

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1st Sunday in Advent

December 2, 2018



Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister

Mike Tessman, Assistant Minister

Dale Tessman, Lay Reader

Rita Jordan, Organist

Lillie Jonas, Pianist

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Gathering

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

Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Our Lord's contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of our Lord in word and supper.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

(ELW p.532)

Gather Us In

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In this deep-blue season of waiting and watching, turn our thoughts and our prayers to you, God of hope.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

In the wilderness of sin and fear,
show us the tree of life for the healing of the nations.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

Accompany us on the hectic highways of our lives. Draw us to your manger to kneel in peace before you.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

Lead us to your justice, O God.
Show us your love, wrap us in your holiness.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

We long for your glorious light.
Shine your face upon us and we shall be saved.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the ✝ holy Trinity, One God, the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free, the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy, the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace. **Amen.**

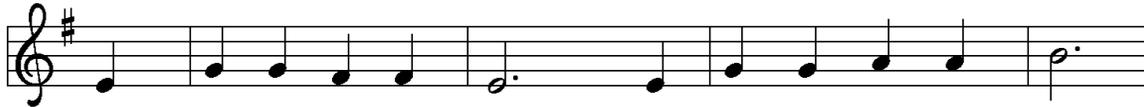
Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.
The assembly shall kneel or stand, as they are able.

To you, O God,

**we lift up our souls.
You know us through and through;
we confess our sins to you.
Remember not our sins;
remember us with your steadfast love.
Show us your ways;
teach us your paths;
and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness
in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy
and draw water from the well of salvation.
Remember the gift of baptism:
your sin is washed away in the name of + Jesus;
you belong to Christ;
you are anointed to serve.
Stand up and raise your heads!
The reign of God is near.
Amen.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Oremos. **Despierta tu poder, Señor Cristo, y ven. Por su misericordiosa protección nos alerta de los peligros amenazadores de nuestros pecados, y nos redimirá por su vida de justicia, porque usted vive y reina con el padre y el Espíritu Santo, un Dios, ahora y para siempre. Amén.**

The assembly is seated

Word

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name—"The Lord is our righteousness"—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 25:1-10

R: *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

¹To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths. R**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting. R**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness,

O Lord.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO: Luke 21:25-36

Glory to You, O Lord!

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW p. 574)

Here I Am, Lord

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Lillie Alison Jonas, Lindsey Nicole Jonas, Jaiden Nicole Robinson

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

People of God, do you promise to support *these sisters and brothers* and pray for *them* in their life in Christ?

We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life

Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in _____ the gift of your Holy Spirit confirm her faith, guide her life, empower her in her serving, give her patience in suffering, and bring her to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Let us rejoice with these sisters and brothers in Christ.

We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.
The assembly shall kneel, as they are able

Equip your church, merciful God. Secure our roots in the soil of your eternal word. Ease our worries and remove our shame. Grow our faithfulness and let your steadfast love blossom among us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Sustain your creation, holy God. Water the parched soil. Restore depleted fields. Send farmers, forest rangers, and gardeners to care for fig trees and wheat fields, gardens and arboretums. Increase our love for the land. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Grow peace within us, abundant God. Raise up leaders in every community grounded in your justice and mercy. Increase their love for all people. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Feed the hungry, living God. Gather our harvest into a feast for our neighbors. Move us to nurture those who are bereaved and lonely. We pray especially for the family of Robert Busselman. Empower those living with HIV/AIDS and all who are sick especially for Ellvera, Laura, Mitch, Laquita, Helen, Andy, Francis, Linda, Leroy, and John, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Increase our joy, wondrous God. Plant thanksgiving in our hearts and multiply the good fruit of our outreach ministries and creation care programs. Guide us in our service to local and global neighbors. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We rejoice in the faith journey of our confirmands, Lillie, Lindsey and Jaiden. We ask you to be their guide, guardian, and help. Let them feel the love of their church family as they begin a new chapter in their lives. Reveal to them your plan – your good, perfect, and pleasing will – for their lives. Surround them with your Holy Spirit, instilling in each the confidence only you can provide. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving, we remember all who have died and now rest in your glory. Hold all who mourn in the comfort of your eternal light, and bring us to delight in the new life you promise. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As we sow Seeds of Hope, we pray for St. John Lutheran in Westhoff. Guide them to new opportunities and abilities to draw younger people into the congregation. We pray also for St. Peter's in Elgin that they may have vision, direction, and that God would use them as an instrument of grace in their community. We pray for St. Paul's – Karnes City and St. Paul's – Nordheim as the congregations continue discussions of the St. Paul's Squared opportunity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With all churches in the Southwestern Texas Synod we pray for each other and also for ELCA member congregations such as those in the Montana Synod, Ascension Lutheran Church in Austin, and Texas Lutheran University Campus Ministry in Seguin. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we bring to you these prayers and those unspoken, in the name of Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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.

OFFERING HYMN

(ELW p. 812)

Faith of Our Fathers

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Lasset uns beten. Gott des überflusses, wir bringen Euch die kostbaren Früchte eurer Schöpfung und mit Ihnen unser Leben vor. Lehren Sie uns Geduld und Hoffnung, während wir uns um alle Bedürftigen kümmern bis zum kommen deines Sohnes, unseres Erlösers und Herrn. **Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

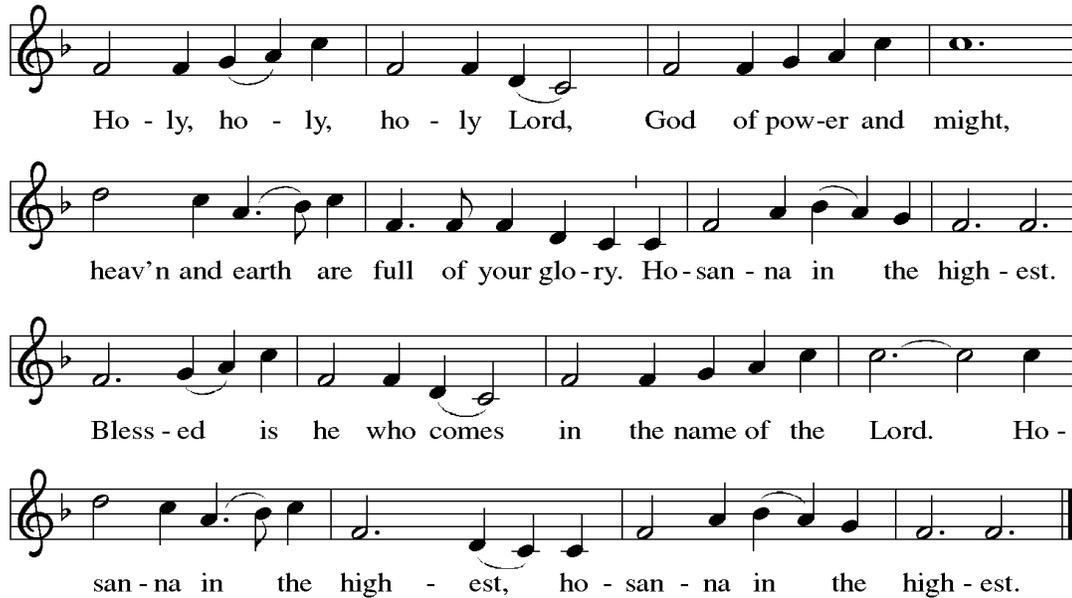
We lift them to the Lord.

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-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
 Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
 Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
 Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
 Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
 Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
 the Word made flesh.

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.
 Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
 full of grace and truth.
 We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
 We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.



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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

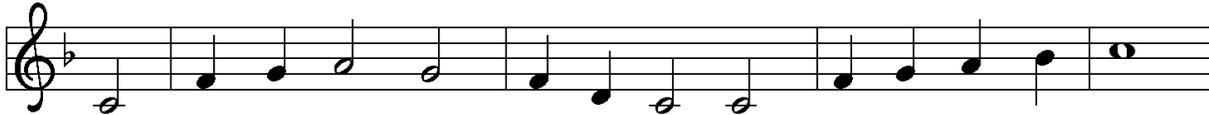
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God fills the hungry with good things. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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.



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sending

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

BLESSING

May God direct your ways in peace, make you abound in love for one another and for all, and strengthen your hearts until the coming of our Lord Jesus. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG.

(ELW p. 543)

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY (ELW p. 884)

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

For Prayerful Consideration

Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling: Sadat Abrihim, David Anaba, Sharon Baumann, Ellvera Boehm, Laura Burney, Alex Caballero, James Castillo, Mitch Dorn, Shane Edens, Norma Foreman, Laquita Gibbens, Helen Grimm, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Andy James, Michael Janysek, Raymond Jenkins, Steve Kelly, Evalina, Francis Kempe, Linda Lathrop, Ella Manka, Khloe Martinez, Moma Ndeh, the Ndeh family, Charles Pierce, Leroy Polderick, Carly Rosenboon, John Tackitt, Yvonne Watkins, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiantz, and Norma Zamzow

For those in the military: Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva

Congratulations to our Confirmands!

Lillie Alison Jonas, daughter of Robert and Barbara Jonas

Lillie's godparents are Alex and Mary Edens, and Lynette Jonas

Lindsey Nicole Jonas, daughter of Steve and Michelle Jonas

Lindsey's godparents are Philip and Stacey Mika, and Gale and Richard Halliburton

Jaiden Nicole Robinson, daughter of Raymond and Rebecca Robinson

Jaiden's godparents are Jason Soliz, Erin Fudge, Teresa Martin, and Richard Robinson

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

Coming Events

Let's join together and PARTICIPATE!

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a catered lunch reception honoring our Confirmands.

TLU Christmas Vespers Titled "Night Of Nights," the 2018 Vespers service of word and music will feature the TLU Choir, TLU Women's Choir, Kantorei Chamber Choir, and the TLU Symphonic Winds and Percussion. Christmas Vespers will be held in TLU's Jackson Auditorium at 4 p.m. today. Tickets for each Vespers service are free but required. For more information call 830-372-8063 or email vespers@tlu.edu

Sunday, December 9, 10:30 a.m.: Lessons & Carols Worship Service

The Music Academy Winter Recital will be December 9 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul's. The recital is open to the public. Invite your friends!

Christmas Eve Worship Service, December 24, 5:00 p.m.

