

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
December 7, 2025



**PREPARE THE
WAY OF THE
LORD**

**MAKE HIS PATH
STRAIGHT**

Sharing the Good News of Christ With All People

The Divine Service

Second Sunday in Advent

December 7, 2025

AS WE GATHER

The problem with good works is not *that* we should do them but *why*. Our works reflect what it is we believe and hold dear. Works are the fruit of repentance and faith and do not add to what Christ has done in His mighty work of redemption. The call to bear the good fruit of repentance is not to work harder to be saved but to manifest in our everyday lives that we are saved, that we belong to the Lord, and that He has accomplished all things for our salvation. John faced a generation impressed with their works and empty of faith in God's mercy. We should know that doing works is not a choice. Hearts of faith will produce the good fruits of repentance. This is the calling of Christians and the mark of the work of the Spirit in our lives.

Prelude

Invocation

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

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

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Processional Hymn

“Hark the Glad Sound”

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 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
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 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.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.



Kyrie

LSB 168

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**



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.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. O merciful Lord, grant to us the wisdom of Your Spirit and the blessing of faithful voices, that they may call us to prepare for the coming One and so that all who have heard Your Word and have been baptized into Christ may be preserved from evil, be counted worthy in Christ to be delivered into Your eternal kingdom, and be kept to the day of His coming at the end of all things; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and to the end of the ages.
C **Amen.**



The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 11:1–10

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**



Epistle

Romans 15:4–13

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."¹⁰And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." ¹²And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 173

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 3:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

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

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’” ⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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





1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 △ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Sermon

"Ready or Not"

Pastor Scott Henze



Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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 Let us pray: Blessed are You, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C 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

Sanctus

LSB 178

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of Your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 Words of Institution

The Peace of the Lord

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

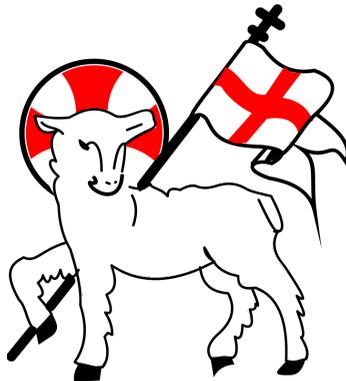
(The congregation and minister may greet each other with the peace of the Lord)



Agnus Dei

LSB 180

C Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
God, You take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.





1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!
 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!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore Him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
 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:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



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



"Jesus Shall Reign"

LSB 832



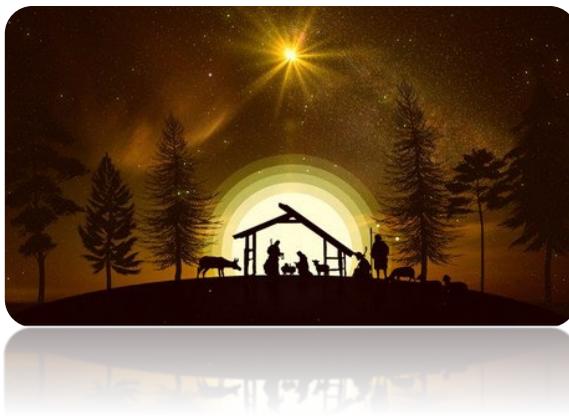
1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -
2 To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Dwell on His
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns: The pris - 'ners
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -



ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from
prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song; And in - fant voic - es
leap, un - loose their chains, The wea - ry find e -
cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with



shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.
songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men.



Closing of the Table

Post Communion Canticle

"Thank the Lord"

LSB 181



The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done. Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord rejoice and proud-ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-ises and leads His peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia." The piece ends with a double bar line.

Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what
He has done. Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-
joice and proud-ly bear His name. He re-calls His prom-is-
es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy with shouts of thanks-
giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

New Member Sunday

Announcements

Benediction

Recessional Hymn “The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns” LSB 348



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright-er than the ris - ing morn When Christ, vic - to-rious, rose
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.
And left the lone-some place of death De - spite the rage of foes.
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Prayer Support

If you want to be lifted up in prayer, our prayer team is here to pray for you after the worship service. You can meet with them at the Communion Rail.



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!**

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Investing for Time and Eternity

“ . . . lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where moth nor rust destroys,
and where thieves do not break in and steal.

For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also” (Matt. 6:20-21).

Advent and Christmas Schedule 2025

Evening Advent Worship Services

December 3, 6:30 p.m.
December 10, 6:30 p.m.
December 17, 6:30 p.m.

Quiet Christmas

December 7, 7:00 p.m.

Kids Choir Christmas Service

December 14,
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Family Worship Service

December 24, 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Service

December 24
8:00 p.m & 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Worship Service

December 25, 10:00 a.m.

 **St. Paul**
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& PRE-SCHOOL



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

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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
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