

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)



First Sunday in Advent
Service of Holy Communion
Evangelical Lutheran Worship 11:00 am
November 28, 2021

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

A "Reconciling in Christ"

Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America (ELCA).

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ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Oh come, oh come Emmanuel by Rudolf Moser

*HYMN

ELW 260

"The King Shall Come"

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **C Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God for whom we wait,

C 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.

P 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.**

*GREETING

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

C And also with you.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of hope. Let us pray.

C **Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

P Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning. As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

“Come Now, O Prince of Peace” **ELW 247**

(On this first Sunday of Advent, we sing only the first stanza; the soloist sings first then all repeat together)



1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

P O house of Jacob, come,

C **let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Lisa Wackler

Today's Other Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Strengthen hearts of holiness for the coming of the Lord

READING**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says 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 live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

R The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM**Psalms 25:1-10**

Read responsively.

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

P The Gospel according to Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” ²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Andrea Walker

HYMN

ELW 248

“People, Look East”

***NICENE CREED**

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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.

***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.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. 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.**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

A The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please, while remaining in your pew, greet your neighbors with a gesture of peace (nod, wave, bow, peace sign etc...).

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

My Lord, what a morning—setting by Hall Johnson
(Marcia Perez, soprano; see the text at hymn #438)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. 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.

C Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. C And also with you.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*PREFACE

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P 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.

*LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray together the prayer Our Savior taught us:

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

*COMMUNION

P These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

At this time, please open the first tab to receive the bread.

P This is the body of Christ given for you.

At this time, please open the second tab to receive the wine.

P This is the blood of Christ shed for you.

*LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A 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.

C Amen.

*BLESSING

P 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.

C Amen.

*SENDING HYMN "O Lord, how shall I meet you?"

(sung to the tune VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN)

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
I lay in fet - ters, meet you ing; how you came to set me - free?
Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your peo - ple long to be - greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame to be - moan - ing; you, you came to hon - or - me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my li - ber - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you all give me, ing, that a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond you all tell - ing, O that led you em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to that do in spir - it - low - ly all that may please you best.
in will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
send forth your love, all love ex - cell - ing, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is near.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus by T. Tertius Noble

Today, we pray for those who are sick or suffering in any way, especially; Family and friends of Glenn Ralph upon his death, Pam Wannan, Paul, Nathan Kettler, Suzanne Larson, John Kahler, June Ericsson, Bob Valcich, Karen Leigh Campbell, Abigail, Dallas Dean, Marion Nau, Andre, Hannah Dahlberg, Karen Brunn, Scott Robinson, Lisa, Donald Parker, Molly, Michael, the Ward family, Benny, Karen, the Revana and Mahan families, Jane, Barb Pitts, Carolyn Boston, Michon, Taquina, Levi, Julie Hamlin, Pearl Apisson, Gillian Flory, Russell and Stephanie Thomas, Stephanie Skurcenski, Barbara Hostage, Sue Ericsson, Betty Mastrobattista, Richard, Carolyn Denison, Bill Jackson, Grace Yin, for all those affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and for all Christians persecuted for their faith throughout the world.

MUSIC NOTE

Welcome and thank you to guest organist Tom Cowan. Sonja and Matt and family are traveling for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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