

The Divine Service

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023



AS WE GATHER

Advent is the season of waiting! As we await Christ's coming again in power and glory, we know that the time we are given before that great Day is due to the Lord's patience. "The Lord is patient toward you," says Peter (2 Peter 3:9). Why? More time before Christ's return as King and Judge means more opportunities for us to share the life-giving Gospel with all the world. As people hear the message of Christ, repenting of their sin and turning to Him in faith, more souls will be brought into God's eternal kingdom. And because He is working His wonders of salvation, we rejoice in Him and receive from Him all He seeks to give!

Prelude

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self examination

P Most merciful God,

C **have mercy on us. We confess to you that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.**

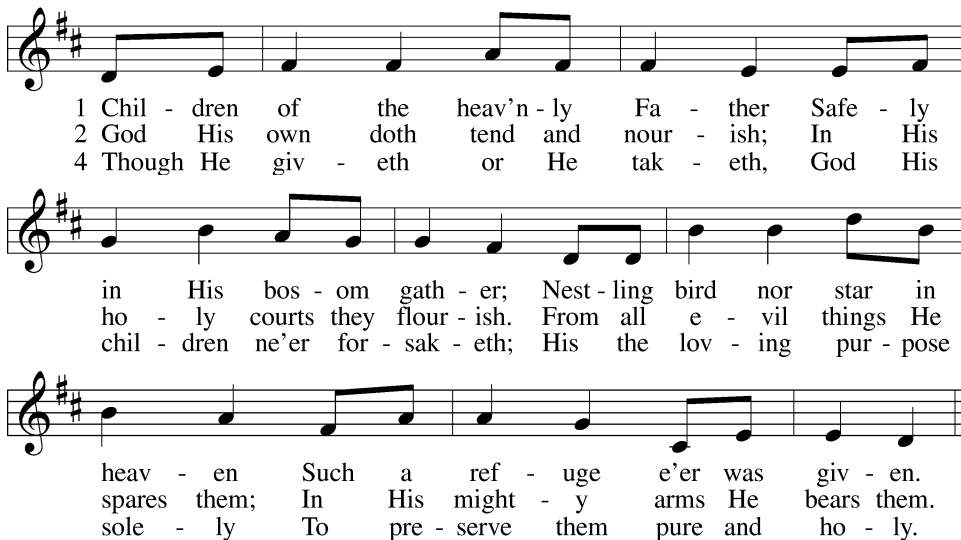
P With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in (+) Jesus Christ.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Processional Hymn

“Children of the Heavenly Father”

LSB 725 sts. 1–2, 4



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly
2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His
4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His
in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose
heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath & Children's Message

“The Candle Carol”

Light a candle for the bright Son
God sent down from above.
Advent news with joy we share
In the Spirit we love. **Chorus.**

Chorus:
Christ is in our family
Alleluia Sing!
Aren't you glad
He came to be
Our Brother and our King.

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.**

Kyrie

A *In peace, in peace...*

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have

to Verses

mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

A *For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the... Refrain*

A *For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the... Refrain*

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

Hymn of Praise: "Now the Feast"

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God. *to Refrain*

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And Also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be found in Him, fully redeemed and at peace; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Rite of Holy Baptism

Mason Efrain Gonzalez

(11:00: a.m.)

“This is a Joyous Happy Day”

This is a Joyous Happy Day.

We celebrate Your gift of life.

Christ is with us. Joy surrounds us.

Christ takes our sin and sets us free;

He fills our lives with endless life.

Christ is with us. Christ unites us.

Praise our Maker, praise the Spirit, Praise Christ Jesus.



The Old Testament

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass.⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"¹⁰ Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

Congregation:

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

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff is labeled 'Congregation:' and contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we'. The second staff continues with 'go? You have the words of e - ter - nal'. The third staff is labeled 'Optional Repeat' and contains 'life. Al - le - lu - ia!'. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes with rests, typical of a congregational hymn.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1–8

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

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

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, ³the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" ⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

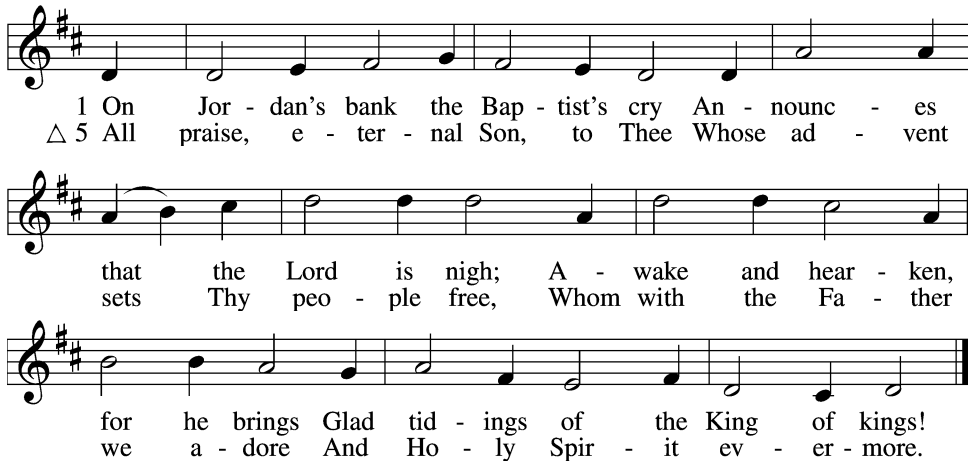
P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Hymn of the Day

“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

LSB 344 sts. 1, 5



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
Δ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent
that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther
for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Sermon

“Ready or Not”

Pastor Scott Henze

Apostles’ Creed

(8:30 a.m. only)

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

*Petitions end, “Lord, in your mercy...” Congregation responds, “**Hear our prayer.**”*

Offering

What Child Is This

Choir, 11:00 a.m.

Offertory Prayer

- P** God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Receive now these gifts you have first given and fill us with good things at your table, that we might joyfully and generously share all you have given us, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

A word about Holy Communion We are about to receive the Lord's Supper. Before you receive, you might consider the following questions: Do you believe you are a sinner? Do you believe Jesus Christ died for you and shed his blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins? Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper he gives you his true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and strengthens your faith in him and your love for others? If you are a baptized Christian and share these Biblical truths, please come! Those who have not yet received instruction may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over their chest to indicate they are not receiving the elements.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

- 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 Him thanks and praise.**



Proper Preface

The Lord's Prayer

- P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
C **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

The Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(The congregation and minister may greet each other with the peace of the Lord)

Agnus Dei

(Congregation may be seated following the Agnus Dei)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you are the way of mer - cy and
world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
love.
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymns during Distribution

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy peo - ple free;
2 Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er; Born a child and yet a king!



From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in Thee.
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art,
By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone;



Dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.



“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

LSB 621



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
 2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
 4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



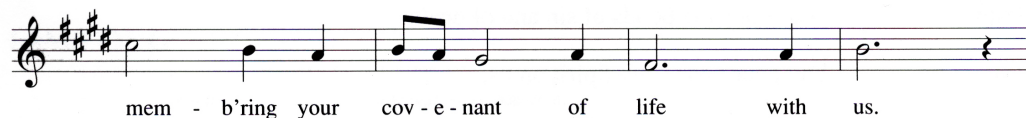
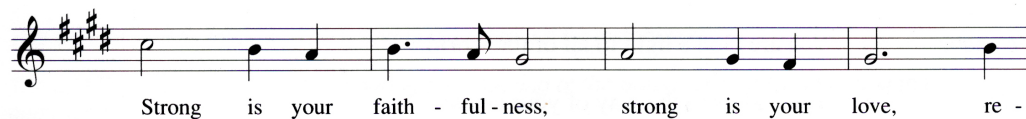
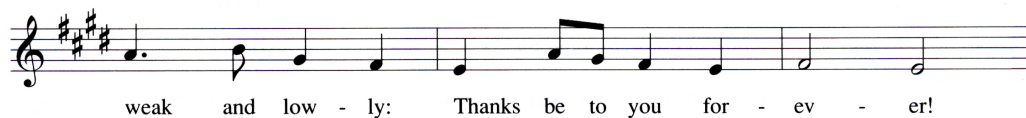
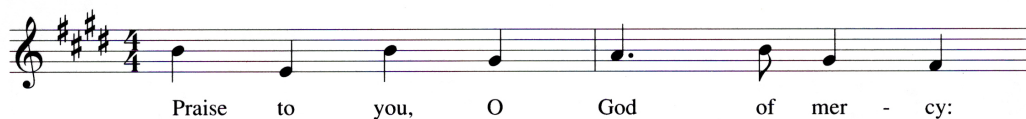
For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
 From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
 As with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
 van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Closing of the Table

Post -Communion Canticle:



Post-Communion Prayer

- P** Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

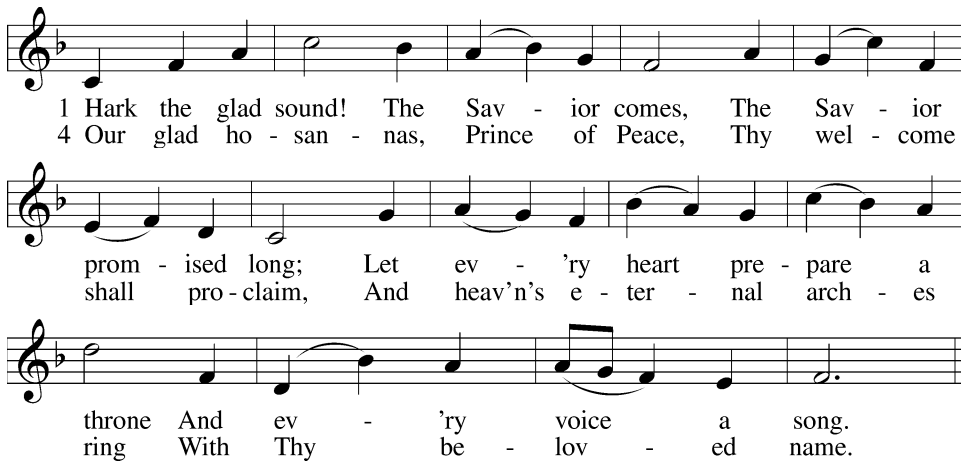
Announcements

Benediction

Recessional Hymn

“Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349 *sts. 1, 4*



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come
prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es
throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Dismissal

- P** Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as...

C **Disciples making disciples.**

- P** Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. Call the church office at 954-384-9096 if you or someone you know would like to speak with a Stephen Minister.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director

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Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Sunday School for children and youth: 9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM



Website and online giving

St. Paul
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& PRE-SCHOOL