

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
“Breath of Heaven” by Amy Grant

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- “Happy Birthday Jesus” (Words on Screen)

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Keep awake!

A: Thanks be to God!

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Presiding Minister: SAM Marcia Buchs

Worship Steward: Greg Putnam

SS Teacher: No Sunday School

Greeters: Ted & Ginger Bauknecht

Musician: Sandy Erickson

Lector: No Lector

Ushers: Denny & Mary Leach

Communion Prep: Marty & Shelly Heller

Comm. Asst: Becky Edinger & Kris Lambert

Counters: Jean Harrison & Marty Heller

Hospitality: Tammy & Doug Oliver & Connie McKinsey

Livestream: Louis Kehinde



St. Paul Lutheran Church
December 10, 2023
Second Sunday of Advent

Introduction: John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

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

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

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 1:1-8

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark

A: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

2As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; 3the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” 4John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5And 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. 6Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7He 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. 8I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermonette

SAM Marcia Buchs

**Congregation and Children’s Program -
“Christmas Light Show”**

Part I: Tangled Up

Congregation and Kids “Light it Up” video

Part II: “Unprepared” (Luke 2:1-7)

Kid’s Song - “Away in a Manger”

Part III: “Light Up the Night” (Luke 2:8-15)

Congregational Song - “The First Noel” (ELW 300, vs. 1)

Part IV: “A Star is Born” (Matthew 2:1-12)

Congregational Song - “We Three Kings”

WOV (Blue Hymnal) 646, vs. 1

Part V: “The True Light of Christmas” (John 1:1-5, 9-14)

Kid’s Song - “Oh What a Special Night” (with video)

Part VI: “Take the Light”

Kids’ Song - “Joy to the World” (with video)

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.

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.