

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship Booklet
December 20th, 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 fourth 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 1-4 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

TIF IN VELDELE

PRELUDE

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming setting by Johannes Brahms

OPENING HYMN

ELW #265 *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

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

PSALM: Saint Luke 1:46b-55

R: *You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)*

L: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

C: for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: R

L: you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

**C: You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

L: You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

**C: casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly. R**

L: You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

**C: You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy, R**

L: the promise made to our forbears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

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

HOLY GOSPEL: Saint Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

The holy gospel according to St. Luke 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

PR: God of power and might, fulfill your promise 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.**

PR: 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 #257 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Verse for the Magnificat

Dietrich Buxtehude

(based on Martin Luther's setting of the Magnificat in German)

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.

