

The Divine Service

The First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2023



AS WE GATHER

Welcome to the season of waiting! Not only is Advent a period of preparation for Jesus' first coming at Christmas, but this sacred season readies our hearts for Jesus' ultimate coming: when He, as King of kings and Lord of lords, returns in power on the Last Day, when every knee will bow before Him and every eye will see Him as the One who reigns in sovereign majesty over all things. Until the arrival of that glorious Day, we wait for Him in confident faith, strengthened by His Word and Meal, trusting that He has redeemed us by His cross and resurrection. With the expectant people of old, may our worship together lead us to say: "Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20).

Prelude

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T 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 (T) Jesus Christ.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Processional Hymn Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332 *sts. 1–2*



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the Spir - it



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,
of our God, Was the Word of God made flesh—



That the Lord chose such a birth.
Wom - an's off - spring, pure and fresh.

Greeting

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

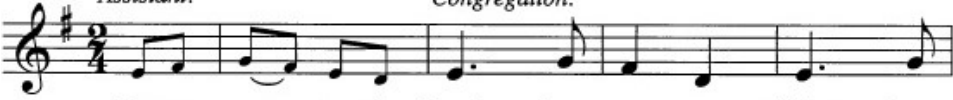
C **And also with you.**

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*

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*

The musical notation for Verse 2 is written on a single treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are placed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The phrase "to Refrain" is written above the final measure of the staff.

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 is written on a single treble clef staff. It begins with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are placed below the staff, aligned with the notes. The phrase "to Refrain" is written above the final measure of the staff.

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 to us as we wait for Your arrival. Protect us by Your hand that we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence—²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries and that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. ⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

The musical score is written on three staves 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 concludes with 'life. Al - le - lu - ia!' and is marked 'Optional Repeat' with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24–37

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

C **Glorify be to thee, O Lord.**

²⁴[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³²"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. ³⁵Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning— ³⁶lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day "Prepare the Royal Highway"

LSB 343 *sts. 1, ref, 4*



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

Sermon

Are you Ready?

Pastor Scott Henze

Apostles' Creed

☑ 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 T everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

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

Offering

Prepare the Way

Choir, 8:30 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

“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart”

LSB 641



You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart With gift of fin-est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.



1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, They know and
2 With joy - ful lips we sing to You Our praise and
3 Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of
4 The mys - t'ry of Your pres - ence, Lord, No mor - tal
5 You give Your - self to us, O Lord; Then self - less



heed his voice; So when You call Your
grat - i - tude That You should count us
Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
tongue can tell: Whom all the world can -
let us be, To serve each oth - er



fam - 'ly, Lord, We fol - low and re - jice.
wor - thy, Lord, To share this heav'n - ly food.
loaf, de - clare Our one - ness in the Lord?
not con - tain Comes in our hearts to dwell.
in Your name In truth and char - i - ty.

Refrain

Text: Omer E. Westendorf, 1916-97

Tune: Robert E. Kreutz, 1922-96

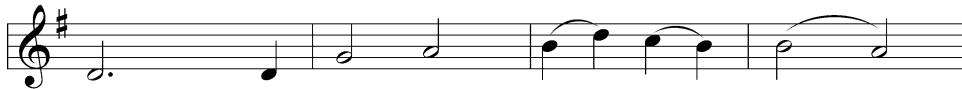
Text and tune: © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia, admin. International Liturgy Publications. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000828

“Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending”

LSB 336



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.



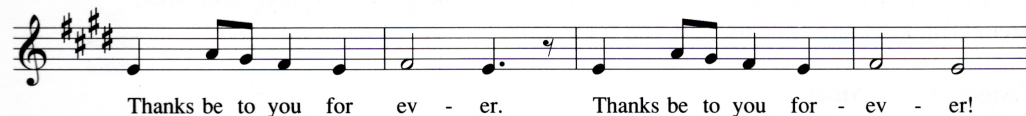
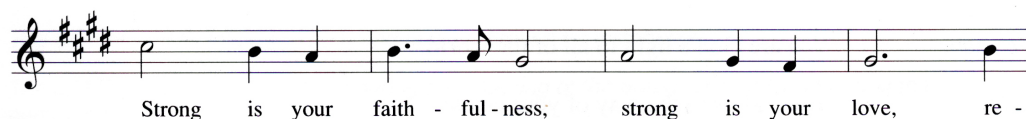
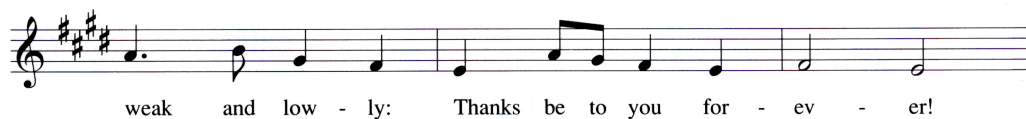
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



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!

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 “O God, My Faithful God”

LSB 696 *sts. 1, 4*



1 O God, my faith - ful God, True foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,
4 Lord, let me win my foes With kind - ly words and ac - tions,



With - out whom noth - ing is, All per - fect gifts be - stow - ing;
And let me find good friends For coun - sel and cor - rec - tion.



Give me a health - y frame, And may I have with - in
Help me, as You have taught, To love both great and small



A con - science free from blame, A soul un - stained by sin.
And by Your Spir - it's might To live in peace with all.

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!**

Mark your calendars!

December 6th Holiday Bazaar 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Midweek Advent Evening Worship Services Wednesdays, December 6, 13 & 20th at 7:30 PM

December 8th OWLS Older Wiser Lutherans will meet at 7:00 p.m. in rooms 201/202. Come and mingle in fellowship. For more information contact Dottie Henry.

December 10th A Quiet Christmas Service 7:00 PM-All are invited for an evening of inspirational readings and music in preparation of the Birth of Christ. A holiday reception will follow service.

December 16th Parents Night Out 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Finish your shopping or just enjoy a night out.

December 17th Kids Choir Christmas Musical At both services. The children will lead us in worship.

December 20th Senior Youth Group Christmas Party 7:30 PM All High School Students & friends 9th through 12th grade are invited.

December 24th Christmas Eve Schedule

9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion

5:00 pm. Worship for families with small children (No Communion)

8:00 pm and 10:30 pm Candlelight Communion Service with Special music

December 25th Christmas Day Schedule

11:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion

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

St. Paul
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& PRE-SCHOOL