

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship Booklet
November 29th, 2020 A.D.



1ST SUNDAY OF *Advent*

PR=Pastor Ryan
L=Lector
C=Congregation

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **C: Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

ELW #240, verse 1 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* TIF IN VELDELE

1. Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

PRELUDE *Savior of the Nations, Come (ELW #263)* setting by J. S. Bach

OPENING HYMN

ELW #260 *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*

CONSOLATION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
whose forgiveness is sure
and whose steadfast love endures forever. **C: Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess
that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence for self-reflection and examination.

Loving and forgiving God,
C: we confess that we are held captive by sin.

In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;

we have not loved our neighbor;

we have not been Christ to one another.

Restore us, O God.

Wake us up and turn us from our sin.

Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, † comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

L: ¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —
² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil —
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
⁴From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

R: *Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)*

L: Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**C: In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us. R**

L: Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**C: O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

L: You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**C: You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. R**

L: Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**C: Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong or yourself.**

L: And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

**C: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

L: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Saint Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

The holy gospel according to St. Mark the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

PR: [Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

This is the gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Silence for reflection.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C: 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.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

L: God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses (*see weekly prayer list*). Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

PR: Eternal Father, I offer up to you my intellect, that I may learn to know you alone. Sweetest Jesus, I offer up to you my memory, that it may remember you alone. Holy Spirit, spirit of charity, I offer up to you my will, that you may inkindle and warm it by your divine love. Adorn my soul with your 7 gifts and let me become your pure temple. Fill me with your grace and prepare my heart to receive spiritually my God. Jesus My God, as I am unable to receive you sacramentally, do now receive me into your heart and unite me so perfectly with it that nothing will be able to separate me for a moment from you. Engulf my misery and my nothing in the abyss of your mercy that I change into you. May I henceforth live only for you, by you and in you. Come, therefore, my only satisfactions, come to take possession of this heart, which belongs to you and cannot live one moment without you. **C: Amen.**

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

PR: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **C: Amen.**

PR: 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. **C: Amen.**

PR: The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN ELW # 435 *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*

HELMSLEY

POSTLUDE *The Only Son from Heaven*

setting by J. S. Bach

WORSHIP LEADERS

Preacher: The Reverend Ryan K. Viands

Director of Music and Organist: Mr. David Rankin

Lector: Mrs. Debbie Streicher

Cantor: Mrs. Tamela Rankin

Digital Worship Preparation: Mrs. Debbie Streicher and Ms. Debbie Szymanski



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

