

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

A: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

PREFACE

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death; And by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Le Lo Le Lo Lay Lo” (see insert)

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: Holy, living and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others. 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. Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: Carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

A: Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

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

A: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

Communion Music Video

“Light of the World” by Lauren Daigle

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.

A: Amen.

SENT FOR WORK AND WITNESS

BLESSING

L: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit + remain upon you now and forever.

A: Amen.

SENDING HYMN- “Christ Be Our Light” ELW 715 (Vs. 4-5)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Keep awake!

A: Thanks be to God!

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Presiding Minister: Pastor Wayne Shelksohn

Worship Steward: Marty Heller

SS Teacher: Blayne Dixon

Greeters: Nathan Joerndt

Musician: Julie Mehlberg

Lector: Judy Sykes

Ushers: Marty & Shelly Heller

Communion Prep: Marian Brown

Comm. Asst: Mark Mackinson & Judy Sykes

Counters: Mark Mackinson & Marvin Miller

Hospitality: Mary & Sadie Leach

Livestream: Louis Kehinde



St. Paul Lutheran Church

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Introduction: Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist’s plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please consider sponsoring Altar Flowers!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

A: Amen

GATHERING HYMNS

“While We Waiting, Come” - words on screen

“Christ Be Our Light” - ELW 715 (Vs.1-3)

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

L: God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.

Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Everlasting God,

A: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation’s bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world.

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God’s covenant is eternal, and God’s blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

Children's Message—Dismissal to Children's Chapel

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading- Isaiah 64:1-9

L: A reading from Isaiah

1O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—2as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! 3When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 4From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. 5You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. 6We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. 8Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

L: Word of God, Word of Life

A: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

A reading from Psalm 80

1Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.

3Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

4O Lord God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

5You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

17Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.

18And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

19Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

A: Thanks be to God

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians

3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

A: Thanks be to God.

Please rise, as you are able, for the reading of the Holy Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (music available ELW 171)

“Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah.

“Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah.

Gospel - Mark 13:24-37

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 24“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Wayne Shelksohn

HYMN OF THE DAY “My Lord, What a Morning” (ELW 438)

Nicene Creed

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

A: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end “Merciful God”

and the congregation will respond “Receive our Prayer”

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of God's peace with your neighbors by turning to the people near you saying, “Peace be with you.”

OFFERING

Offerings can also be sent by mail or given online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at stpaulpontiac.org

Offering Prayer

L: God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

A: Amen.

MEAL

All are welcome at Christ's table. Communion is distributed in front of the altar by intinction. Please dip the wafer into the lighter colored liquid which is grape juice or the darker liquid which is wine. If you prefer not to receive communion you may come forward with your hands crossed over your chest to receive a blessing or you may remain in your seat.