

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sunday, December 5, 2021

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are grateful to God you are here.
We pray that you will feel the Spirit and warm welcome of this faith
community. We look forward to seeing you again.

2nd Sunday of Advent

This second candle is the 'peace' candle. Christmas is
about celebrating the arrival,
the birthday, of the Prince of Peace.



Gathering

Prelude

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Welcome

Gathering Hymn

ELW 264: Prepare the Royal Highway

**Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:**

**Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!**

**God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you!**

**Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader One:

Every journey faces the unknown. And anxiety can sometimes overwhelm us. There is too much to do; our lists are long; our calendars are filled up; we worry that something will go wrong, or we won't end up in the right place or take the right route. Getting lost is a real possibility on a journey. And yet we claim hope for the journey, because we follow the One who will travel with us and sustain us on the way.

Reader Two:

Isaiah says that there is one who is to come who will be the fulfillment of all our hope. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on this one, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. We place our hope in this one.

Reader One:

We light the candles of hope to give us strength for the journey.

Reader Two:

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, that God may teach us the ways of peace and hope.

Gathering Hymn, Continued

**His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding:**

**Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!**

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

**All: God for whom we wait,
in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.
Amen.**

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
✠ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.
God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.
All: Amen.

Opening Hymn

ELW 249: On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.**

**Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.**

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

All: Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 40: 1-11

40 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶ A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry? All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

P: Word of God, Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -
lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1: 1-8

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

¹ The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

“Just Like the Ones We Used to Know”

Pastor Sam Wolff

Special Music

Belleau Wood

Merritt Heaney

Prayers of Intercession

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God’s presence.

P: Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

The Meal

Holy Communion is a sacred and mysterious manifestation of God’s love and grace for us. In Holy Communion the Father, Son and Holy Spirit invite us to share in the bond of peace and love they share with each other through repentant hearts and humble faith.

All are invited to share in this gift of grace.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts,

All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Lord’s Prayer

All: 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

All are Welcome to Share in this Meal

As the prophets of old knew, so may we also know: When we live by the Spirit, we will inherit the kingdom of God. The Spirit of love and forgiveness grows on the tree of life. This Spirit is available to all who seek it. Eat of this fruit, for it is the body of Christ, given for you.

Post Communion Prayer

P: Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.
All: Amen.

Sending

Announcements

Blessing

The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
All: Amen.

Sending Hymn

ELW 290: *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.**

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.**

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.**

**Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Thank you for celebrating God's love with us today.