

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**SUNDAY December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**



***WELCOME***

**To our Church Family**

*We're Glad You're Here.*



## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our new St Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag.

For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

### *You are Welcome at the table!*

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

### **Altar Flowers**

The **altar flowers** were given today by Jennifer & Craig Maurer in memory of Rev. & Mrs. F.D. Hax.

### **Introduction**

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

*A righteous branch springing up from David*

#### **Psalm 25:1-10**

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. (Ps. 25:1)

#### **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

*Strengthen hearts of holiness for the coming of the Lord*

#### **Luke 21:25-36**

*Be alert for the coming of the Son of Man*

**Today's Hymns from The Tower**  
**The Westminster Strike**  
**Welcome and Announcements**

Church Carillon

**Processional and Prelude:** Personet hodie                      arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)  
O Radiant Dawn    James MacMillan (b. 1959)

**First Sunday in Advent: Hope**

Watch and wait for Christ's coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope. Light the first candle.

Hear God's promise of hope from Isaiah 2:2-4:

*In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*

Let us pray:

Faithful God, out of war's chaos, you bring the order of peace. Renew us in hope, that we may work toward Christ's advent of peace among all nations.

**God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.**

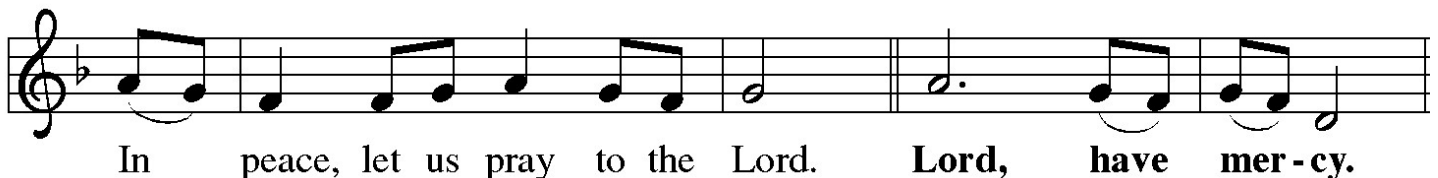
**GATHERING HYMN**                      Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending                      ELW 435

**GREETING**

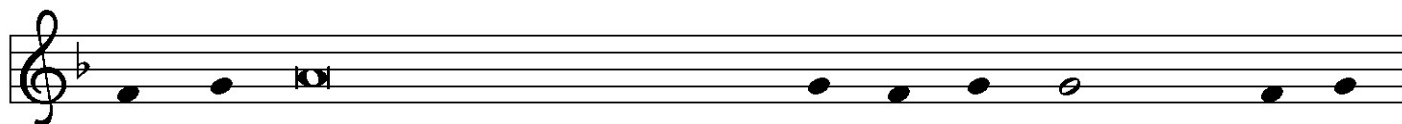
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE**



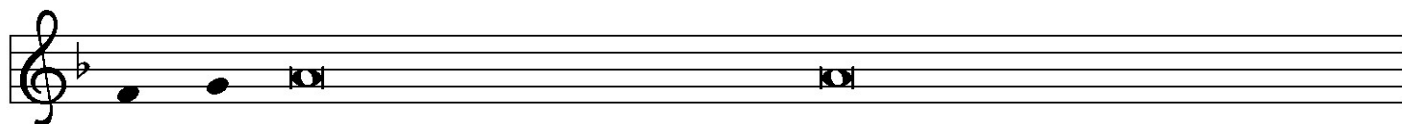
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer-cy.



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



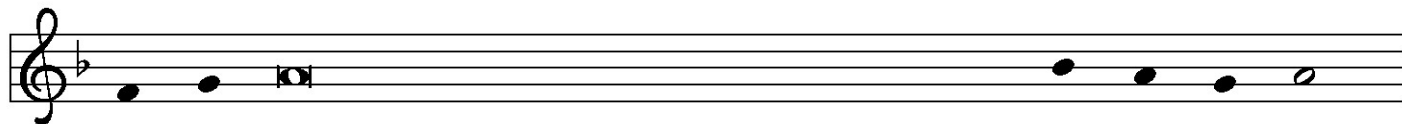
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



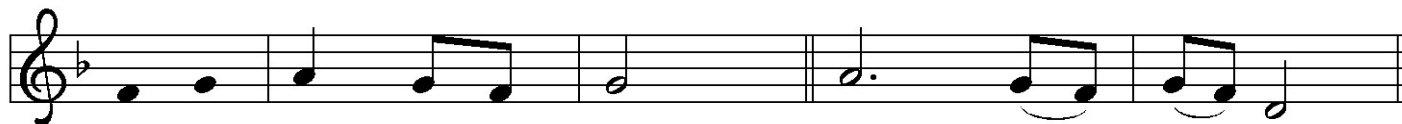
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

<sup>14</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup> In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup> In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

Psallite, unigenito

arr. Rutter

### Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup> Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup> And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup> And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36**

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of our Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

*Rev. Mark Kreemer*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

My Lord, What a Morning!

ELW 438

**APOSTLE’S CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

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\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*After each petition the following response is given:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Offertory Anthem:**

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl (1906-2001)

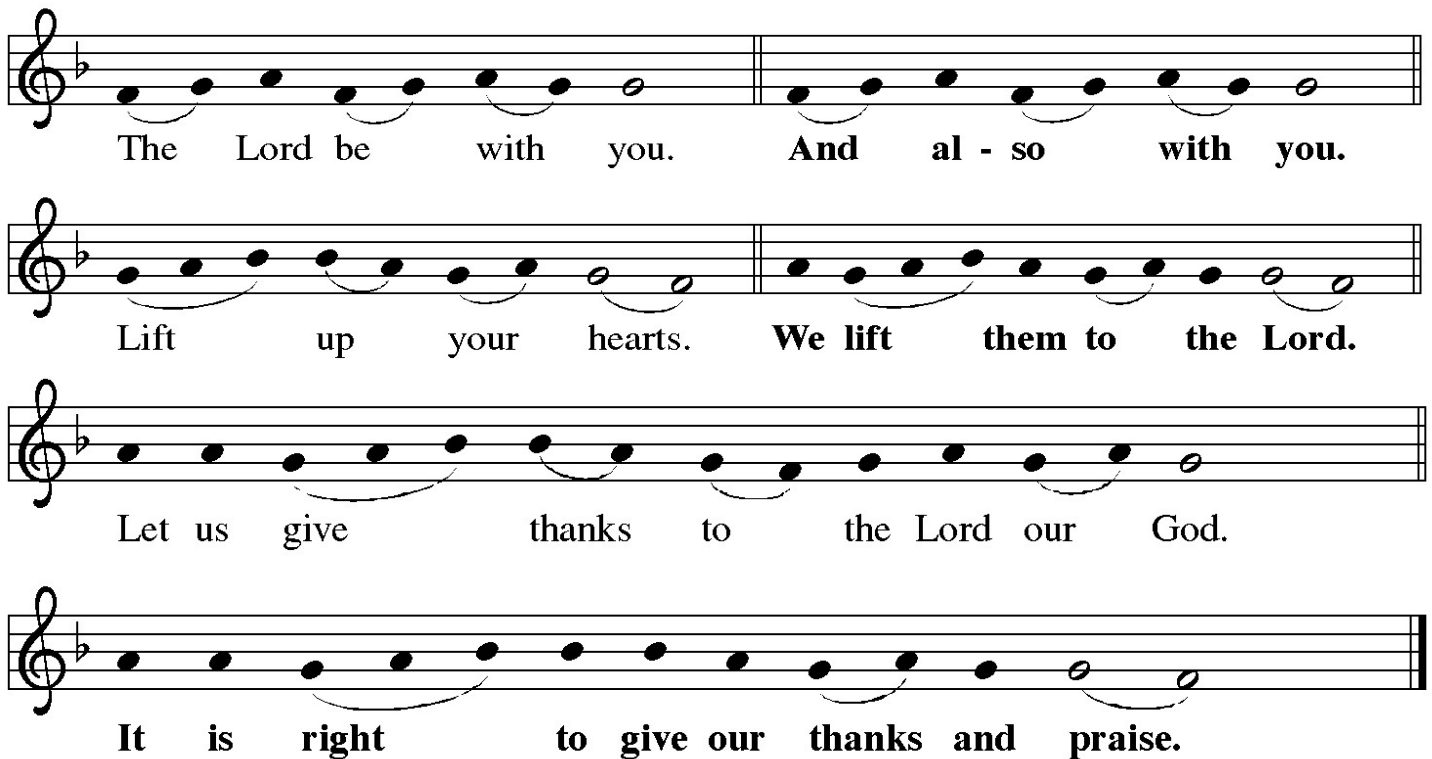
## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

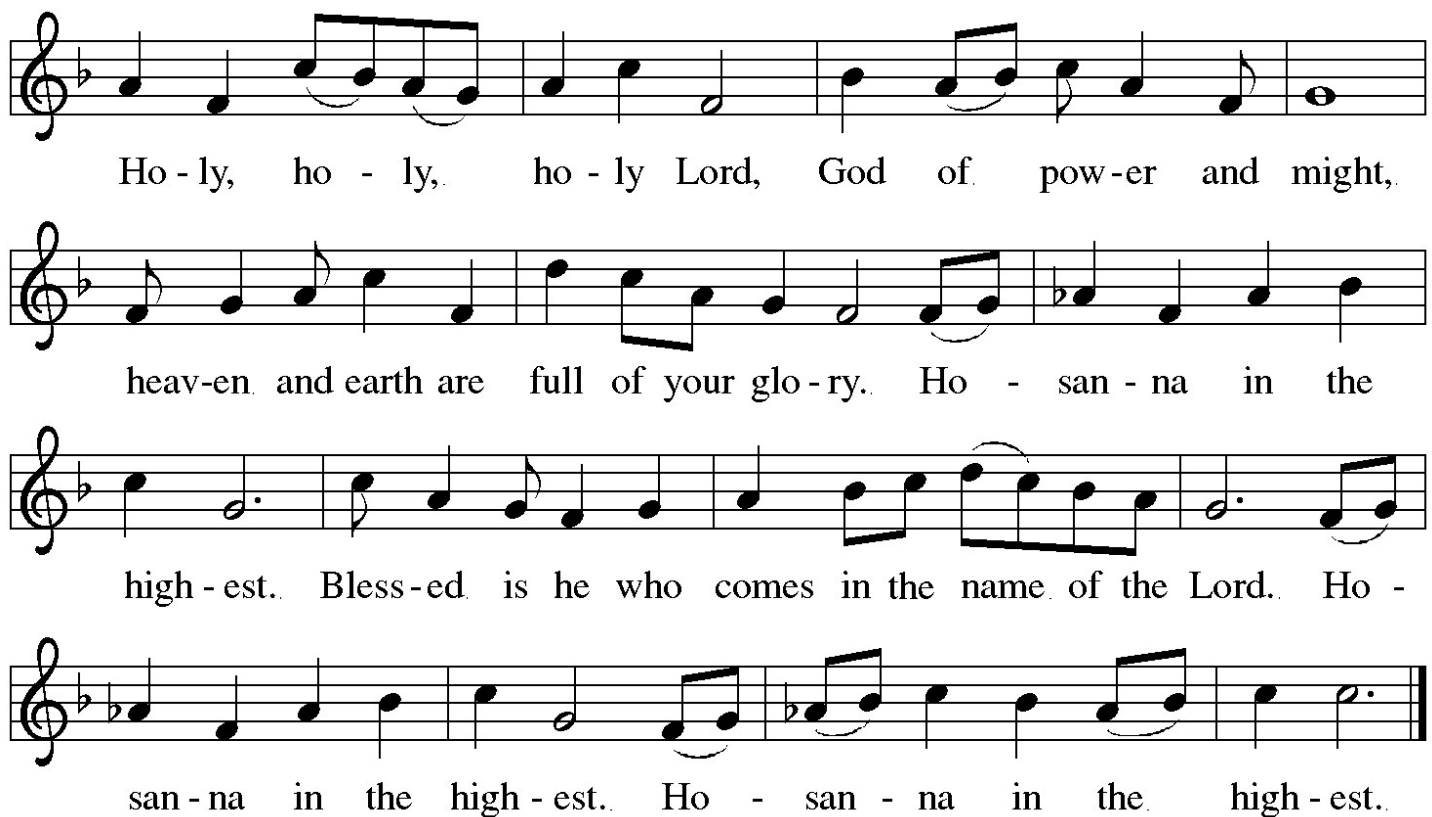
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, .... and so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

### 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.**

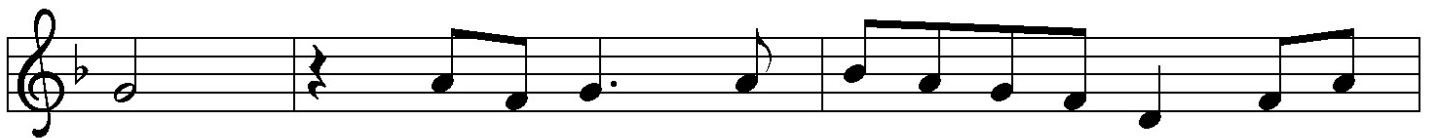
### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy.  
Come to the table.

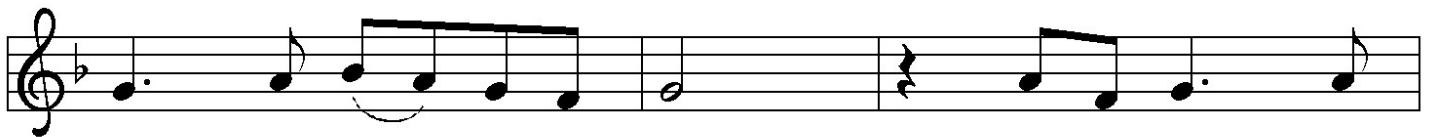
### COMMUNION SONG



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.

## COMMUNION

Conditor alme siderum (Creator of the stars at night)

Rebecca Groom te Velde (b. 1956)

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ELW 272

## BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude:

Fum Fum Fum

arr. Alice Parker (1925-2023)

Robert Shaw (1916-1999)

Deck the Halls

arr. Rutter



## In our prayers today we will remember

*Dave Paul, Amy Williams, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Mark King, Sue Rodgers, Rick Theiss, Jim Loveday, Rosemary Stephen, Ariane Roberts, Shane Reed, Chrissy Sturtz, Donnie Whitman, Mary Martin.*

# Adult Sunday School Class

## The Promise of His Coming

*But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. (2 Peter 3:13)*

You might wonder what the book of Genesis has to do with the Season of Advent. Actually, more than you might think! Join us as we continue our study in Genesis and prepare our hearts for Christ's coming and ultimate fulfillment of all his promises. The class meets at 11:30 each Sunday morning, upper level of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience.



# Thursday Bible Study

## The Grace of Les Misérables

We will continue the study titled *The Grace of Les Misérables*. Victor Hugo's *Les Misérables* is a truly epic story. Whether you've tackled the 1,400-page 19<sup>th</sup> century novel, witnessed the Broadway musical (and memorized its soundtrack), or seen the several screen adaptations of it, you already know the power of its story.

In the six-week study *The Grace of Les Misérables*, author and pastor Matt Rawle dives into six ideals found in the story—grace, justice, poverty, revolution, love, and hope—each represented by a character in Hugo's story. As these imperfect and relatable characters interact, we can see how these ideals work together (perhaps even in spite of each other) out in the world.



## Capital Campaign Report

<b>Remaining Phase One Projects</b>	<b>\$377,000</b>
<b>Funds raised</b>	<b>\$308,906</b>
<b>Remaining funds to be raised</b>	<b>\$ 68,094</b>

## **Angel Tree**

The Salvation Army Christmas Tree Tags are available in the Gleitsman Lounge.  
The gifts must be returned unwrapped by Sunday, December 8.



## **Art Show in Gleitsman Lounge**

Come see the beautiful photos by Peg Gibbs in the lounge. Sign up for which photos you would like to purchase (\$25 each). Payment and pick up days will be December 15 and January 12.  
A portion of the proceeds will go to the church.



## **Home-bound gift bags**

Gift bags will be available for delivery on Sunday, December 15.



## **Christmas Food Baskets**

St. Paul's is collecting nonperishable food and miscellaneous items for our Community Meal families. The items will be given for Christmas at our Community Meal on  
Friday, December 13.

Please place your donations in the box provided at the side entrance of the church.  
If you have questions, please contact Cindy Lash at 330-417-7407.

- Dec. 1 Paper Products (paper towels, toilet paper)
- Dec. 8 Bar Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrush

Previous weeks' items are still very much welcomed: Tea and Coffee, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Canned Soups and Pork 'n Beans, Cereal and Mixes (cake, brownie, muffins), Canned fruits and Vegetables, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta, Instant Potatoes.

Thank you for your generosity!

Blessings and peace,  
Cindy Lash & The Welfare and Social Action Committee

## Music in December



We welcome the Firestone CCLC Madrigals to our morning worship service this morning.

Tonight is also the annual Community Candlelight Walk from 5-7:30. St. Paul's will feature vocal and instrumental soloists and several pieces from the Chancel Choir.

### **December 24, Christmas Eve services:**

Family Service and special solo music: 7 pm

Camarada Brass, special music by the Chancel Choir: 10:00 pm



## Christmas Caroling to our Home Bound

Make plans to join us for Christmas caroling for our members who are home bound on **Saturday, December 7 at 2:00 pm**. This is a great chance to feel the true spirit of Christmas. We will break into groups and go off in different directions to sing and bring Christmas cheer to these special members of our congregation. When the singing is done, plan to return to church for a warm meal. Please help us plan for dinner by signing up in the Welcome Center.



## Community Social Media Pages

### Facebook & Instagram

Search "*Massillon Lutheran Churches*"

### Facebook

Search "*St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon*"

Search "*Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's*"

@ MASSILLON LUTHERANS

# He Shall be Called

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP  
AT 7 PM

December 4 - Christ Lutheran Church  
December 11 - Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
December 18 - Faith Lutheran Church



## CHRISTMAS EVE

7 PM - FAMILY SERVICE & SPECIAL SOLO MUSIC

10:30 PM - BRASS MUSIC BEGINNING AT 10 PM  
SPECIAL MUSIC BY THE CHOIR



## **Thank you to those serving today:**

<b>Presiding</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Kreemer</b>
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Dr. Abigail Haake</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Sydney Johnson</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Sue Reid</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Jackie Pritchett &amp; Greg Klein</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Dick &amp; Robin Cordes</b>
<b>Sacristy</b>	<b>Kathryn Myers</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Dan Farrar, Gary Collard, Jeff Akey, Dave Dourm</b>
<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>Jim Johnson</b>
<b>Video/Live-Stream</b>	<b>John Stanko</b>

## Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the “My Church” by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.

Then click on the St Paul's logo—that's it.

To take advantage of all the app's features you must create an account. Get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, access our live stream worship and worship bulletins, send prayer requests, and see the church calendar. You can even give electronically.



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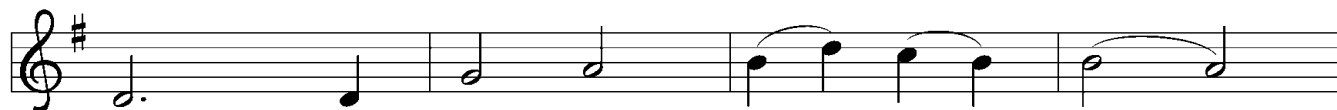
<b>GATHERING HYMN</b> Public Domain	Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending	ELW 435
<b>HYMN OF THE DAY</b> Public Domain	My Lord, What a Morning!	ELW 438
<b>SENDING HYMN</b> Public Domain	Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	ELW 272



## Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



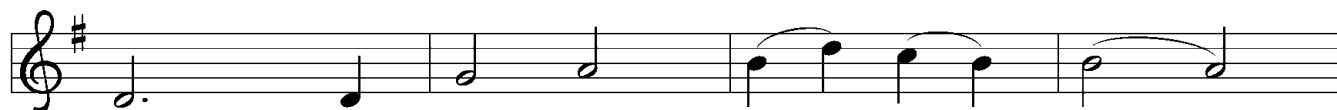
1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,  
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain;  
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;  
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed  
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:  
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:  
 claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



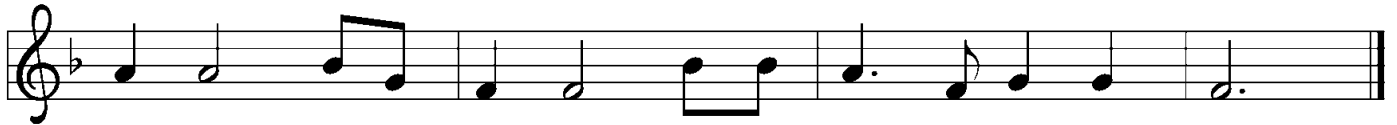
lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

# My Lord, What a Morning

*Refrain*



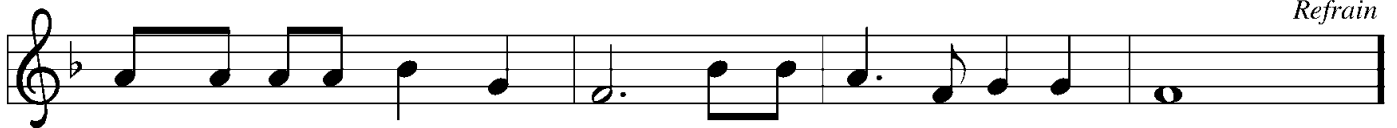
My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



*Refrain*

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
 2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
 3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
 4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
 mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
 air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
 woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
 vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
 dark-ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
 dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
 bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
 sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
 the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4  
 Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599