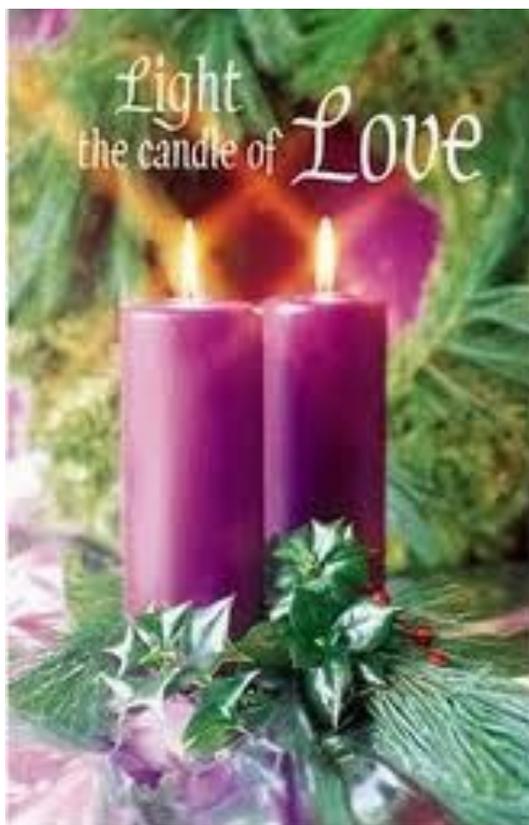


*St. Paul's Lutheran Church*  
*Second Sunday of Advent*  
*December 10, 2017*



*Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister*  
*Rita Jordan, Organist*  
*Stacey Mika, Lay Reader*

*408 S. Davidson Street | Karnes City, TX 78118*  
*Office (830) 780-2251    Pastor Dorn (602) 565-9793*  
*[www.StPaulsLutheranKC.or](http://www.StPaulsLutheranKC.or)*  
*[www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranKarnesCity](http://www.facebook.com/StPaulsLutheranKarnesCity)*

# Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get 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.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

***The assembly stands.***

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LOVE

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." ~ John 3:16-17*

God sent his only Son to earth to save us, because he loves us! Our love comes from God, and can be given to everyone as His is given to each of us.

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

***The assembly shall stand, or kneel, as they are able.***

God of all time,

**we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us.**

**We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace.**

**In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light**

**and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.**

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

In ☩ Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new.

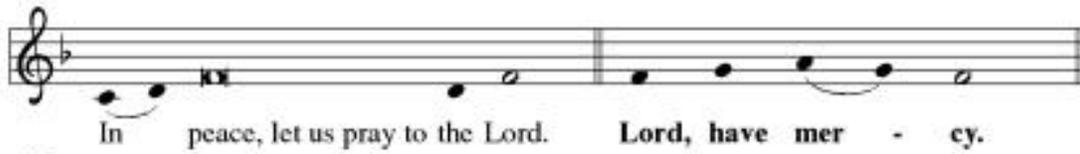
Rejoice in this good news!

**Amen.**

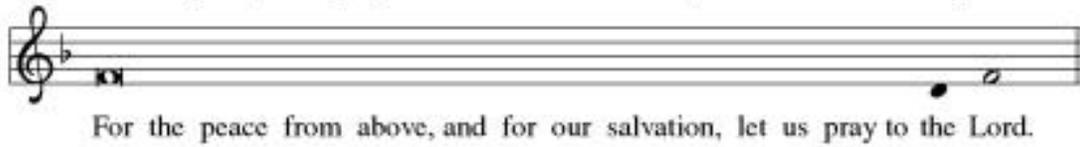
**GATHERING HYMN (ELW p. 266) *All Earth Is Hopeful***

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

**And also with you.**



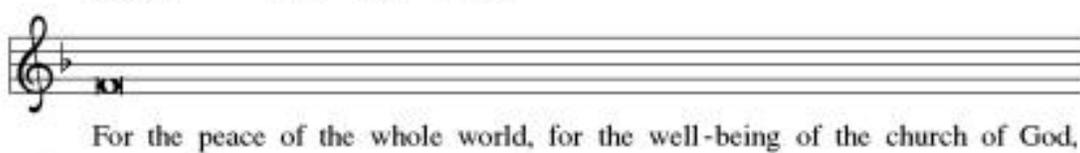
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



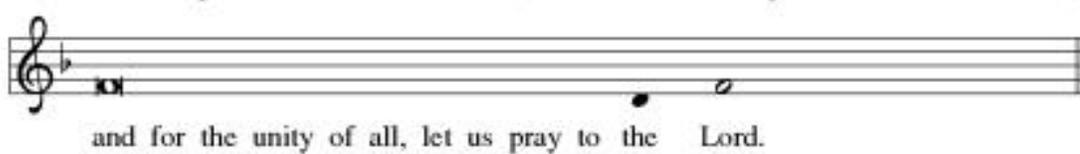
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



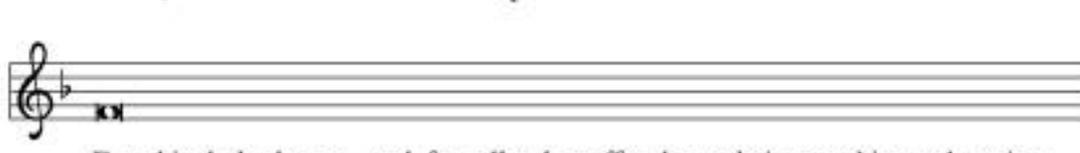
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



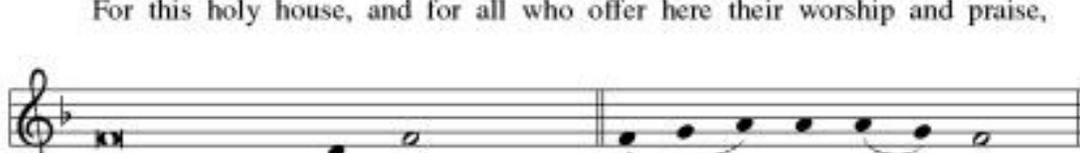
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**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.  
Amen.**

**Revuelva nuestros corazones, Señor Dios, para preparar el camino de su único hijo. Por su venida nos fortalecerá para servirle con vidas purificadas; a través de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor, que vive y reina con usted y el Espíritu Santo, un Dios, ahora y para siempre.  
Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-11

*In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.*

Comfort, O comfort my people,  
says your God.  
<sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,  
and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand  
double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out:  
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

<sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.

<sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!"  
And I said, "What shall I cry?"  
All people are grass,  
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

<sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;  
surely the people are grass.

<sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand forever.  
<sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain,  
O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength,  
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
"Here is your God!"  
<sup>10</sup>See, the Lord God comes with might,  
and his arm rules for him;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.  
<sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd;  
he will gather the lambs in his arms,  
and carry them in his bosom,  
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSIVE PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13**

*R Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God.*

You have been gracious to your land, O Lord;  
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.  
<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people  
and blotted out all their sins.**  
<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the Lord God is saying;  
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their | hearts to you.  
<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell in our land. R**  
<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have |met together;  
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.  
<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**  
<sup>12</sup>The Lord will indeed |grant prosperity,  
and our land will yield its increase.  
<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the Lord  
and shall prepare for God a pathway. R**

### **SECOND READING: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

*This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.*

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and

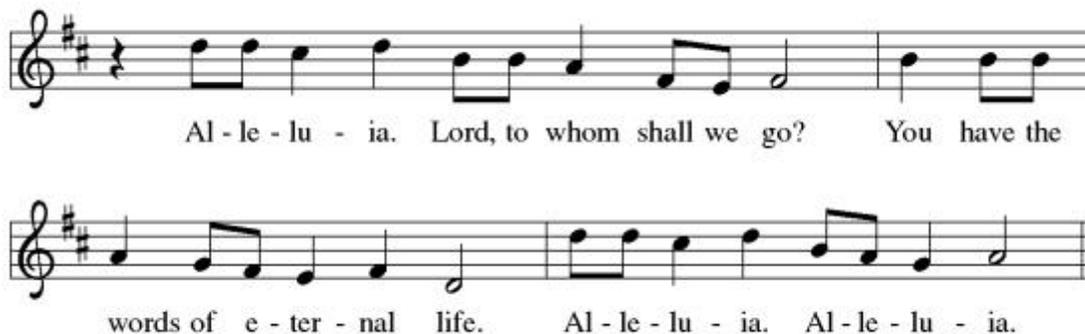
godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*



### THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: MARK 1:1-8

*The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.*

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

<sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way;

<sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight,'"

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And 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. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He 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. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ!**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

**Rev. Arden Dorn**

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**(ELW p. 708)**

***Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love***

## APOSTLE'S CREED

**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 INTERCESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

We long to see your glory. Prepare our hearts for your arrival by healing divisions in your church and blessing those who work for reconciliation within it. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for your creation. Bring renewal to open spaces, parks, forests, mountains, and grasslands. Restore the creatures and lands that are damaged or destroyed. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We long for your peace. Make places of welcome for people fleeing violence. For nations facing conflict or crisis, deliver relief. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We seek healing for all people who long for justice, freedom, and comfort. Sustain them in their time of need. Be with all who wait for you, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Elvira, Lorain, Pauline, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Jack, Steve, Evalena, Francis, Carol, Ella, Charles, Eli, Steve, Tom, Marlane, Jackie, Yvonne, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for child care workers, teachers, Sunday school leaders, and all who nurture and educate children. We give you thanks for their diligence and devotion. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

From ages past, your faithfulness has never failed. Shine your face upon us and bring us into the company of all your saints in light. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Peace is shared among the assembly, and then the assembly is seated.*

## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERING** An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

*The assembly stands.*

**OFFERING WORDS**

**(ELW p. 439)**

***Soon and Very Soon***

### OFFERING PRAYER

Savior of the nations, come.  
Make your home here in us.  
Feed us with your love,  
that our faith shine ever new  
and our lives reveal your light.  
**Amen.**

Der Heiden Heiland, kommen.  
Ihr Haus hier in uns.  
Ernähren uns mit deiner Liebe,  
daß unser Glaube/ immer neue  
und unser Leben dein Licht offenbaren. **Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

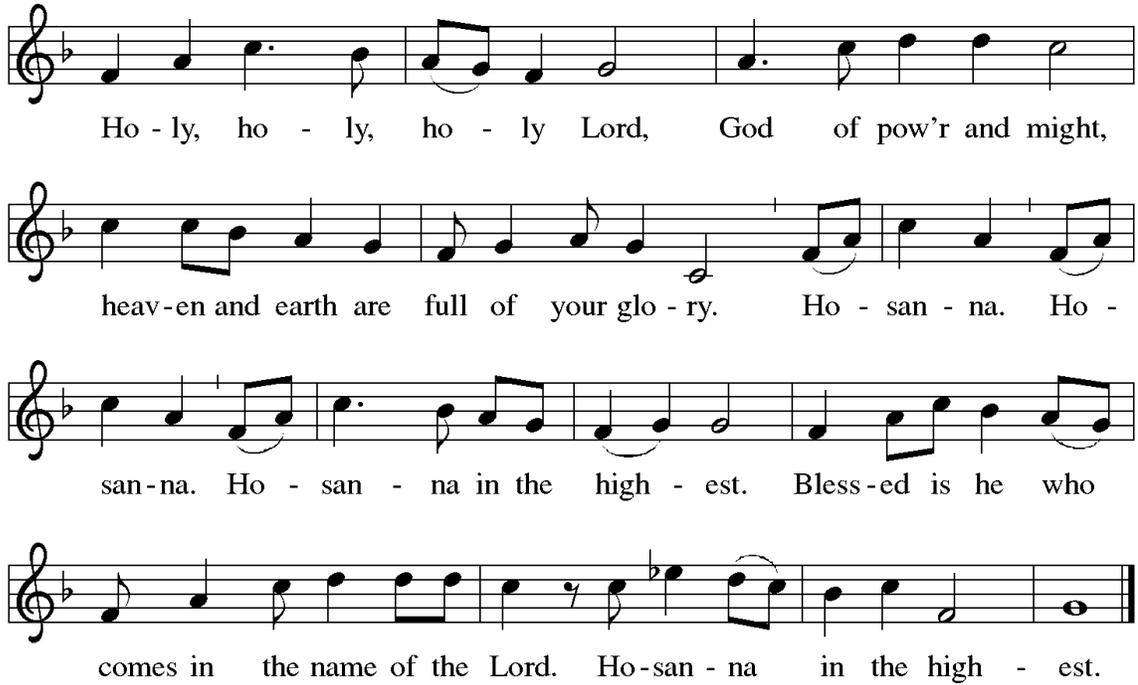
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.  
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'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. 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.

### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: *(The assembly joins hands to pray)*

**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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

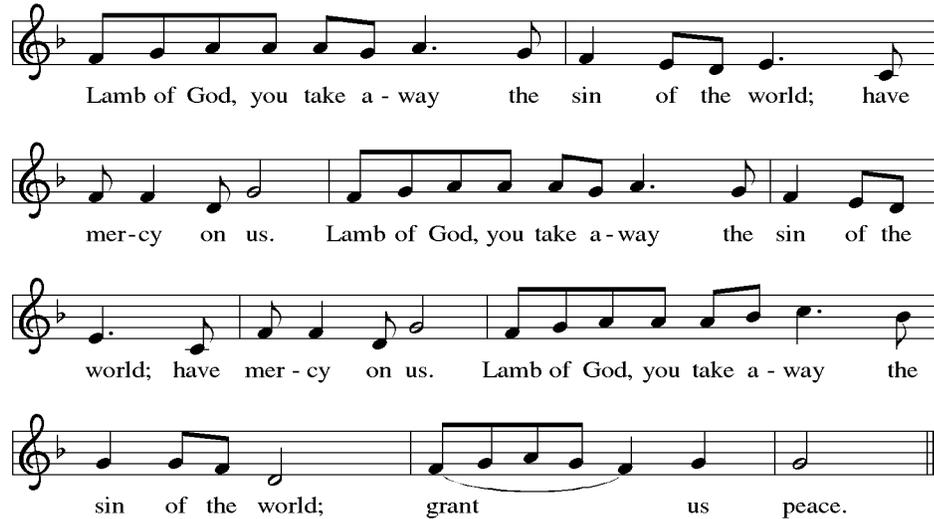
### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

*The assembly is seated.*

## DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

*This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.*



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.

**Following Communion, the assembly stands.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share.  
Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BLESSING

May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you  
and scatter the darkness from before your path.  
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN (ELW p. 239) *Hark, the Glad Sound***

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**DOXOLOGY** (ELW p. 884) *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

## Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul's by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul's. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

**A Nursery** is located at the rear of the sanctuary in the overflow area.

**If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance,** please signal an usher.

## For Prayerful Consideration

### ***Ill or Injured***

Elvira Boehm, Lorain Chandler, Pauline Davidson, Shane Edens, Linda Franke, Norma Foreman, Ann Gary, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Carol May Liberty, Ella Manka, Charles Pierce, Eli Rios, Steve Scotten, Tom Shockome, Marlane Smith, Jackie Tiemann, Yvonne Watkins, Mary Ruth Witte, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and Norma Zamzow.

### ***For those in the military***

Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Michael Rosales, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.

### ***Birthdays***

Barbara Jonas and Evelyn Hoffman (Dec. 17)

**Sunday, December 17, 10:30 a.m. – St. Paul's Multi-Generational Christmas Program**

**2:00 p.m. – St. Paul's Music Academy Holiday Recital**

**Sunday, December 17, 6:30 p.m. – Faith Lutheran, Beeville**  
*One Magic Night (Live Nativity)*

**Sunday, December 24, 9:30 a.m. – Sunday School**  
**10:30 a.m. – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent Worship Service**

**7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Sunday, December 31, 10:30 a.m. – Service of the Word**