

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship Booklet
December 13th, 2020 A.D.



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 third 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, verses 1-3 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

TIF IN VELDELE

PRELUDE *Puer Nobis (On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry)*

setting by Robert Hobby

OPENING HYMN ELW #249 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

PUER NOBIS

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

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

PSALM: Psalm 126

R: *The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)*

L: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.

C: Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” R

L: The LORD has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

**C: Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb. R**

L: Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

**C: Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ’s coming.

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

HOLY GOSPEL: Saint John 1:6-8, 19-28

John’s gospel describes Jesus as the “light of the world.” John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

The holy gospel according to St. John the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

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: O my Sweet Savior, Jesus Christ, you are my sovereign good, the fountain of all good. My God and my All: What a blessing it would be for me, could I at this moment possess you in my heart, and there render to you my praise and lay before you my necessities and share in the graces you bestow on those who really receive you. O come to me dear Lord in Spirit and take full possession of my heart and of my soul. To you I give my memory that you may always dwell in my thoughts, my understanding, that it may ever be engaged in contemplating your love and goodness and my will, that you may direct it to the keeping of your holy law. To you I give my whole self. Oh my Jesus, make me to be ever yours. May the virtue of your divine sacrament increase my faith, fortify my hope, purify my charity, and fill my heart with your love. Oh let me be yours and you mine from henceforth and forever and grant that nothing in life or death may ever separate me from you anymore. **C: Amen.**

TAKING FAITH HOME

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 # 264 *Prepare the Royal Highway*

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* (Savior of the Nations, Come)
setting, by Dieterich Buxtehude, of a hymn by Martin Luther (ELW #263)

WORSHIP LEADERS

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Fr. 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.

