

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**Pontiac, IL**

**November 29, 2020**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**We gather to worship, reach out, and serve the Lord.**

**Welcome**

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Whether you have worshipped with us many times, or this is your first time, there is a place for you here. Your presence among us is a gift.

God’s Peace be with you,

Pastor Mathew

Contact Pastor Mathew

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Friday is Pastor Mathew’s day off.

**Introduction to the day**

**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.

**GATHERING**

### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,

whose forgiveness is sure

and whose steadfast love endures forever.

**Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess

that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God,

**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**

**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger;**

**we have not loved our neighbor;**

**we have not been Christ to one another.**

**Restore us, O God.**

**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**

**Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news:

by God’s endless grace

your sins are forgiven, and you are free—

free from all that holds you back

and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.

May you be strengthened in God’s love,

☩ comforted by Christ’s peace,

and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

**“Come Now, O Prince of Peace” – to be sung during lighting of the wreath**



**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**

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.

**Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

**WORD**

**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 Reading- Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19.**

L: A reading from Psalm.

1Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
  shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.  
 2**In 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.  
 4**O 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.  
 6**You 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.  
 17**Let 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.  
 19**Restore 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.**

**1 Corinthians 1: 3-9.**

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**

(spoken responsively)

L: *Alleluia.* Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,

**A: And grant us your salvation. *Alleluia.***

**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 Mathew Berger**

**Special Music “My Lord, What a Morning”**



**Apostle’s Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 Intercession**

Each petition ends “Hear us, O God.” The congregation is invited to respond, **“your mercy is great.”**

**Sharing 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 saying or typing, “Peace be with you.”*

*Offerings can be given by mail or online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764. You can give online at* [*http://www.stpaulpontiac.org/*](http://www.stpaulpontiac.org/)

**Offering Prayer**

L: Generous God,

You have created all that is,

And you provide for us in every season.

Bless all that we offer,

That through these gifts the world will receive your blessing.

In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

**A: 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.**

**Announcements**

**SENDING**

**Benediction**

L: The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,

The long-expected Savior fill you with love,

The unexpected Spirit guide your journey,

☩ now and forever.

**A:** **Amen.**

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

**A:** **Thanks be to God.**

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Thank you to all those who contributed to today’s service: Worship Slides: Julie Mehlberg, Lector:, Ushers: