



The Third Sunday In Advent
December 17, A+D 2023



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

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DIVINE SERVICE

Setting 3 – Page 184

Lutheran Service Book

The Coming of the Christ Brings True Rejoicing in His Forgiveness

When he preaches repentance, John the Baptist points us to Christ Jesus. John was sent by God “as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him” (John 1:7). He baptizes with water in order to “make straight the way of the Lord,” who shall redeem His people from their sins (John 1:23). That Lord Jesus “who comes after” John now stands among us and makes Himself known to us (John 1:26–27). He has been anointed by the Holy Spirit “to bring good news to the poor” and “to bind up the brokenhearted” (Is. 61:1). By the washing of the water with His Word and Spirit, He clothes His Church with “the garments of salvation” and adorns her with His own righteousness “as a bride adorns herself with her jewels” (Is. 61:10). Therefore, we “rejoice always” in the Lord, “pray without ceasing” and “give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thess. 5:16–18). For “the God of peace,” who has called you by the Gospel, will surely “sanctify you completely,” so that “your whole spirit and soul and body” will “be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:23–24).

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Confession and Absolution

333 Once He Came in Blessing

Stand

Invocation

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Exhortation

184

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all

of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

C and grant us your salvation.

P Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,

C for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

P Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

C that glory may dwell in our land.

P Yes, the LORD will give what is good,

C and our land will yield its increase.

P Righteousness will go before him

C and make his footsteps a way.

Gloria Patri

LSB 186



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

P Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,

C and grant us your salvation.

Kyrie*LSB 186*

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading*Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

A The Old Testament Reading for The Third Sunday In Advent is from the sixty-first chapter of the prophecy of Isaiah.

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
 because the LORD has anointed me
 to bring good news to the poor;
 he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
 to proclaim liberty to the captives,
 and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,

and the day of vengeance of our God;
 to comfort all who mourn;
³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
 to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
 the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
 the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
 that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
 the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.
⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
 they shall raise up the former devastations;
 they shall repair the ruined cities,
 the devastations of many generations. . . .

⁸For I the LORD love justice;
 I hate robbery and wrong;
 I will faithfully give them their recompense,
 and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
 and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
 all who see them shall acknowledge them,
 that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
 my soul shall exult in my God,
 for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
 as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful
 headdress,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
 to sprout up before all the nations.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle*1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

A The Second Reading is from the fifth chapter of the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Thessalonians.

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

190



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel*John 1:6–8, 19–28*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Sermon

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit

Gathering of Tithes & Offerings

If you are submitting a prayer request on a prayer card, kindly hand it directly to the usher. Do not place it into the offering plate

Stand

Prayer of the Church

159

P ... let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.**C** And with thy spir - it.**P** Lift up your hearts.**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.**C** It is meet and right so to do.**Proper Preface (Full)**

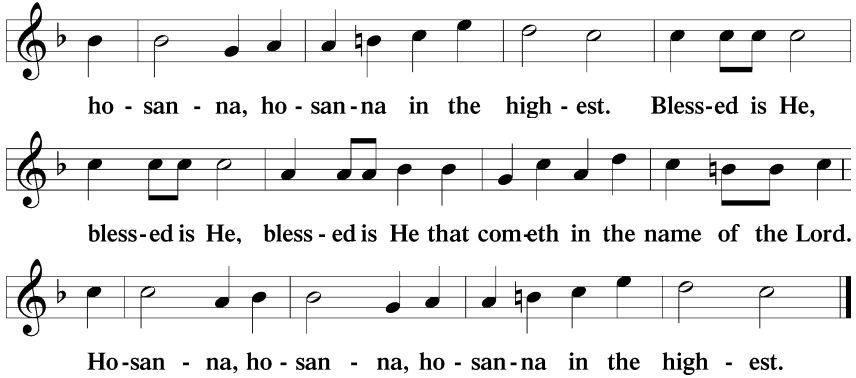
P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

196

P 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



C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My $\cdot\text{I}$ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My $\cdot\text{I}$ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution of Christ's Body and Blood

Members of other Christian denominations who are present may come forward to receive a blessing from the Pastor during the distribution. It is requested that you cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire this blessing.

Silent Prayer Just Before Communing: Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation, I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for

You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Silent Prayer Just After Communing: Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament. I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace the forgiveness of sins unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior

623 Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

Stand

The Dismissal

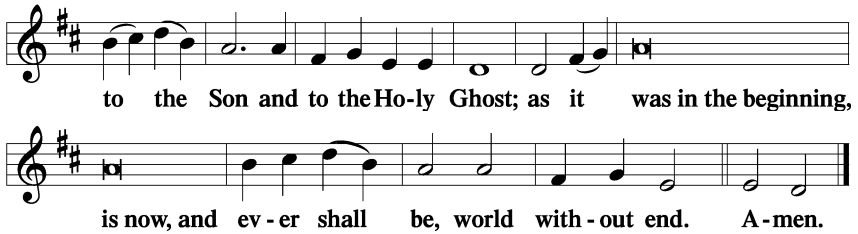
P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

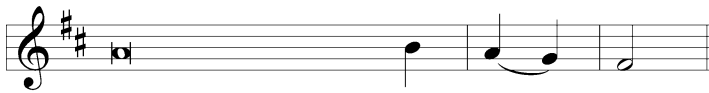


to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation

LSB 201

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Acknowledgments

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Prayer of the church is adapted from "Let us Pray" a service of the Commission on Worship of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



The Glad Spirit St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

December 17, 2023

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

ST. PAUL'S FAMILY

Chris Baker, Family Chelsea, Layla
 Karen Baker
 Brandi Baker
 Dave Bloom
 Dean & Judy Bloom

BIRTHDAYS

Kristen Dunne, 12/18
 Margaret Loitz, 12/19

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Danial Hoover, 12/22

CONFIRMATION ANNIVERSARIES

Laurie Michels, 12/17
 Shawn Conway, 12/18
 Adeline Ovalle, 12/18
 Janice Reichert, 12/18
 Richard Reichert, 12/18

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Pray for Diane Akers, Norma Allen, Janice Abel, Sondra Budde, Jay Carey, Carmen Dampier, Judy Diekleman, Latricia Harris, Ed Hoeksema Jr., Chester Orendorff, Violet Rich, Dolly Tagenhorst, Dorothy Van Mynen, Warren Van Mynen, Gene Wiltjer, Ray Zander.

Serving in the Military – Austin Brandy, David Capodagli, James Fluechtling, Nathan Lopez, and Robert Wisely.

Serving as First Responders – David Allen, Dave Bloom, Nathan Conway, Brianne Giba, Melanie Hudson, Brian Orth, Dana Tatgenhorst, Taylor VanDommelen and Dan Zander.

NEWS UPDATE



St. Paul Book Club will meet Wednesday January 10, to review *The Discovery* by Dan Walsh. We usually meet at 10am on the second Wednesday of the month and always welcome new members. Book Club is in person and thru FB chat. Please let Deb know in advance so she can link you in.

Christ For You this week on KFUE.org: Look ahead to the Fourth Sunday in Advent on The Coffee Hour (12/20 at 9:00 a.m. CT), dive into Advent hymnody on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and study 1 Corinthians 15-16 on Sharper Iron's "Nothing but Christ Crucified" (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT). The 12 Days of Christmas begins December 24 with music and messages for the Christmas Season! Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or the KFUE Radio app.

Looking Forward to Sunday Morning... Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to weekly studies of the Biblical texts, prayers and hymns of the day. Pastor Sean Daenzer of LCMS Worship leads us through the three-year lectionary. Pastor Will Weedon of "The Word of the Lord Endures Forever" leads us through the one-year lectionary. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

Word of Hope offers free and confidential counseling to women and men struggling with an abortion experience. If you would like more information on how Word of Hope can help you or someone you love, visit our website at www.word-of-hope.org. You can be healed.

We'd love to see you in worship. Our worship services are every Sunday at 9:30 AM. If you are unable to attend it can be viewed on Facebook live at <https://www.facebook.com/splcms/videos>. A previous recording is also available. Bulletins for the services are available for viewing or download on our website at <https://www.splcms.org/worship>.

"I don't know what exactly you expect this Christmas. But I can tell you to set your expectations high as you listen to God's Advent call. Listen to His promises. Look in the manger. And you'll find hope and unity now and into eternity." Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

The Light of the World

There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. John 1:6, 8 (NIV)

Based on John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NIV)



R L P R O P H E T E M E S V X
 F N W E G I W Y N Y Z A U N K
 R K A L E C Y H N I Y C N T P
 U L T I O G O A T N S H S C R
 J T E J X J D P A K Y R N O I
 E L R A H R A H Z J L I E N E
 R W Z H O B T U Z J B S Q F S
 U I I J T E B N A M E T L E T
 S T X M B S L E V I T E S S S
 A N U T R E H K F O W A L S O
 L E I R Q N V K T E S T I F Y
 E S V F E T I H D N F K G W P
 M S M L S L V R D Y R R H Y L
 L M D E G O D P O S G I T R S
 M C B T D B E L I E V E B W Q

BETHANY
 CHRIST
 JORDAN
 LIGHT

JOHN
 TESTIFY
 BAPTIZE
 PROPHET

BELIEVE
 NAME
 JERUSALEM
 ELIJAH

SENT
 GOD
 CONFESS
 MAN

LEVITES
 WATER
 PRIESTS
 WITNESS

GOD'S PEOPLE IN ACTION

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS



December 6th Attendance 14
 December 10th Attendance 29, 22 Communed, 4 Online

Basket	\$175.00	Weekly Missions	\$30.00
Envelopes	1,161.00	Luth. Church Charity	20.00
Advent	143.00	Church Maint	45.00
Free Will	50.05	Social Ministry	250.00
Budgeted Total	1,529.00	Non-budgeted Total	\$345.00
Offering Needed	1,233.00		
	\$296.00		



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am	Coffee &...
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday	9:30 am	Advent Worship Service
	10:30 am	Advent Breakfast
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:30 am	Coffee &...
	6:00 pm	Candlelight Worship Service

SERVANT SCHEDULE

	Sun, Dec 17, 9:30 AM	Sun, Dec 24, 9:30 AM
Pastor	Pastor Dobberstein	Pastor Fluechtling
Usher	Bill Sommer	Dave Bloom
Lay Reader	Bill Sommer	

DONATIONS



FOOD PANTRY



GENERAL FUND