

Our Dear Christ Enters In

Advent Week 2: Home Hurts



*Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people. **Luke 1:25***

Sharing the Good News of Christ With All People

December 10, 2025

Advent Mid-Week 2

Our Dear Christ Enters In

Invocation

- P We worship in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Opening Hymn "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" LSB 344 vss 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.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P Beloved in the Lord, as we draw closer to Christmas, may this wreath remind us that Jesus came to conquer the darkness of our sin and lead us into the light of his glorious kingdom, as the prophet Isaiah declares,
C **"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone."**

(Two purple candles are lit on the Advent wreath.)

P Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, the true Light who comes into the world to enlighten all peoples, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for your coming. Enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love that we may reflect your love to all—especially to those who are still walking in spiritual darkness around us; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

(from Daniel 9:4-18)

P O Lord, the great and awesome God,

C **who keeps his covenant of love with all those who love him and keep his commandments,**

P we have sinned and done wrong.

C **We have been wicked and rebelled;**

P we have turned away from your commandments and rules.

C **We have not listened to your Word.**

P Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame

C **because we have sinned against you.**

P We have not sought your favor by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth.

C **O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath.**

P You, O Lord, are merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against you.

C **O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! We do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy.**

(Silence for personal confession.)

P “‘Comfort, comfort my people,’ says your God. ‘Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her: that her iniquity is pardoned’” (Isaiah 40:1-2). Through the perfect life, death and resurrection of the Christ Child, God has completely removed your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

LSB 347 Vss 1,3



1 “Com - fort, com - fort ye My peo - ple, Speak ye peace,” thus
3 Hark, the her - ald’s voice is cry - ing In the des - ert



saith our God; “Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing
far and near, Call - ing sin - ners to re - pen - tance, Since the



’neath their sor - rows’ load. Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem
King - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o - bey!



Of the peace that waits for them; Tell her that her
Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys



sins I cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver.”
rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.

Prayer of the Day

P O God, even in this exciting Advent season, we are reminded that our homes are sometimes visited by hurt in this broken world. Please be present with those homes that are experiencing troubled times and circumstances. Fill them with complete trust in you and the strength to endure hardship. Be their source of courage, and give them confidence in knowing that you came to earth as a baby in Bethlehem to comfort and save. Amen.

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 53:1-5

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

The New Testament Reading

Romans 8:35-39

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 1:5-25

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. And he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and statutes of the Lord. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I was sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zechariah, and they were wondering at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple. And he kept making signs to them and remained mute. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she kept herself hidden, saying, "Thus the Lord has done for me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among people."

The Sermon Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" LSB 341 vss 1,5

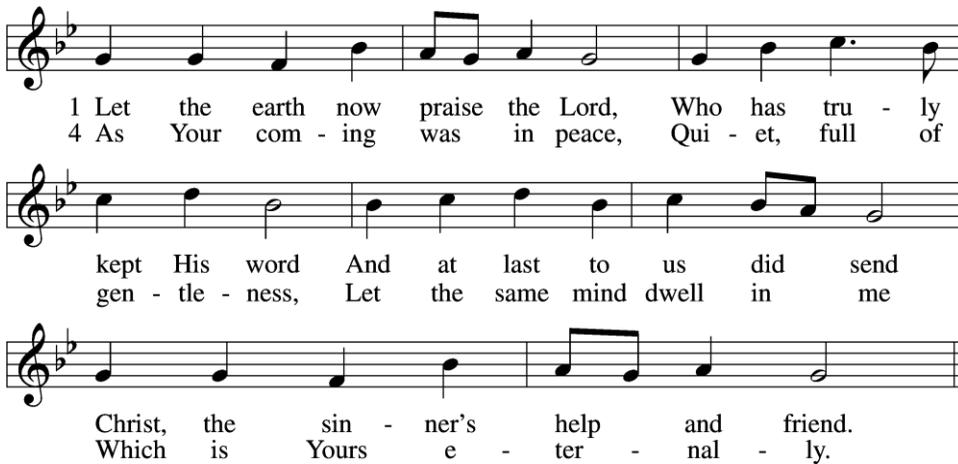
1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the
5 Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to
King of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing
Thee; here, Lord, abide! O enter with Thy grace di-
near; The Savior of the world is here. Life and sal-
vine; Thy face of mercy on me shine. Thy Holy
vation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

Sermon

"Home Hurts"

Pastor Scott Henze





1 Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has tru - ly
4 As Your com - ing was in peace, Qui - et, full of

kept His word And at last to us did send
gen - tle - ness, Let the same mind dwell in me

Christ, the sin - ner's help and friend.
Which is Yours e - ter - nal - ly.

The 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 everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the Church

- P** Lord Jesus, you entered in to a world broken by sin. Thank you for coming to heal us from the hurt caused by sin, and help us to live as your forgiven and forgiving people in our dwellings. May our family be united in our care for one another, even though we all have sinned. O Jesus Christ, who brings healing,
- C** **bless all homes with your grace and love.**

P Lord Jesus, be with all those who are hurting in some way physically, emotionally or spiritually. May our homes be places of comfort and strength for them, and may our hearts go out to them as your heart goes out to us whenever we are in distress. O Jesus Christ, who brings healing,

C bless all homes with your grace and love.

P Lord Jesus, be with doctors and nurses, therapists and psychiatrists, pastors and teachers and parents who care for others. Let them be a source of protection for people in dangerous situations. Allow them to give encouragement and support in a way that lifts the spirits of the ones in need. Give them the right words to say and move them to do as you would do for them. O Jesus Christ, who brings healing,

C bless all homes with your grace and love.

P Lord Jesus, come among those families who are struggling in some way. Unite them with your presence. Be a beacon of hope to them in this dark time in their lives. Open the path to resolution and restoration. O Jesus Christ, who brings healing,

C bless all homes with your grace and love.

P Lord Jesus, give us hearts like that of children that find joy in the small things and that excited about the season even when things do not go exactly as planned. Fill us with gratitude toward you and one another for everything that is provided to make this Christmas special this year, despite any rough patches. O Jesus Christ, who brings healing,

C bless all homes with your grace and love.

P Lord Jesus, help us to trade all our sorrows for joy in you and all you do as we gather together as families in our homes. Rid our speech of complaints and angry words. Make givers glad, and make receivers of gifts truly appreciative of the meaning behind the wrappings and the bows. For you are the Gift divine this Christmas, and all our days are happy because you were born among us. O Jesus Christ, who brings healing,

C bless all homes with your grace and love.

P Lord Jesus, for these and all other things we ask, we give you thanks, trusting in your mercy to make your dwelling place in every dwelling place where your spirit rests.
Amen.

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.**

The Benediction

P Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

C **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn "Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB 349 vss 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....

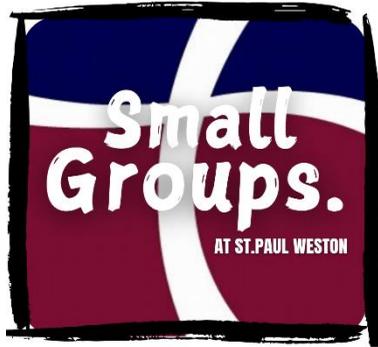
C **Disciples making disciples.**

P Go in peace and serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

An offering plate is stationed in the back of the sanctuary.
Your Advent gift may be placed there.





Celebrate Community with Small Groups at St. Paul!

Whether you're looking to join a group, learn more about how they work, or explore hosting one yourself, we invite you to visit our Small Group Ministry page <https://stpaulweston.com/groups/> and take the next step in your faith journey.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

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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

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