# Sunday, December 5, 2021 Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion

\* stand +kneel

# **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** Pastoral Symphony from Messiah G. F. Handel arr. Mark L. Williams

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the leader begins.

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

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these words.

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. **Amen.** 

# \*GATHERING SONG

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

**ELW #264** 

# **GREETING**

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other. 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



#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

# **WORD**

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

# FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

The Lord announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") shall prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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; <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

# LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light

that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the candles on this wreath,

kindle within us the fire of your Spirit,

that we may be light shining in the darkness.

Enlighten us with your grace,

that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us.

Grant this through Christ our Lord,

whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

#### Amen.

Light two candles.

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"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" Sing verse 2 **ELW#240** 

# **PSALM: Luke 1:68-79**

<sup>68</sup>Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,

you have come to your people and | set them free.

<sup>69</sup>You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,

born of the house of your | servant David.

<sup>70</sup>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.

<sup>73</sup>This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:

<sup>74</sup>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.

<sup>76</sup>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.

<sup>78</sup>In the tender compassion | of our God

the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,

<sup>79</sup>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.

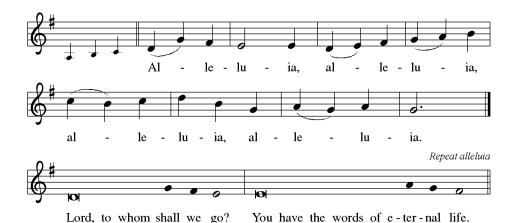
# **SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11**

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

# \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



# \*GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

The gospel is announced.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>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, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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;

<sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

*The gospel concludes:* 

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

**SERMON** 

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

**ELW#249** 

# APOSTLES 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.

The assembly kneels or sits.

# + PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Let us pray.

# A brief silence.

You send messengers into the world to proclaim the day of your coming. Make our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay preachers confident in their preaching, that their words and our lives witness to your grace. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Send your Spirit to all living creatures that are endangered. Provide them with shelter and care, and bring us into right relationship with the earth that you create and call good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Send leaders to our nations, cities, schools, and businesses to work on behalf of those who have lost parents, spouses, and loved ones; immigrants; the imprisoned; those living in poverty; and all who are oppressed. Make them bold in their commitments to justice and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send your servants to care for those who suffer. Use our ministries and our lives to reach out with compassion to those who are hungry, oppressed, lonely, or ill (*especially*). Grant them healing and wholeness. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Send prophets to speak difficult truths, even when they are poorly received. Embolden those who ask hard questions and challenge accepted ways. Instill in youth and elders alike a passion for pointing to Jesus in all things. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember your saints, both those publicly celebrated and those more humbly remembered. Confident that your work will be completed, we live in faith until the day of your coming. Hear us, O God.

# Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes.

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.

Amen.

### \*PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ. The peace of Christ be with you always.

# And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

#### **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

#### **OFFERING**

An offering is received at the entrance of the sanctuary for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this time, the table is set.

**SIGNS OF FAITH** My Lord, What A Morning- 10:30am

After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands.

\*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING

All three verses

# By Your Hand You Feed Your People



Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952 Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text and music © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

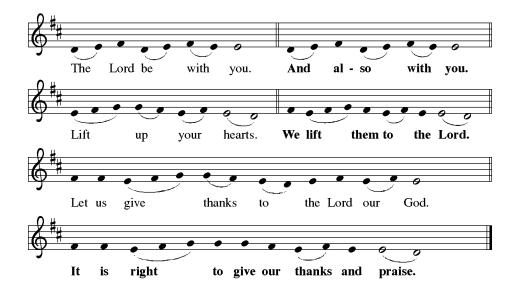
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# \*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
God of our waiting and watching,
we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives
to the service of all your people.
Prepare the way before us
as we meet you in this simple meal,
through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.

# \*DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

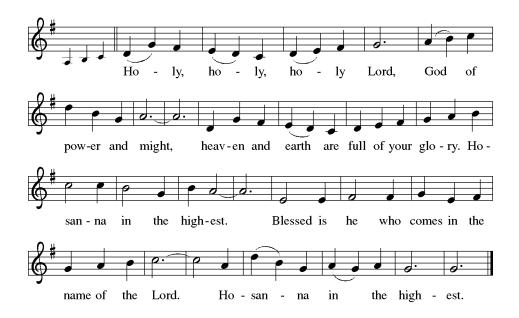


# \*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

# \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY -



#### \*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The presiding minister continues.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,

the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

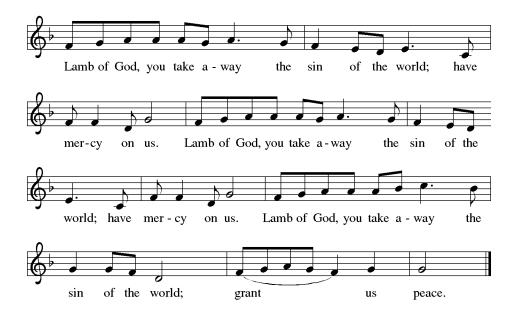
# \*LORD'S PRAYER

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

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace

# \*COMMUNION SONG



# **COMMUNION**

All are welcome to the Lord's Table. Please come forward using the center aisle. At the table sanitize your hands, take a glass and proceed to the pastor to receive the wafer. Move to the communion assistant to receive the wine. Return to your pew by the side aisle, placing your glass in the tray provided. Children and those not receiving Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing. Remember to abide by social distancing.

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

**ELW#256** 

.When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond
Amen.

# \*TABLE BLESSING

The presiding minister says a table blessing, and the assembly responds The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

# \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

Congregation is seated

#### **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

#### \*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. **Amen.** 

#### \*SENDING SONG

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

ELW#254

#### \*DISMISSAL

The minister may send the assembly into mission. Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

**Edward Broughton** 

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The bulletins are dedicated in honor of Rose Edwards' birthday by Eva Waldman

One vase of altar flowers has been placed in honor of Rose Edwards' birthday by Eva Waldman

**Prayer Requests** – Please email or call the church office with your prayer requests. First names only will be used in our worship service that is livestreamed. You may give names to Pastor Eileen prior to start of service. Please direct Pastoral care requests in the same way.

**Pastoral Coverage** –Please call Linda in the Church Office with your request.

**UPDATES!** We encourage you to wear a mask if you are unvaccinated or are more comfortable doing so while in the building. **Masks are required while singing**. Please remember to sign in.

**Reminder: Hospital visits -**The church is NOT informed when someone is in the hospital by the hospital. The person hospitalized or a family member must call the church to let us know they want a pastoral visit. If leaving a message on the answering machine, please remember to leave the hospital name and the room number. Some hospitals will not give the room number to a visitor, expecting you to know that.

Weekly Bulk Mailing of the Bulletin has stopped. The bulletin will continue to be posted on the website and sent via an email blast. If you wish to continue to receive a paper copy of the bulletin, please call the church office. We'd be more than happy to mail you a copy.

**Attendance for November 28, 2021** 53 physically present, 87 online views and 2 shares as of November 30, 2021.

**Sponsoring bulletins and flowers** is a great way to honor a special event in your loved ones' lives or to remember a loved one who has died. (Please only two vases of flowers per week.) If flowers are not sponsored, this is an added cost to the church. The charts are on the bulletin board for 2022.

In order that we are able to produce a list of people who were in the church during a certain service, if we are requested to produce one, please remember to sign in upon entering the church prior to a service. Thank you.

The Bear Creek Campers are selling sub tickets for the rest of this year to cover cost of camping in the summer. Please see Leah (Mullins) Bowman or contact the church office.

**Well pump at cemetery**. As many of you know, the water pump at the cemetery is dismantled. The Cemetery Association is in the process of replacing the pump, however, with the problems in the supply chain, there has been difficulty in getting it done. As it is now, the supplies are to arrive by spring. The pump will be replaced as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience! Any questions your representatives on the cemetery board are Earl Paxson, Brian Staller and Harry Schwenk.

**Angel Tree** The Social Ministry's Angel Tree is in the narthex with ornaments with children's names and some ideas for Christmas gifts for them. The names are from Schuylkill Children and Youth and are available for anyone to sponsor. Please select an ornament and write your name on the paper at the appropriate place. Everything listed on the ornament does not have to be purchased for the child. They are just ideas of what the child would need to be able to use. Please have gifts wrapped, with the ornament attached to the gift, under the tree by Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generosity in this annual event that Social Ministry has been sponsoring for the past 19 years.

**Mitten Tree** The annual Mitten Tree will be in the narthex in December to accept donations of mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, hats, and any other appropriate items. The items will be divided between Schuylkill Women in Crisis and Servants to All. Thank you for your generosity in helping to make this event a success.

**Newsletter articles:** Articles for the January/February newsletter are due in the office no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Annual report:** Attention committee chairs; please start thinking about your committee report for this year. The report is due in the office no later than January 15, 2022. Thank you,

#### Linda

Christmas and New Year weekend services. Christmas Eve there will be services at 5 pm and 7:30 pm. There will not be a service on Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be one service on Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. There will not be any Sunday School on Sunday, December 26th. New Year's weekend the services will be a normal schedule, Saturday 5 pm, Sunday at 8 am and 10:30 am. Sunday School will meet at 9:15 am. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Greeters and ushers are needed for the 7:30 pm service on Christmas Eve. Please call or email the church office to volunteer. Thank you, Linda

# STATISTICAL SUMMARY FROM LAST WEEK:

# **QR CODE ONLINE GIVING**

Synod/ELCA Benevolence	\$83.00
Local Benevolence	\$137.00
Current	\$997.70
Capital Building Fund	\$25.00
Plate	\$32.00
Thanksgiving	\$63.00
Advent	\$10.00
<b>Total Received</b>	<u>\$1347.70</u>

# "THE WEEK AT A GLANCE"

**Today:** 8 am and 10:30 am Holy Communion Service

9:15 am Sunday School

**Monday:** 10 am Prayer Shawl Group

7 pm Zoom Bible Study (contact church office for link)

Tuesday: 12:30 pm Jolly Quilters

**Thursday:** 6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Saturday: 5 pm Holy Communion

Next Sunday: 8 am and 10:30 am Holy Communion Service

9:15 am Sunday School

# **DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

Mon: Psalm 126; Isaiah 40:1-11; Romans 8:22-25 Tues: Psalm 126; Isaiah 19:18-25; 2 Peter 1:2-15 Wed: Psalm 126; Isaiah 35:3-7; Luke 7:18-30

Thu: Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 6:1-8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 Fri: Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 8:4-12; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15

Sat: Isaiah 12:2-6; Amos 9:8-15; Luke 1:57-66

# ASSISTING AT WORSHIP

**Greeter: 8 am** Paul Fabian

10:30 am Helen Miller. Matt Platt Lector: 8 am Charles Hawk 10:30 am Holly Maldonado Ushers: 8 am Eva Waldman

10:30 am Donald & Becky Mairose

Counting Team: Charles Hawk, Jennie Raudenbush



Council Greeter: 5 pm Janet Pavlick 8 am Charles Hawk

10:30 am Karen Curtis

Communion Assistants: 5 pm Janet Pavlick 8 am Charles Hawk

10:30 am Karen Curtis

Live Stream:

Church Office Hours: 9 am - 3pm Monday - Friday Office closed for lunch 12 pm until 12:30 pm

Church Telephone 570-754-7350

www.SummerHillLutheran.org – Church's website Facebook: St Paul Lutheran Church, Summer Hill

Student Loan Committee email:

stpaulsummerhill.studentloan@gmail.com

The Rev. Eileen Smith LeVan, interim pastor 530-802-0925

Email: stpaulsummerhill.pastor@gmail.com

Matthew Hayes, Director of Music 484-794-7902

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Linda Angstadt, Church Secretary 570-754-7350

Email: stpaulsummerhill@gmail.com

Cindy Brown, Pavilion Sexton 570-345-1279 Eva Waldman, Church Sexton/Treasurer 570-754-7350



**Keep in your prayers:** Richard Paxson, Dennis Ryan, Ron Boris, Jr., Gary & Shirley Krammes, Irene Peiffer, Arlene Lickman, Betty Freeman, Thelma Brensinger, Chester Johnson, Shirley Fessler, Barbara Pennypacker, Angie Lewis, Mark Fidler, Hayley Moyer, Helen Runkle, Eleanor Jamison, Adam Brink, Glenn & Linda Curtis, Arlene Moyer, Charles Wernert, Stephen Curtis, Brayden Crews, John Strauch, Jr., Dianna Curry, Fern Staller, Rosemary Meade, Tyler Boland, Ray Yeich, David Axtt, Greg

Phillips, Gaylene Ebling, Connie Klinger, Stacey Rao, Betty Strauch and John Strauch, Sr., Helen Miller, Nancy Vargas, Jerry Heffleger, Kathy Robinson, Beverly Trumbo and Robert & Joyce Zeledonis. Those serving in the military: Brandon Felty, Karen Hall, Tom Leganza, Tyler Weller, Edward Hossler, Nick Lentz, Jake Schaeffer, Scott Aungst, Tyler Wolfe, Michael Hamilton, Kristian Svenson, Mark Weinus, Jr., Justin Weller, Jeremy Weaver, Cameron Lutz, Stephanie Boyer, Tim Bast, Ryan Bast, and Brad Renninger.