

Third Sunday Of Advent

We are a **Reconciling In Christ** (RIC) congregation

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church is a community of the people of God, called to serve all people. As Jesus welcomed each person exactly as he or she was, we will do the same. We believe that when we are marked by the Cross of Christ in baptism, we are marked as his forever.

**So, you are welcome here!** We welcome all who wish to worship our Risen Lord and learn about his message. As Jesus included all in his life and death, so do we.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome you  
...without regard to race or ethnicity, income level, abilities or disabilities  
...without regard to whether you own a home, rent, or are homeless  
...without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity: straight, gay, lesbian, transgendered or bisexual  
...without regard to age or marital status: single, married, separated, divorced, remarried, widowed or partnered.

We welcome you to join us as an active, responsible, fully participating member, growing with us in faith and fellowship. *“All this is from God who reconciled us through Jesus Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.”*  
2 Corinthians 5:18

This morning, we want to take a moment to extend a very warm welcome to everyone who is visiting for the first time. Whether you are just having a look or whether you are searching for a place to worship, we are delighted to have you here. St. Paul’s is a welcoming, inclusive, and diverse congregation. All are welcome at the Lord’s table for Holy Communion. If you are unable to walk up for Holy Communion, let an usher know and Holy Communion will be brought to you in your seat.

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

“Light One Candle To Watch For Messiah” ELW #240 vs. 1, 2 & 3  
(Please stand and sing while Advent Wreath is being lit.)

1. Light one candle to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel,  
God fulfills the promise.
2. Light two candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
gently lead them homeward.
3. Light three candles to watch for Messiah:  
let the light banish darkness.  
Lift your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the King of glory.

**INVOCATION**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the ☩ Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

**Today’s Worship Leaders**

Celebrant and Preacher.....	Rev. Dr. Jon Keiser
Minister of Music.....	Charles Jones
Lector.....	Phyllis Berlage
Worship Assistants.....	Judy Wylde, Vincent Chisolm
Ushers.....	Chris Grundman
Altar Guild.....	Cheryl Bjorge, Gretchen Bush, and Emmy Volenberg
Audio Technician.....	Mirko Bratic

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

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

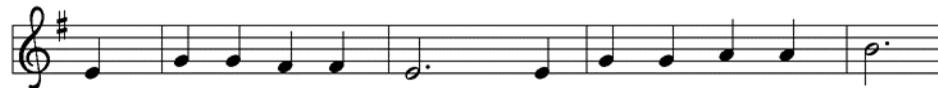
**C: Amen.**

### THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

### KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

**+THE LITURGY OF THE WORD +**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen** *(Please be seated.)*

**FIRST READING** Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Silence is observed after the reading.)*

**CHORAL ANTHEM**

“Every Valley”

Choir

**SECOND READING** Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*(Silence is observed after the reading.)*

*(Please stand.)*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” ELW #257 vs.1, 2 & 3

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
embracing all things far and nigh:  
in strength and beauty come and stay;  
teach us your will and guide our way. *Refrain*
3. O come, O come, O Lord of might,  
as to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times you gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *Refrain*

**GOSPEL** Luke 3:7-18

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the third chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks Be To God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*(Personal prayer is available at the side chapel in the front of the sanctuary. If you would like prayer, please go to the side chapel and a prayer partner will join you.)*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

## BLESSING

P: The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace.

C: Amen.

## SENDING HYMN “Light Dawns On A Weary World”

ELW #726  
vs. 1-3

1. Light dawns on a weary world  
when eyes begin to see  
all people's dignity.  
Light dawns on a weary world:  
the promised day of justice comes.

### *Refrain*

The trees shall clap their hands;  
the dry lands, gush with springs;  
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!  
We shall go out in joy,  
and be led forth in peace,  
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2. Love grows in a weary world  
when hungry hearts find bread  
and children's dreams are fed.  
Love grows in a weary world:  
the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain*
3. Hope blooms in a weary world  
when creatures, once forlorn,  
find wilderness reborn.  
Hope blooms in a weary world:  
the promised green of Eden comes. *Refrain*

his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you O Christ.**

## GOD’S WORLD OF WONDER

Fritz and Martin

## THE WORD FOR OUR LIVES TODAY

Pastor Jon

*(Please stand.)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY** “On Jordan’s Bank The Baptist’s Cry” ELW # 249 vs. 1-5

1. 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!
2. 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.
3. We hail you as our Savior, Lord,  
our refuge and our great reward;  
without your grace we waste away  
like flow'rs that wither and decay.
4. 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.
5. All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won,  
whom with the Father we adore,  
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

## 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

L: For choirs, hymn writers, musicians, and off-key singing, we give you thanks, Holy One. Fill us with your song of joy. Open us to proclaim your glory in our singing, speaking, and silence. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

L: For the hurting places in creation; for seas and lands ravaged by natural disasters; for communities and creatures displaced by floods and droughts. Grant peace through your presence and joy in your healing. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

L: For peace to ring out in our hearts and in our homes; for mercy and forgiveness to reign in every community; for war to cease and hunger to end. Give us this joy now, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

L: For those who are oppressed; for soldiers and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and their families; for neighbors who have no access to medical care; for those who are ill and those who mourn. Fill them with your peace. Lord, in your mercy,

**C:** hear our prayer.

**DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION** *(All are welcome to partake of Holy Communion. If you would prefer grape juice or a gluten free wafer please communicate with the communion assistant. If you wish to kneel at anytime during Holy Communion, you may use the pew kneeler located in front of you.)*

**HYMN DURING HOLY COMMUNION** "Wait For The Lord" ELW #262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart! *(Repeat)*

"Eat This Bread" ELW #472

"Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
come to me and never be hungry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
trust in me and you will not thirst." *(Repeat)*

*(After all have communed and the Holy Communion is returned to the Altar and set, we stand and sing the Post Communion Canticle.)*

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**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.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

ELW pg. 174

*(Please remain standing during the Lamb of God.)*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*(Please be seated.)*

L: For foster families opening their homes; for grandparents raising grandchildren; for single parents struggling to make ends meet; for expectant parents who now grieve. Give strength and comfort, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

L: In thanksgiving for preachers and teachers who have guided us on the way. Bring us with them to rejoice eternally in you. Lord, in your mercy,  
**C: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**C: Amen.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** “Kumbaya” Handbell Choir

*(We stand and sing as the gifts are being brought forward.)*

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE** “Hark The Glad Sound” ELW #239 vs. 3 & 4

- 3. He comes the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to enrich the humble poor.
- 4. Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim,  
and heav’n’s eternal arches ring  
With your beloved name.

**+THE LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION +**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**  
P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**  
P; Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

P: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

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. *(Bells chime to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.)*

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. *(Bells chime to make a joyful noise unto the Lord.)*

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

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.

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.



A - men, a - men. Come, Ho - ly Spi - rit, come.

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



A - men, a - men. Come, Lord Je - sus, come.