

# Midweek Advent Service

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## St. Paul Lutheran Church & Pre-School

Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor

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Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Classes: 9:45 a.m.

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# Wait Upon the Lord With Gratitude December 8, 2021

## As We Gather

Join us for the Wait Upon the Lord special service for this Midweek worship of Advent. In this service we wait upon the Lord with gratitude. Zechariah's waiting days for John the Baptist's birth were filled with great gratitude for the Lord's promise about to be fulfilled. In these remaining waiting days before our Savior's birth, we are ever more grateful for the arrival of the Promised One.

## Order of Service

*I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.*

*Psalm 9:1*

## Invocation and Call to Worship

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

**C** Amen.

**P** Wait upon the Lord.

**C** Be strong and courageous.

**P** Wait upon the Lord. That's what Zechariah did. Then he gave thanks, saying—

**C** Blessed be the Lord God of Israel.

**P** For he has visited and redeemed his people.

**C** To guide our feet into the way of peace.

**P** Wait upon the Lord.

**C** Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!



## Opening Hymn “Angels We Have heard On High” LSB 368



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav' - n - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## Confession and Forgiveness

**P** God of all mercy and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

**C** We admit that we have become impatient with ourselves, each other, and sometimes with you. We have turned to our own way and have gone astray from your will. Lost in sin and needing to become strong and courageous, we ask you, O Lord, to forgive our sin, cleanse our hearts, and keep us patiently waiting for the promised coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*You are invited to meditate on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ's love is greater.*

**P** Believe and receive the good news! God sent his Son, the Babe of Bethlehem, to show his infinite love and forgiveness for all people. Your sins are forgiven in the holy name of + Christ who came and indeed, will come again.

**C** Amen.

**P** Wait upon the Lord.

**C** Be strong and courageous. Wait upon the Lord!



## Kyrie

**P** Lord, have mercy.  
**C** Give us patience.

**P** Christ, have mercy.  
**C** Give us patience and peace.

**P** Lord, have mercy.  
**C** Give us patience and peace for the living of these days.

## Prayer of the Day

**P** O Lord, open the heavens and come down. Be our strength every morning and our salvation in the night of despair. Show forth your power and might, just as you did in the days of Zechariah the priest; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 51:2-4

<sup>2</sup> Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him. <sup>3</sup> For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. <sup>4</sup> "Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle Reading ... 1 Thessalonians ...5:17-19

<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup> Do not quench the Spirit.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.



## Gospel Acclamation

**P** Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

**C** Those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. Hallelujah!

## Gospel Reading ... Luke 1:67-79

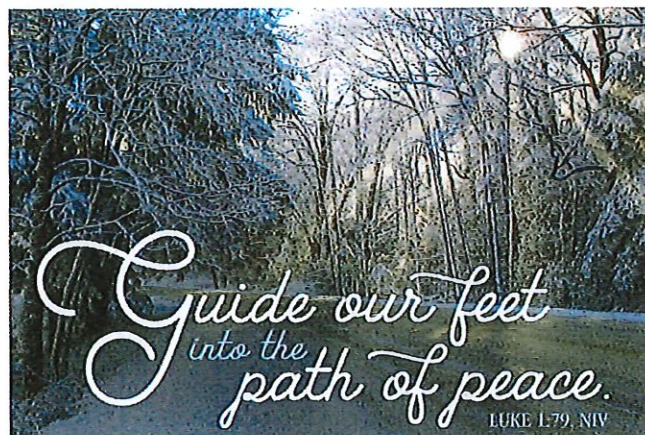
**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>67</sup> And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, <sup>68</sup> “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people <sup>69</sup> and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, <sup>70</sup> as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, <sup>71</sup> that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; <sup>72</sup> to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us <sup>74</sup> that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, <sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high <sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.



**Sermon Hymn** “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” LSB #341, verses 1,4,5



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the  
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make it a  
 5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing  
 tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -  
 Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -  
 ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your  
 vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.  
 Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.  
 Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.  
 To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!  
 E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

**Sermon** “Wait Upon the Lord with Gratitude” **Pastor Scott Henze**

**Offering**

**Prayers**

- P** Heavenly Father, we wait for you.
- C** **More than watchmen wait for the morning—**



- P** More than watchmen wait for the morning.
- C** **Lead us in your truth and teach us.**

- P** For you are the God of our salvation.
- C** **For you we wait all the day long.**

**P** O God, inspire us to wait for you faithfully.

**C** Serve you joyfully.

**P** And give to others generously.

**C** Gracious Lord, grant healing for the sick.

**P** Courage for the fainthearted.

**C** Hope for the discouraged.

**P** And great clarity for all in the valley of decision.

**C** Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

## Benediction

**P** May God give us the faith of Abraham, the hope of Isaiah, the joy of Elizabeth, and the gratitude of Zechariah. God will make us strong and courageous.

**C** As we wait upon the Lord! Amen.

## Closing Hymn

“Oh Little Town of Bethlehem”

LSB #361



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!



## A Quiet Christmas

*Sunday, December 12*

**7:00 PM**

All are invited for a lovely evening of readings and music in preparation for the Birth of Christ.

A holiday reception will follow in the breezeway.



## Christmas Eve

*Friday, December 24*

**5:00 PM**

Christmas Eve Service for Families with Small Children (No Communion)

**8:00 PM & 10:30 PM**

Candlelight Communion Service

## Christmas Day

*Saturday, December 25*

**11:00 AM**

The Nativity of our Lord  
Worship with Holy Communion

