - trat - ed.  
Riv - ers spring up from the earth, bar - ren lands a - dorn - ing.  
Deaf ears, hear the si - lent tongues sing a - way their weep - ing;  
Ran - somed peo - ple, home - ward bound, all your prais - es voic - ing,



This is God's re - demp - tion day long - ing - ly a - wait - ed.  
Val - leys, this is your new birth; moun - tains, greet the morn - ing!  
blind eyes, see the life - less ones walk - ing, run - ning, leap - ing.  
see your Lord with glo - ry crowned; share in his re - joic - ing!

## Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray: Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## First Reading

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

*Isaiah tells us that the coming of the Messiah would change everything.*

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the desert will be glad. The wasteland of the Arabah will rejoice and blossom like a crocus. <sup>2</sup>It will bloom lavishly, and there will be great joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it. It will be excellent like Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands, and make the shaky knees steady. <sup>4</sup>Tell those who have a fearful heart: Be strong. Do not be afraid. Look! Your God will come with vengeance. With God's own retribution, he will come and save you.

<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unplugged. <sup>6</sup>The crippled will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will sing for joy. Waters will flow in the wilderness, and streams in the wasteland. <sup>7</sup>The burning sand will become a pool, and in the thirsty ground there will be springs of water. There will be grass, reeds, and rushes where the haunts of jackals once lay.

<sup>8</sup>A highway will be there, a road that will be called the holy way. The impure will not walk there. It will be reserved for those who walk in that holy way. Wicked fools will not wander onto it. <sup>9</sup>No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious animal go up on it. They will not be found there, but only the redeemed will walk there. <sup>10</sup>Then those ransomed by the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with a joyful shout, and everlasting joy will crown their heads. Happiness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

P: The Word of the Lord.

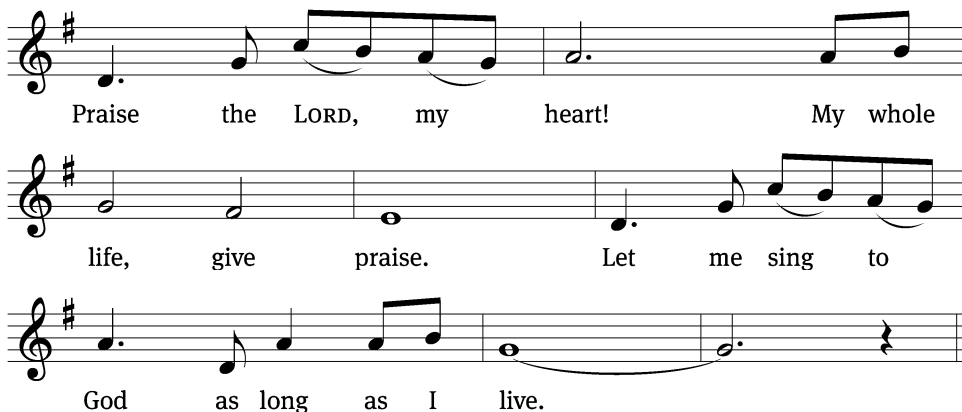
**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm of the Day – As Long as I Live

Psalm 146B

After the **refrain** is introduced once by the cantor, the congregation may join in singing the **refrains**.

Cantor: Praise the LORD, my heart! My whole life, give praise.  
Let me sing to God as long as I live.



<sup>1</sup> Put not your trust in princes, mortal men, who cannot save.  
Blessed is he whose hope is in the LORD, the God of Jacob. **Refrain**

<sup>2</sup> The LORD gives food to the hungry, the LORD sets prisoners free.  
He gives sight to the blind and lifts up those who are bowed down. **Refrain**

<sup>3</sup> God watches over the outcast and sustains the widow and the orphan.  
God will reign forever; he is LORD to all generations. **Refrain**

Text (sts. 1–3): Phillip Magness; (Ref): Liturgical Psalter Tune: David Haas  
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## Second Reading

James 5:7–11

*James points to Job as an example of perseverance in the face of suffering.*

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, brothers, be patient until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the valuable harvest from the ground, patiently waiting for it, until it receives the early and late rain. <sup>8</sup>You be patient too. Strengthen your hearts because the coming of the Lord is near.

<sup>9</sup>Do not complain about one another, brothers, so that you will not be judged. Look! The Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup>Brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of suffering with patient endurance. <sup>11</sup>See, we consider those who endured to be blessed. You have heard of the patient endurance of Job and have seen what the Lord did in the end, because the Lord is especially compassionate and merciful.

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:10

P: Alleluia! I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

*John's disciples wanted to verify that Jesus was the Messiah.*

<sup>2</sup>While John was in prison, he heard about the things Christ was doing. He sent two of his disciples <sup>3</sup>to ask him, “Are you the Coming One or should we wait for someone else?”

<sup>4</sup>Jesus answered them, “Go, report to John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the gospel is preached to the poor. <sup>6</sup>Blessed is the one who does not take offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup>As these two were leaving, Jesus began to talk to the crowds about John. “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? No, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. <sup>9</sup>So what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you! And he is much more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, ‘Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ <sup>11</sup>Amen I tell you: Among those born of women there has not appeared anyone greater than John the Baptist. Yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**



# O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CW 324

*Proper preparation to meet the Messiah begins in the heart but brings forth rich rejoicing!*



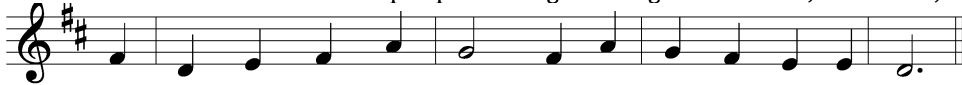
- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
- 2 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
- 3 Re - joice, then, you sad-heart - ed, who sit in deep-est gloom,
- 4 Sin's debt, that fear - ful bur - den, let not your souls dis - tress;
- 5 He comes to judge the na - tions, a ter - ror to his foes,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.  
who mourn o'er joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.  
your guilt the Lord will par - don and cov - er by his grace.  
a light of con - so - la - tion and bless - ed hope to those



O Je - sus, let your Word be a lamp to light my way,  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing that led you to em - brace  
De - spair not; he is near you, he's stand - ing at the door  
He comes, for you pro - cur - ing the peace of sin for - giv'n,  
who love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to show me how to please you, to guide me ev - 'ry day.  
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race!  
who best can help and cheer you and bids you weep no more.  
his chil - dren thus se - cur - ing e - ter - nal life in heav'n.  
send forth your beams most cheer - ing, and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, D. M. Luther's ... Geistliche Lieder, Berlin, 1653, abr.; tr. Composite    Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.    Text and tune: Public domain

## Sermon

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

### The Joy of the Messiah's Highway

*Questions to consider during the sermon:*

- 1) Which thoughts would the road in the wilderness bring to mind?
- 2) Discuss the greatest transformation that takes place.
- 3) What was the Messiah's method for mending our mess?
- 4) Why is joy so often so elusive in the wilderness?
- 5) Describe the highway by sharing what/who won't be on it.
- 6) How can we regain our focus when we've lost sight of the Messiah?

## Nicene Creed

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Offering

*To our guests: Our offering is not a debt we owe God but a way that we return to God a portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation but love for God. Please do not feel obligated to contribute. We're happy that you're with us to hear about God's love for you.*

**NOTE: At this time we are not passing the offering plates. You can place your offering in the plate in the Gathering Area as you leave today.**

## Preface

CW 165

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 167



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na, ho -  
san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he,  
bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho-san - na, ho-san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

P: We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C: Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **Words of Institution**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✠ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ✠ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

## O Christ, Lamb of God

CW 169

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

## Distribution

**To our guests:** *Scripture teaches us that those who commune together are expressing a unity in faith and in all of Scripture's teachings. This is called close communion. If you are not a member of St. Paul's, the Wisconsin Synod, or the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, you will want to learn what we teach and have the opportunity to express that unity at your confirmation before you commune with us. If you are interested in taking a class to learn more about our teachings, or if you have any questions, please speak with our pastors.*

# Of the Father's Love Begotten

CW 358

*With a text that is more than 1600 years old, and a tune that is 800 years old, this hymn has been a favorite for centuries of Christians looking forward to the coming of the Messiah!*



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word.  
 and ex - tol our God and King.  
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,  
 and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,  
 Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;  
 Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,  
 hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



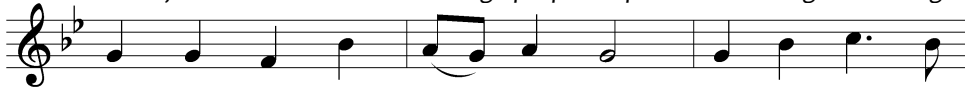
and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; (sts. 1–4): tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877, alt. Tune: plainsong, 13th cent.  
 Text and tune: Public domain

# Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

CW 315

*This hymn reminds us of the Messiah's mission through prophetic promises to bring true saving and joy.*



1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, who has tru - ly  
2 What the fa - thers most de - sired, what the proph - ets'  
3 A - bram's prom - ised great re - ward, Zi - on's help - er,  
4 Sav - ior, hear my wel - come cry— loud ho - san - nas



kept his word and at last to us did send  
heart in - spired, what they longed for man - y\_a year  
Ja - cob's Lord— him of two - fold race be - hold—  
lift - ed high! King of glo - ry, en - ter in;



Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.  
stands ful - filled in glo - ry here.  
tru - ly came, as long fore - told.  
cleanse my soul of ev - 'ry sin.

5 Crush for me the serpent's head  
that, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to you in faith,  
safely kept through life and death,

6 And, when you shall come again  
as a glorious king to reign,  
I with joy may see your face,  
freely ransomed by your grace.

Text: Heinrich Held, 1620–1659, abr.; (sts. 1–3, 5–6): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): tr. Christian Worship, 2021 Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter Text (st. 4): © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 715833 Text (sts. 1–3, 5–6) and tune: Public domain

**P:** Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

**C:** his mercy endures forever.

**P:** Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,

**C:** we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**P:** We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## Blessing

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## Hark the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

CW 313

*Knowing that the promised Messiah has come to save—and what that means—brings gladness and joy!*



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held; the gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–1751, abr., alt.

Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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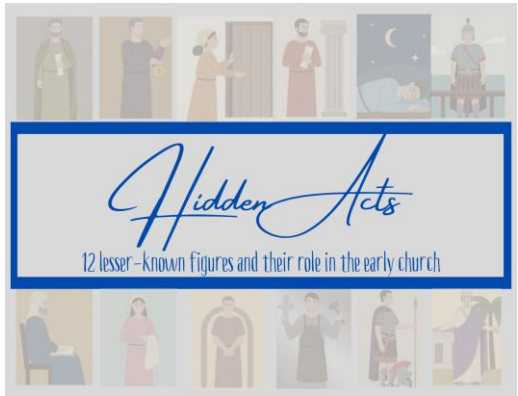
## + Ministry Notes +

### **Our good day in God's house continues after worship, too.**

Our after-worship adult Bible Class time is a great time for good Christian encouragement as we grow in the Word together and take time to pray for one another. Today we will begin *Hidden Acts*, examining some lesser-known figures in the early Christian Church. Sunday School for the children is at the same time.

### **Hidden Acts**

Our next series in our Sunday morning Bible Studies will examine the lives of twelve lesser-known figures in the story of the early Christian Church. By walking through their lives—both good and bad—we will gain a greater appreciation for how God works and spreads his mission, even among us today! All are welcome to join us Sundays after the service to learn and grow together!



### **Who feels like singing?!**

**Today, December, 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM** we will meet at church for some Christmas caroling. We will carpool to several facilities around the area and then return to church for some food and fellowship time (including a chili cookoff for those who would like to participate). A signup sheet is in the Gathering Area to indicate how many people will attend. Members of all ages are welcome!

### **LWMS Reporter needed!**

We are grateful to Sue Leinberger for serving as our LWMS Reporter. Sue has chosen to step down from her position, so we are now in need of another woman in the congregation to help promote and serve as contact for the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society. If you are interested in learning more or would like to be considered for the position, please speak with Pastor Saatkamp.

### **Christmas with the Family (of Faith)**

On Christmas afternoon, several families from our congregation will gather in the Fellowship Hall for some food, fun, and fellowship. If you don't have a place to spend Christmas day, we would love for you to join us at 3:00 on Christmas!

## **Mow, Mow, Mow (Y)our Lawn**

We are looking for volunteers to help assist with the lawn mowing rotation. During the winter months we will only need to mow about once each month, but during the summer it's much more frequent. If you would like to participate and help out, please speak with Rob Banker.

## **Can you fix it?**

We are looking for a maintenance supervisor for our campus. If the Lord has blessed you with the skill and time, please consider this wonderful (and paid) position, and speak with Rob Banker if interested or have questions.

## **All aboard this train**

St. Paul's family member Justin Shue is away on deployment. To support Justin and Emily and family, there is a "meal train" set up here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/rolz1l> If you need technical help (or if you just don't want to use a computer or smartphone), see tech support (aka Pastor James) to get signed up. Thanks!

## **Upcoming Christmas Service Schedule**

We invite you to join us as the students of St. Paul's Lutheran grade school and Precious Lambs Preschool share the joy of the season through songs and Scripture, celebrating the birth of Christ. We welcome your family to attend the following service dates:

**Preschool and Kindergarten Christmas Service** – Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

**1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Service** – Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

In addition to our regular Sunday services (9:30 AM) we will have several special services throughout the month, including:

**Christmas Eve Candlelight** – Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM

- Celebrate the peace of our Savior's birth with lessons, carols, and candles.

**Christmas Day Festival** – Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM

- A joy-filled service glorifying God for sending the Savior from sin!

**New Year's Eve** – Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM

- A service of reflection and repentance, rejoicing in God's grace for another year.

## **New Flower Chart Available**

The flower signup chart is available for the Sundays in 2026! Please sign up on the chart in the Gathering Area.

## Our Christian Stewardship of God's Gifts

*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful. – 1 Cor. 4:2*

**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:** 127

**PREACHER:** Tim Rosenow

**ACCOMPANIST:** Justin Siegler

**STREAMING:** Bill Hoeltke

**LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS:** \$6,272

**PRESIDING MINISTER:** James Saatkamp

**USHERS:** Rick Freihofer and Dan Cerney

**FLOWERS:** Sharon Welfel

## Let's pray this week!

*birthdays* | Joelle "Jojo" Myers (12-18), Dave Goddard (12-19); Justin Siegler (12-20)

*anniversaries* | Bruce & Susan Salzmann (12-14 – 34 years!)

*homebound members* | Dave Brandt, Bee Grunig, John Hambel, Leona Harms, Leon and Barbara Johnson, Susan Rammel, Kathy Saracione, Josephine Throo, and Paula Vitolo

*health* | Linda Bond (continue recovery); Tom Colwell (ongoing pain and cancer treatment); Madison Duncan (Becky Ramsey's daughter, ongoing autoimmune issues); Richard Floyd (heart issues); Rick Robinson (continued recovery); Barbara Sadler, Kathy Babcock (Barbara's daughter), and Kathy's daughters (genetic health issues); Nancy Scruton (recovering from her medical procedure); Jim Teller (ongoing heart issues)

*divine call* | Justin Siegler (5<sup>th</sup> grade, school music, at Zion, Columbus, WI)

## Serving in worship next week

*Ushers:* 12/21 Dan Cerney and Gary Warren

*Streaming:* 12/16 Josh Plum; 12/18 Mark Meyer; 12/21 Bill Hoeltke

### This Week | December 14th – 20th

**TUE** – PreK-K Christmas Service 6:00 PM

**WED** – Isaiah Bible Study 10 AM

**THU** – 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Service 6:00 PM

**FRI** – Chapel 8:30 AM; Early Release (PreK 10:30 AM; K-8 11:00 AM)

### Upcoming Events

**December 22 – January 2** – NO SCHOOL (Christmas Break)

**December 24** – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6 PM

**December 25** – Christmas Day Festival Service 9:30 AM; Christmas Church Family Dinner 3 PM

**December 31** – New Year's Eve Service 6 PM

**January 1-7** – Pastor Saatkamp on vacation

**January 5** – School resumes

# Who We Are

## (Our Mission)

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family. Like any family, we have our strengths and we have our weaknesses. We experience successes and we experience struggles. These are the things which unite us. For we know that we aren't perfect, but our Heavenly Father is; and he has loved us with a perfect love, sending his Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and to give us eternal life in heaven. With that same love, he comes to us through his Word, the Bible, to equip us and encourage us as we live in a world which can leave us feeling discouraged and hopeless at times. So, as a family, we **gather** together around God's Word in church and in Bible classes. We have a school where children can **grow** in their relationship with our Heavenly Father and where we can **go** to share the love of Jesus with them. We want as many people as possible to know the joy and hope which we have as members of God's family.*

*If you would like to learn more about our church family or the ministries we offer through our church, school, and preschool, please speak with our pastor, principal, preschool director, faculty, or one of our members.*

*Thank you for being a part of our church family today!*



St. Paul's Lutheran  
Church and School  
*Precious Lambs Preschool*

6150 N Lecanto Hwy  
Beverly Hills, FL 34465  
352.489.3027  
www.stpauls.edu  
office@stpauls.edu

Sunday worship: 9:30 AM  
Sunday School & Bible Class: 10 minutes  
after



## OUR STAFF

James Saatkamp *Pastor*  
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Sharon Welfel *Preschool director*  
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Becky Ramsey *Preschool teacher*

Lucy Siegler *Kindergarten teacher*

Hannah Foley *1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher*

Cindy Lendt *2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher*

Lindsey Klingenschmitt *3<sup>d</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*

Noah Uhlenbrauck *5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*

Justin Siegler *7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher*

Dorothy Draeger *Administrative assistant*