



# St. Paul Lutheran Church

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Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

8:00 & 10:15 a. m.

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE** *"All Is Ready Now"* Jay Beech

**CONFESSION** *Please rise*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN: LBW #30** *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

**GREETING** *please rise*

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

**And also with you.**

## LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

### Second Sunday of Advent – Light

Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of **Light**. God's light breaks into the world, guiding our path and showing us the way of righteousness and truth.

In the midst of darkness, a new light shines.

This light brings understanding, compassion, and hope.

**Come, Light of the World. Dispel our darkness and lead us to your peace.**

*(Light the first and second candles.) Sing "He Came Down" (ELW #253) - verse 2*

**He came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
he came down that we may have light;  
hallelujah forevermore.**

### PRAYER:

Radiant One, you are the source of all light. Kindle in us a light that cannot be extinguished. May your brightness guide us and your truth dwell in us, that we might shine with your love in the world. **Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...

**Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt

or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19**

Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth.**

In his time may the righteous flourish;  
and let there be an abundance of  
peace till the moon shall be no more.

**Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;  
you alone do wondrous deeds!**

And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen.

**SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13**

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL READING: Matthew 3:1-12

**Response**                      **Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW #36** *"On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"*

### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM (8:00 service only)**

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. The power of sin is put to death in this holy flood, and we are raised with Jesus Christ to new life. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and sent out in mission for the life of the world.

Aaron Matthew called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to be baptized?

*Response. I do.*

As God has called you to the waters of Baptism, you are now entrusted with the responsibility of living out this baptismal identity as a child of God. You are called to live among God's faithful people; to be attentive to God's Word and His Holy Supper; to seek understanding of the Creed, 10 Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer; to nurture your faith and prayer life, to proclaim Christ in word and deed, to care for others and the world God has made; and to work for justice and peace among all people. Aaron Matthew, do you promise to grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Response: I do.*

People of God, do you promise to support Aaron Matthew and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

**We do.**

I ask you to reject sin, profess your faith in Christ, and confess the faith of the church. Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God, the powers of this world that rebel against God, and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

*Response: I do.*

With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raised us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Aaron Matthew, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, wash them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Aaron Matthew with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Aaron Matthew, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us as in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

These persons have come to us from other congregations and desire to unite with our community of faith, thus desiring to affirm their baptism and to seek to live out their baptismal callings.

Dear friends, we rejoice to receive you, members of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, into our fellowship in the Gospel.

Being a part of this fellowship means:

- to support the ministries of the congregation with your time, talents and treasures
- to pray for the congregation and it's ministries
- to pray for the people of the congregation
- to hear the Word of the Lord and share in Jesus' holy meal
- to serve people, following the example of Jesus
- to strive for justice and peace in all the earth

If it is your intention is to be a part of this faith community, please respond by saying, I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

People of faith, will you receive them as a part of this community. Will you be diligent in praying for them? Will you accept them as fellow workers in the kingdom of God? If so, please respond, We will with the help of God.

**We will with the help of God.**

We welcome you as members of St. Paul Lutheran Church to join with us in worshipping God, hearing his Word and sharing his supper, proclaiming the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, serving all people, and striving for justice and peace in all the earth. Let us pray: We thank you, Lord for these new members of our congregation. By your life-giving power, bind us to each other in you, strengthen us for service, support us all our days, and bring us at length to that day when all your children will be one and you will be All-in-All. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

*A brief silence.*

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

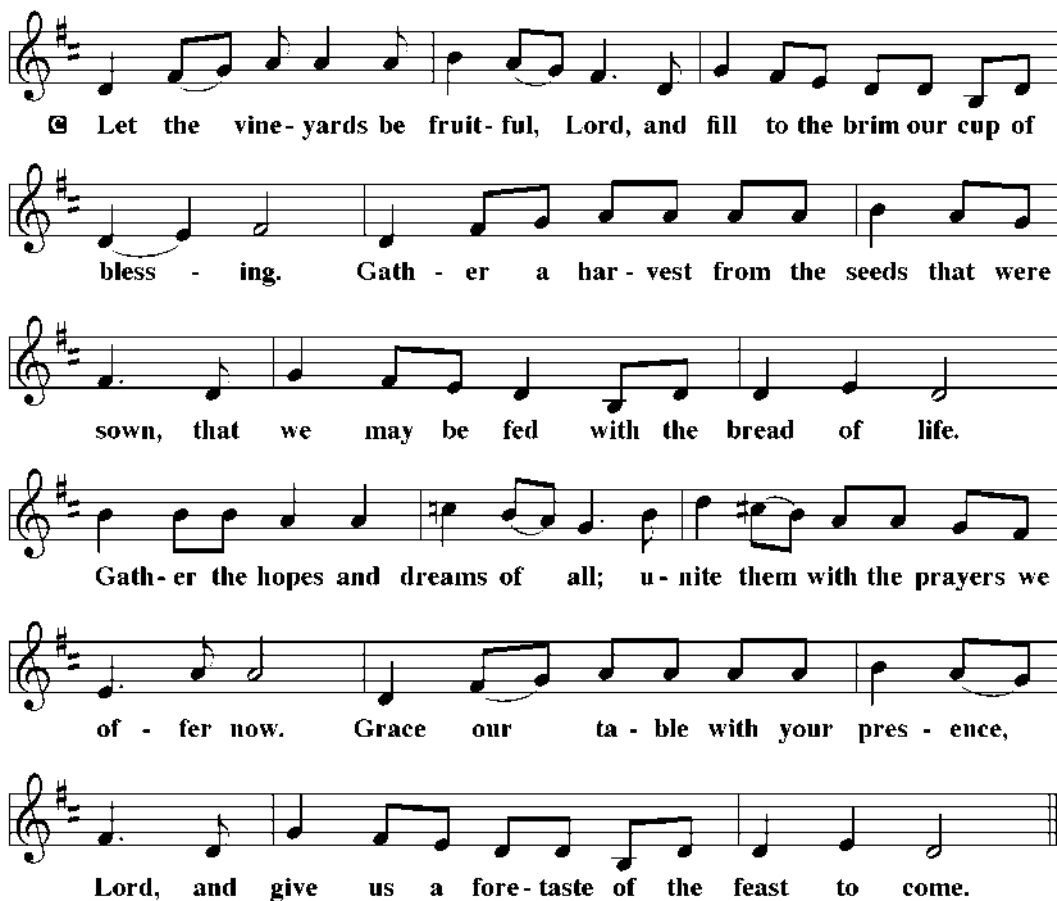
## SHARING OF THE PEACE

*(Those who desire to share the peace of the Lord with others are invited to greet one another; those who do not wish to share the peace, may be seated.)*

**OFFERING:** “Emmanuel” Bob McGee



## OFFERTORY



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.  
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the  
world signs of your kingdom come. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

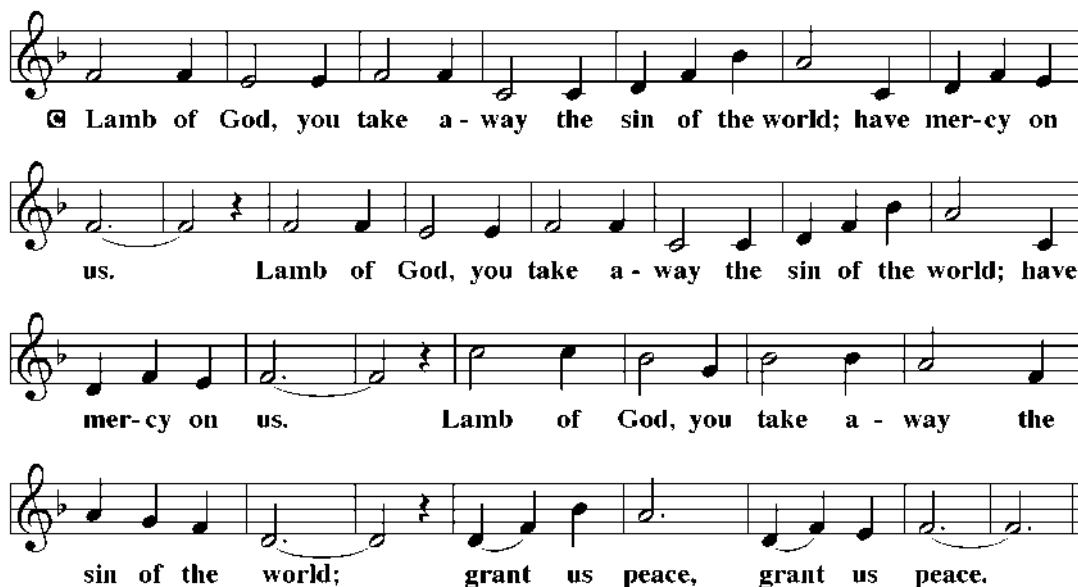
With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

### LAMB OF GOD



☪ 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.

**COMMUNION HYMNS:** LBW #272 *"Abide with Me"*  
LBW #522 *"Come, Thou Almighty King"*  
LBW #224 *"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **AMEN**

### **PRAYER**

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

### **DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *"Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" arr. by Franklin Ritter*