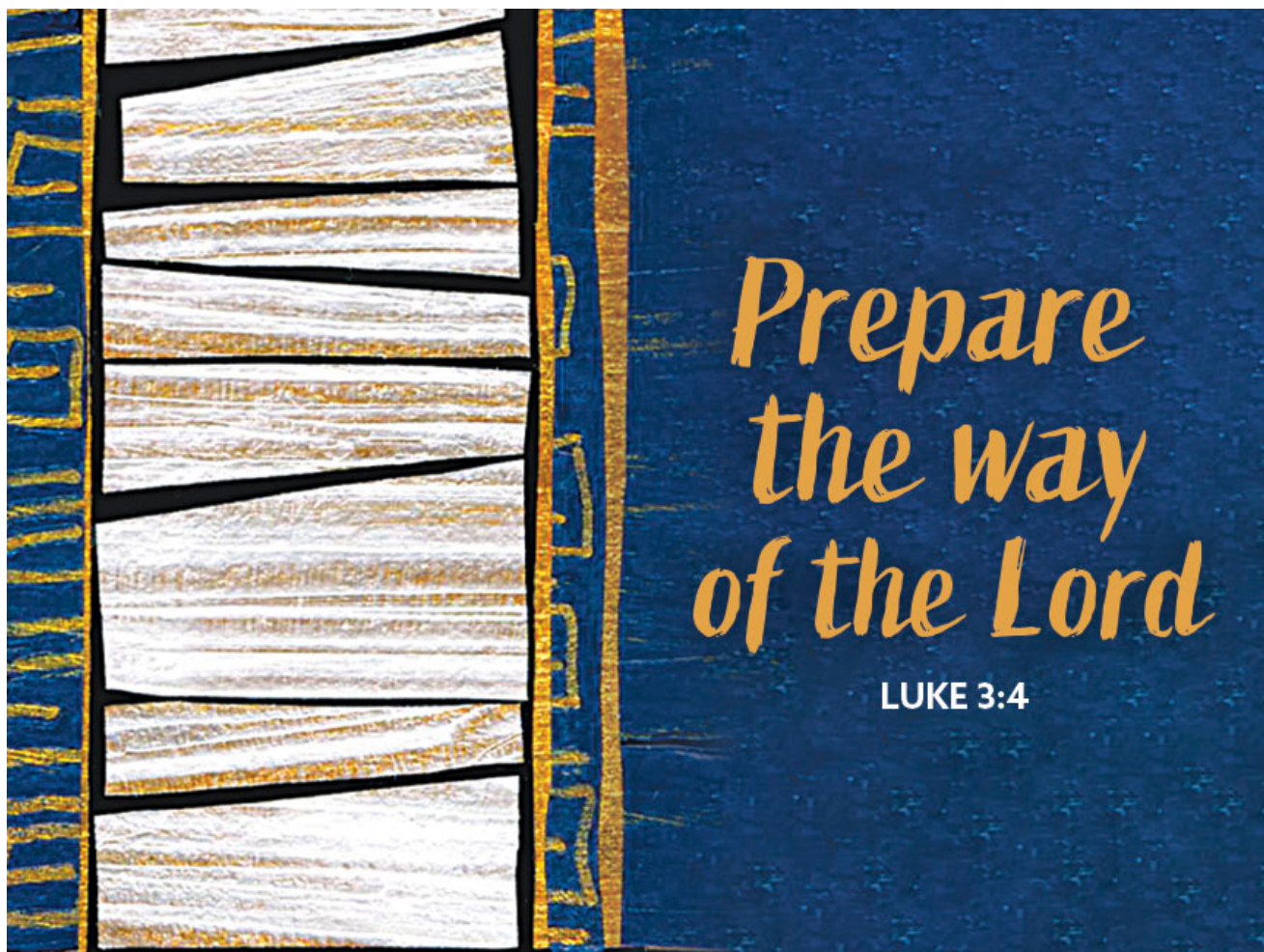


St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
SUNDAY December 8th, 2024



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 Becky & Jim Johnson in honor of theirs and of Jen & Adam Johnson's anniversary.

The **throne flowers** were given today by Dennis Morgan to the Glory of God.

Introduction

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally, all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

Readings and Psalm

Malachi 3:1-4

My messenger is a refiner and purifier

Baruch 5:1-9 (alternate)

The return of scattered Israel

Luke 1:68-79

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us. (*Lk. 1:78*)

Philippians 1:3-11

A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ

Luke 3:1-6

Prepare the way of the Lord

Today's Hymns from The Tower
The Westminster Strike

Church Carillon

Welcome and Announcements

Processional and Prelude: Medley of Traditional Carols

Arr. Mizzy McCaskill & Dona Gilliam

- I. The Coventry Carol
- II. What Child Is This
- III. Good King Wenceslas
- IV. O Come All Ye Faithful

Sydney Johnson, flute

Second Sunday in Advent: Peace

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.

We light this candle for peace. Light the second candle.

Hear God's promise of peace from Isaiah 11:1-10:

Reader 1: *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 the poor, and decide with equity for the meek 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.*

Reader 2: *The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling 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.

Let us pray:

Faithful God, you are at work to restore all of creation in its intended harmony. Give us your shalom that we may be reconciled to all enemies in the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus our Lord. God of promise,


God of hope, into our darkness come.

GREETING

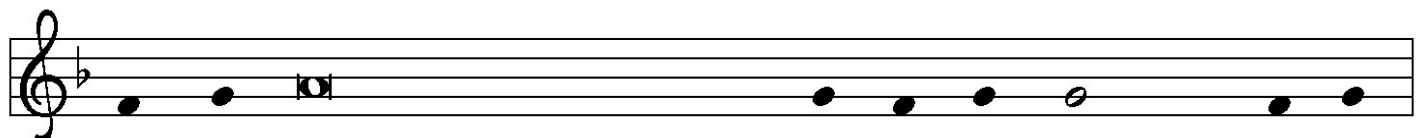
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.


KYRIE



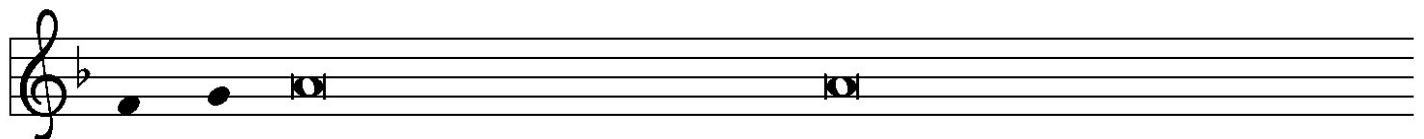
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**




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



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



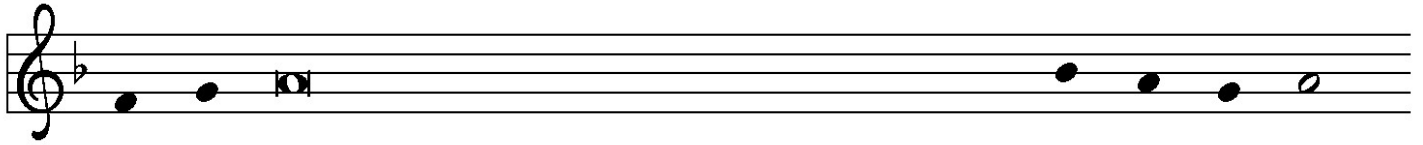
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



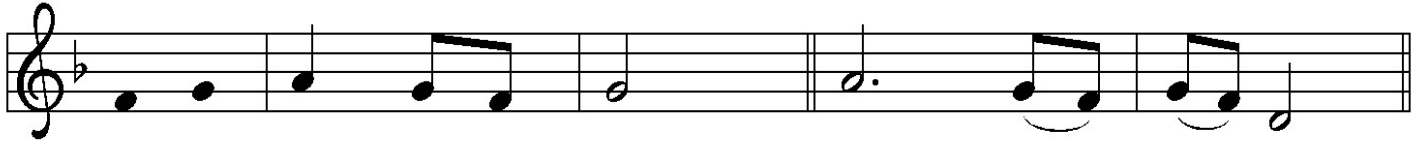
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Malachi 3:1-4

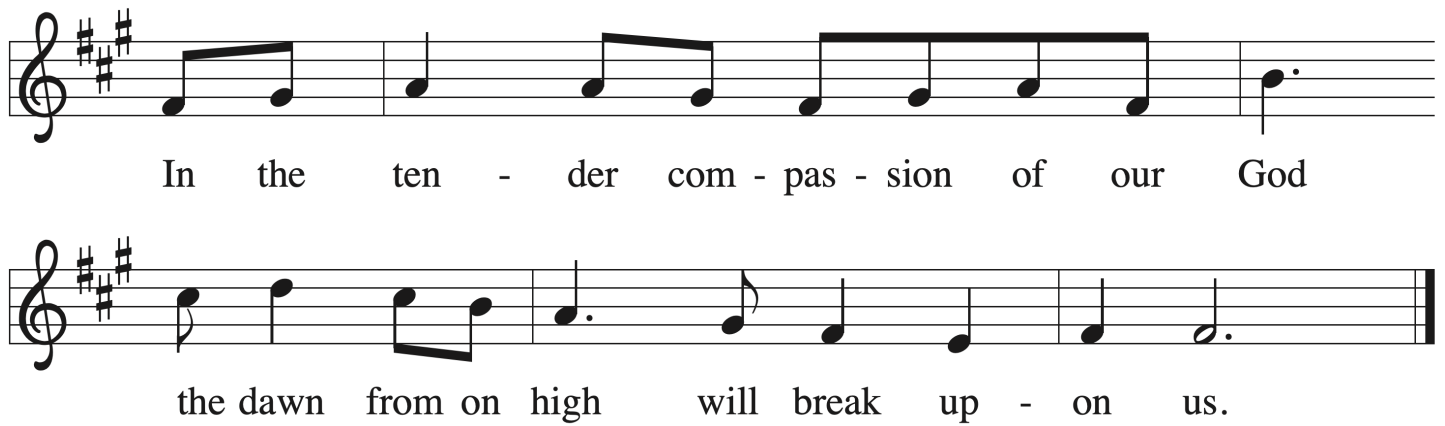
¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Luke 1:68-79



⁶⁸ Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,
you have come to your people and | set them free.
⁶⁹ **You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,
born of the house of your | servant David. R**
⁷⁰ Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from our enemies,
⁷¹ from the hands of | all who hate us,
⁷² **to show mercy | to our forebears,
and to remember your | holy covenant.**
⁷³ This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:
⁷⁴ to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,
**free to worship you | without fear,
⁷⁵ holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life. R**
⁷⁶ And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,
⁷⁷ **to give God's people knowledge | of salvation
by the forgiveness | of their sins.**
⁷⁸ In the tender compassion | of our God
the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,
⁷⁹ **to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death,
and to guide our feet into the | way of peace. R**

Second Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

³ I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴ constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵ because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰ to help you to determine what is best, so that in the

day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,¹¹ having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene,² during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness.³ He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins,⁴ as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵ Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶ and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Mark Kreemer

HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW 249

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.**

*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: Advent Prayer arr. Patrick M. Liebergen (b. 1948)
Chancel Choir

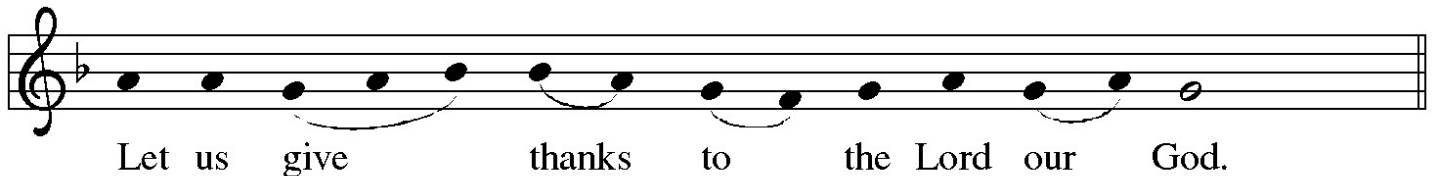
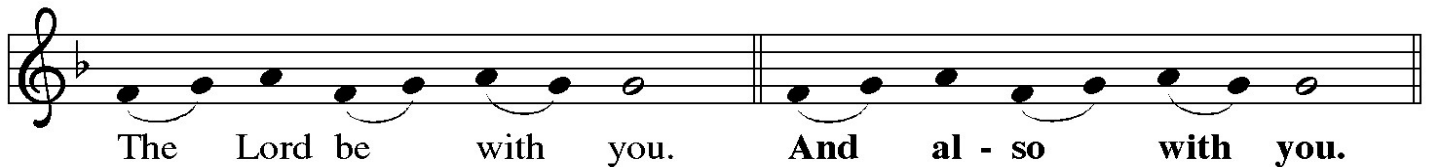
OFFERING PRAYER

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



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.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

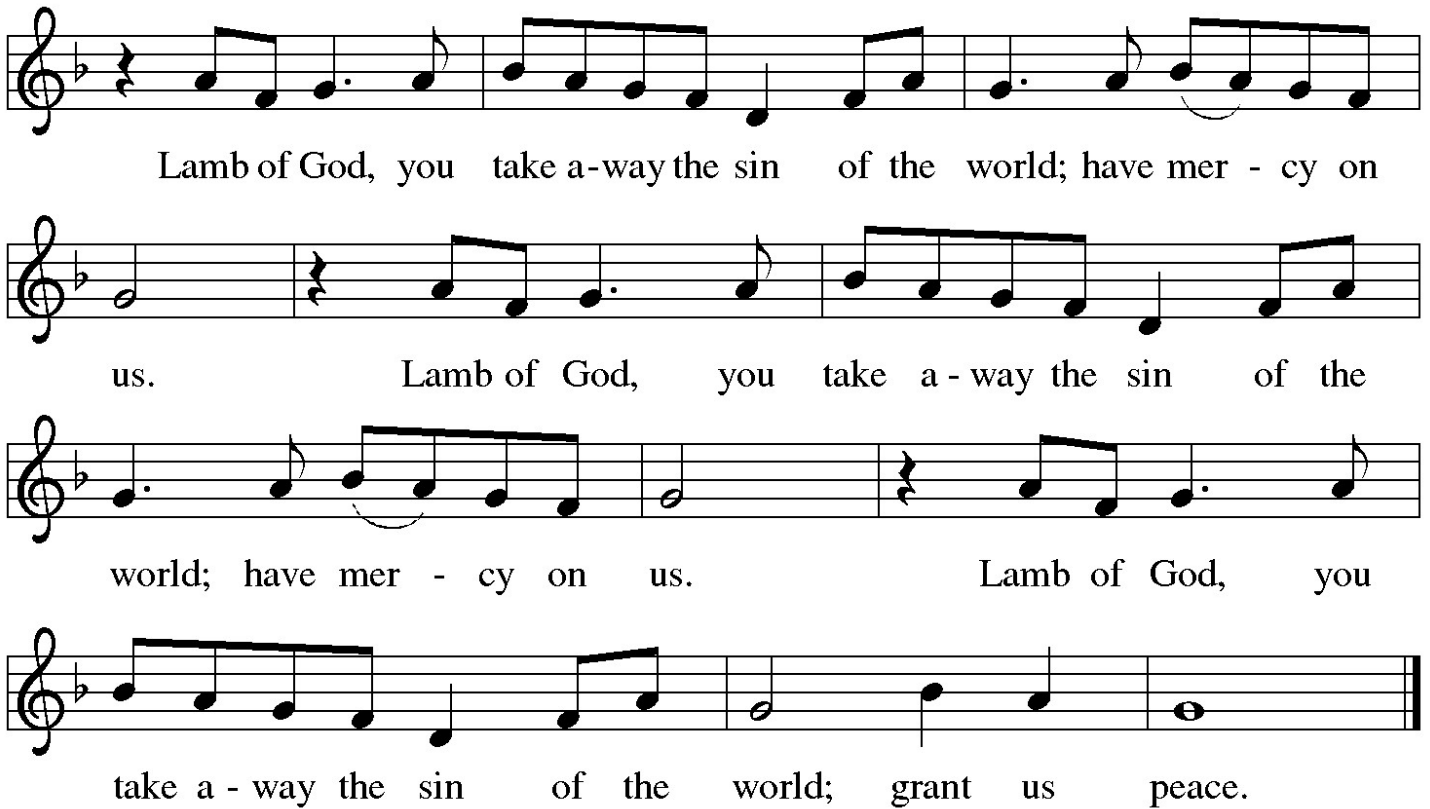
LORD'S PRAYER

**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

O, Lord, How Shall I Meet You

ELW 241

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

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

ELW 282

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: Vom Himmel hoch da komm' ich her (From heaven above to earth I come)
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)



In our prayers today we will remember

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.



Candlelight Walk

Many thanks to our adult choir, choristers from our Lutheran collaborative, and soloists Carol Butler, Dwight Butler, Sydney Johnson, Veronica Kreemer, Ellie Manes, Andy Rambler, and Sammy Kay Smith for their beautiful music at the Candlelight Walk.



Music in December

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 Eve Worship

Traditional Family Service with Candle Light	7:00 pm
Preservice Christmas Brass Quintet	10:00 pm
Traditional Candle Light Service	10:30 pm



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

Awaiting the Already: An Advent Journey Through the Gospels

Why do we spend four weeks of Advent pretending that Jesus has not been born when we know full well that he has? *Awaiting the Already* is a 5-session study that addresses that question. During this study, you'll discover what parts of the Christmas story come from which Gospel and uncover the tension between the past and the future in your own life.



Capital Campaign Report

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

Art Show in Gleitsman Lounge

Enjoy viewing the beautiful photos by Peg Gibbs in the lounge. If you would like to purchase a photo, sign up on the designated sheet. Payment and pick up days will be December 15 or January 12. A portion of the proceeds will go to the church. Photos are \$25 each.



Christmas Food Baskets

St. Paul's has been 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.

Today is the last collection day: Dec. 8 Bar Soap, Toothpaste, Toothbrush

Thank you for all your generosity these past weeks!

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



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*"



Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding	Rev. Mark Kreemer
Director of Music	Dr. Abigail Haake
Lector	Sydney Johnson
Assisting Minister	Karl Kalk
Communion Assistants	Dennis Morgan & Kathryn Myers
Greeter	Russ & Mary Ann Poling
Sacristy	Mary Ann Poling
Ushers	Dan Farrar, Gary Collard, Jeff Akey, Dave Dourm
Soundboard	Jim Johnson
Video/Live-Stream	John Stanko

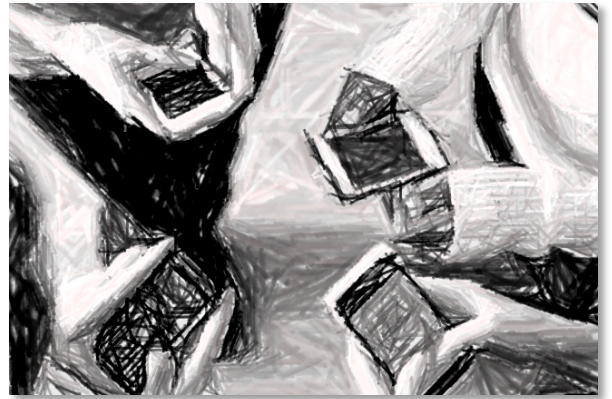
Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

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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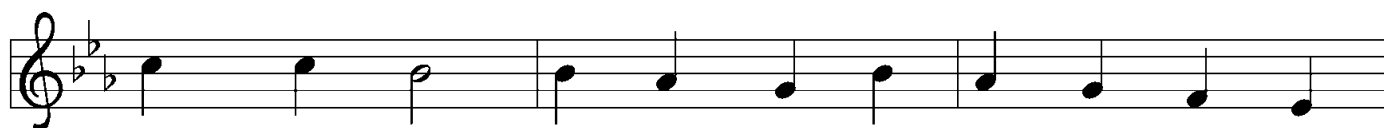
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GATHERING HYMN Public Domain	Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!	ELW 246
HYMN OF THE DAY Public Domain	On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry	ELW 249
COMMUNION Public Domain	O, Lord, How Shall I Meet You	ELW 241
SENDING HYMN Public Domain	It Came Upon a Midnight Clear	ELW 282

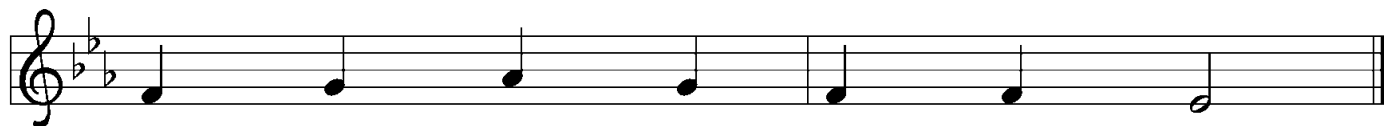
Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is near,” we
2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond - age
3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. “Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
down from heav’n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!”
shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
one and all, to be for - giv’n;
and with words of love draw near.
while un - end - ing a - ges run!

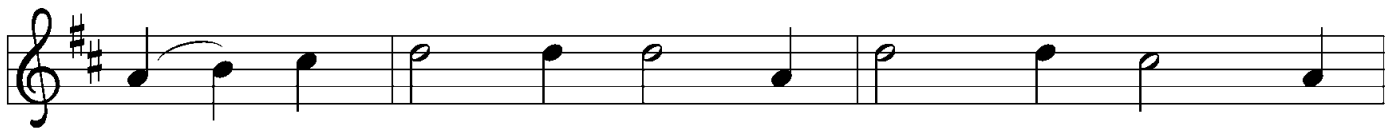
Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878

Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



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 you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, 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.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

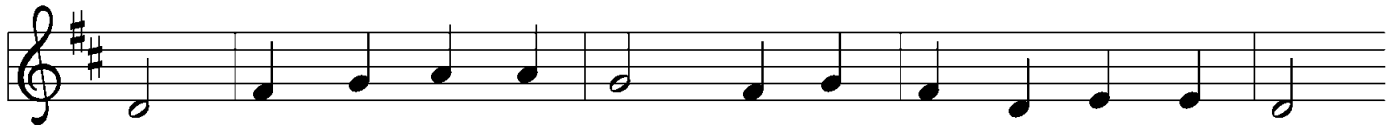
Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

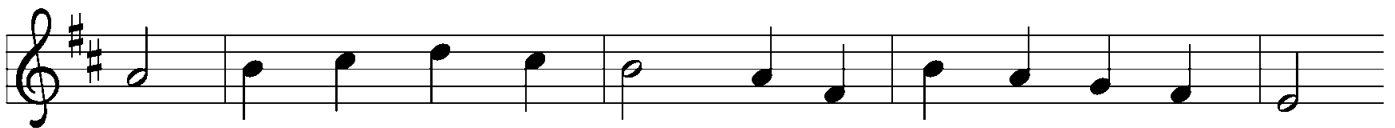
O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



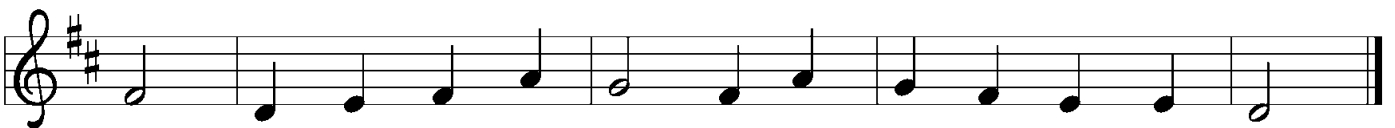
1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,



Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.



Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,



to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. composite

Music: WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king.”
A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876
Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900