

## Our Dear Christ Enters In



### **Advent Week 1: Family Tree**

*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. **Matthew 1:1***

***Sharing the Good News of Christ With All People***

# December 3, 2025

Advent Mid-Week 1  
Our Dear Christ Enters In

## The Invocation

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

## Opening Hymn

### "The Advent of Our King"

LSB 331 vss 1,2,6



1 The ad - vent of our King Our prayers must now em - ploy,  
2 The ev - er - last - ing Son In - car - nate deigns to be,  
△ 6 All glo - ry to the Son, Who comes to set us free,



And we must hymns of wel - come sing In strains of ho - ly joy.  
Him - self a ser - vant's form puts on To set His ser - vants free.  
With Fa - ther, Spir - it, ev - er one Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## 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."**

*(One purple candle is 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 first candle on this wreath in preparation for your coming. Enkindle our hearts with the fire of your love so 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

P Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven,  
C **whose sins are covered.**

P Blessed is the man against whom sin the Lord counts no iniquity against him  
C **and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

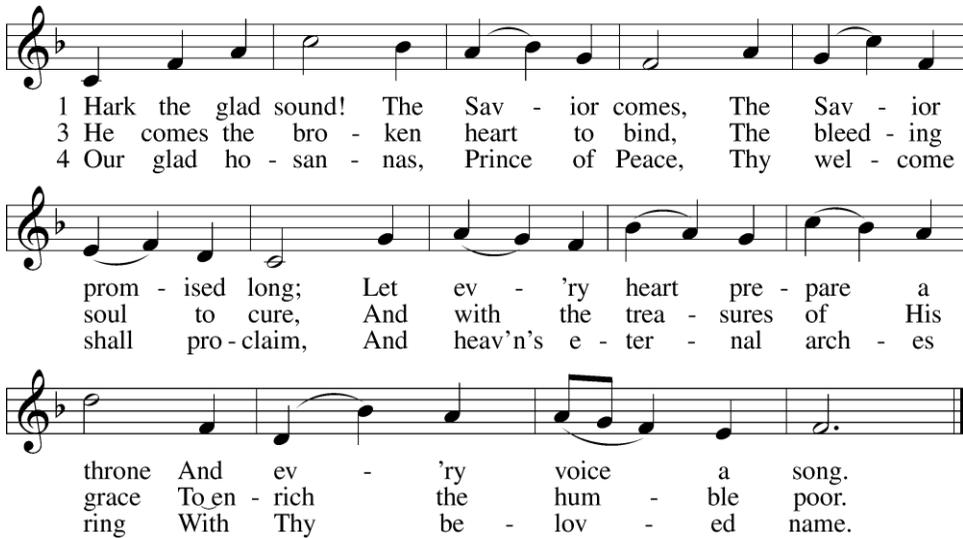
P I acknowledged my sin to you,  
C **and I did not cover up my iniquity;**

P I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord"—  
C **and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P King Jesus,  
C **we confess that we so often give you lip service with our tongues yet deny you with our thoughts, words and actions. We have not placed you first in every area of our lives, nor have we considered all others as better than ourselves. Hear us as we take this moment to confess our sins, especially those sins that are weighing heavily on our consciences right now:**

*(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). In his tender mercy, God has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, upon this your confession, I announce the grace of God to you. In his stead and by his command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

### Prayer of the Day

P O God, we prepare our hearts this Advent season for the coming of your Son, who was born into the family tree that began with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, continued through Abraham and then to King David. Help us to see that Jesus is the fulfillment of your promise to save your people and make us all a part of your family through his birth, life, death and resurrection. We are your own in Jesus, and we are grateful. Amen.



## Old Testament Reading

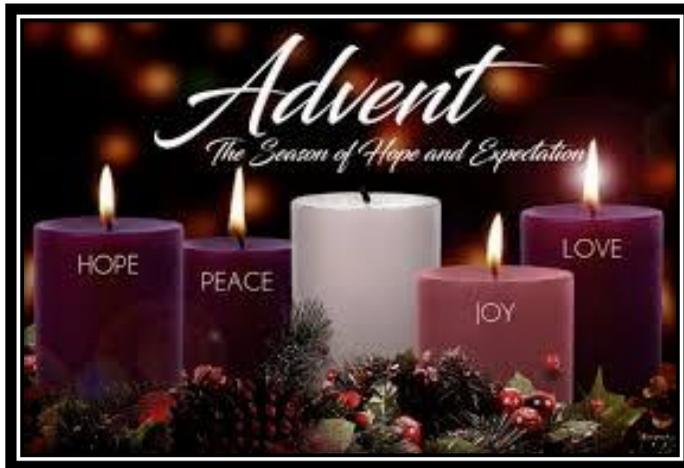
Genesis 15:1-6

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

## New Testament Reading

Romans 1:1-4

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.



## Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:1-17

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.



**Sermon Hymn****"Savior of the Nations, Come"**

LSB 332 vss 1,4



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



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.

**Sermon****"Your Family Tree"****Pastor Scott Henze****Hymn****"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

LSB 338



1 Come, Thou long - ex - spect - 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.

## 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, we thank you for the family trees you have placed us in. Thank you for parents, brothers, sisters aunts, uncles and cousins, grandparents and grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Help us to grow closer to you and one another through the season of Advent and Christmas. O Jesus Christ, who entered into our human family,

**C bless us in all we do as the family of God.**

P Lord Jesus, we thank you for that family of faith that you have place us in. Thank you for pastors and Sunday school teachers, Bible study leaders, council members and elders, the altar guild, acolytes and communion servers. Help us to grow in our faith in you and to deepen our love for one another as we serve you in our church and in our homes. O Jesus Christ, who entered into our human family,

**C bless us in all we do as the family of God.**

P Lord Jesus, be with people whose family trees are unknown or fractured in various ways. Ease their pain, work to bring unity where there is brokenness, and assure believers in you that they have a family tree of faith they can turn to if their family tree of human origin is not available to them. Help us to be family to them in any way we can as brothers and sisters in Christ. O Jesus Christ, who entered into our human family,

**C bless us in all we do as the family of God.**

P Lord Jesus, just as you have guided families in the past, guide us as families now to worship you and praise you for your goodness and to pass the faith on to the generations to come that they may follow you too. Let your name be spoken and heard in the ever-circling years of time until your return to glory when your name will be shouted from the heavens and you will take us to be with the Father of us all forever. O Jesus Christ, who entered into our human family,

**C bless us in all we do as the family of God.**

P Lord Jesus, in this season when we ponder more dearly the relatives we have and the family members who have gone before us or are no longer with us, keep them in our hearts and minds, and let them be remembered and loved in special ways at this time of year. O Jesus Christ, who entered into our human family,

**C bless us in all we do as the family of God.**

P Lord Jesus, be with those in our family tree who are sick or dying at home or in the hospital. Let our love for them and our trust in you show forth and give them courage and strength through these difficult day. Bless them with the knowledge that they have a place in your family always. O Jesus Christ, who entered into our human family,

**C bless us in all we do as the family of God.**

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.**

## Closing Hymn

### "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357 vss. 1,4,5



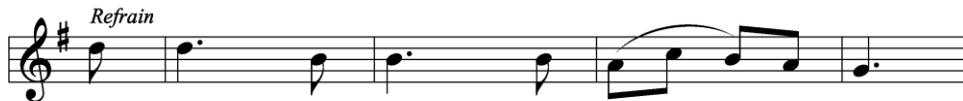
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from  
5 O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And o - pen



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y  
wide our heav'n - ly home; Make safe the way that



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.  
leads on high, And close the path to mis - er - y.



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



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

## 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**

**Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor**

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

**Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director**

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**[www.stpaulweston.org](http://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**  
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