

The Divine Service

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023



AS WE GATHER

Advent is the season of waiting! Soon and very soon our waiting and planning for Christmas celebrations will come to their close, and we will rejoice in Christ's coming to save us. Such waiting and planning for Christmas can also guide us as we prepare for Christ's final advent, His ultimate coming, when He returns on the Last Day. Until that glorious Day, when all portions of God's plan for our salvation will be accomplished, we are blessed with the peace "which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7). Such peace is an amazing gift that the Lord gave to the virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord, when she received God's Word from the angel Gabriel and then carried our salvation in her womb, delivering Jesus into the world. "Let it be to me according to your word," she said (Luke 1:38). May we say the same as we gather this day and, like Mary, receive the peace that God alone can 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 **“Savior of the Nations, Come”** **LSB 332 sts. 1, 4, 8**

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and
 Δ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the

here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
 king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,
 Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be

That the Lord chose such a birth.
 His he - ro - ic course be - gan.
 Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.



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
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

to Verses

Detailed description: This block contains musical notation for a Kyrie refrain. It is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/4. The music is divided into two parts: 'Assistant:' and 'Congregation:'. The Assistant part consists of the first six notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4. The Congregation part consists of the remaining notes: G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3. The lyrics are: 'Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.' The word 'Christ' is placed under the final note of the Assistant part. The word 'to Verses' is written at the end of the staff.

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.

Detailed description: This block contains musical notation for a second section of the Kyrie. It is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is divided into two parts: 'Assistant:' and 'Congregation:'. The Assistant part consists of the notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The Congregation part consists of the notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The lyrics are: 'Help, save and de - fend us, O God. A - men.' The word 'God.' is placed under the first note of the Congregation part. The word 'men.' is placed under the final note of the Congregation part.



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*

The musical notation for Verse 2 consists of three staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is simple and follows the lyrics. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line, which includes the instruction '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*

The musical notation for Verse 3 consists of three staves of music in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is simple and follows the lyrics. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line, which includes the instruction 'to Refrain'.



Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that we may experience the peace of knowing all things are possible with You; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The Rite of Holy Baptism

Braxton Brooks

“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.



¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." ³And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵"Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.'"

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



Epistle

Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

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
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat



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

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

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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





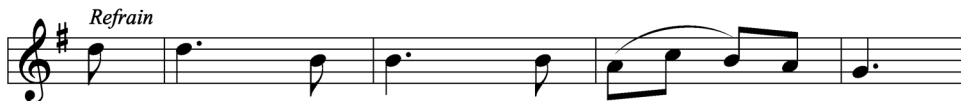
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d' rest



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.



Re - jice! Re - jice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!



Prayer of the Church

Petitions end, "Lord, in your mercy..." Congregation responds, "Hear our Prayer".

Offering**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 Agnus Dei)*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you are the way of mer - cy and

world:
love. have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,

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.



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him
 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,



Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



Swell the tri - umph of His train:
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 rap - ture, Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

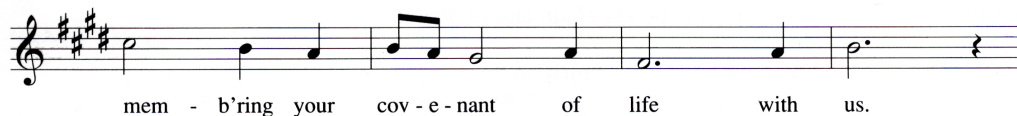
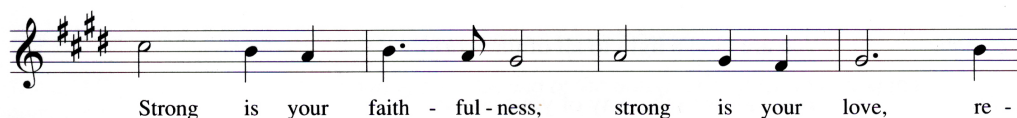
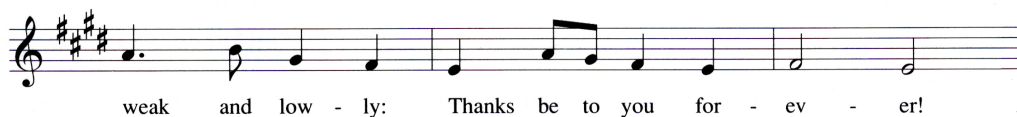
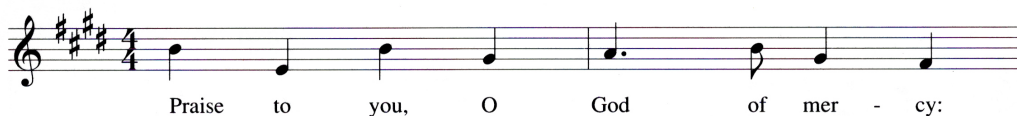


Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!



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.

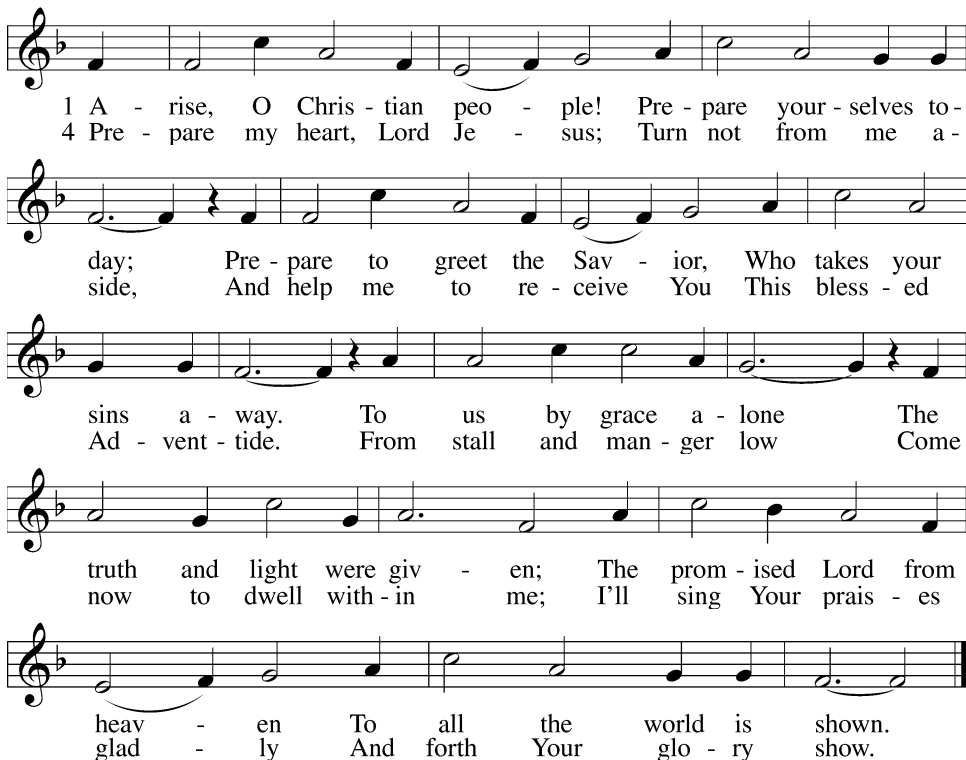
Announcements

Benediction

Recessional

“Hymn Arise, O Christian People”

LSB 354 sts. 1, 4



1 A - rise, O Chris - tian peo - ple! Pre - pare your - selves to -
4 Pre - pare my heart, Lord Je - sus; Turn not from me a -
day; Pre - pare to greet the Sav - ior, Who takes your
side, And help me to re - ceive You This bless - ed
sins a - way. To us by grace a - lone The
Ad - vent - tide. From stall and man - ger low Come
truth and light were giv - en; The prom - ised Lord from
now to dwell with - in me; I'll sing Your prais - es
heav - en To all the world is shown.
glad - ly And forth Your glo - ry show.

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!**





**Christmas Eve December 24
Worship Services**

- 5:00 PM Family Service-No Communion.**
8:00 PM Candlelight Communion Service.
10:30 PM Candlelight Communion Service.
-

**Christmas Day December 25
Worship Service**

11:00 AM The Nativity of Our Lord

Go to www.stpaulweston.org for all the latest information.



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

580 Indian Trace, Weston, Florida 33326

Church Office (954) 384-9096 † office@stpaulweston.org

www.stpaulweston.org

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