



November 29, 2020
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Walk With Us As Disciples of Christ!
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Child Development Center and Pre-School

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor
(812) 259-2530

Glynda Vanecek, Organist

Rachel St.Clair, Office Administrator
401 West Seventh Street
Taylor, Texas 76574
Office Phone: (512) 352-2327
FAX: (512) 365-1509

Email: stpauloffice@austin.twcbc.com

Website: www.stpaultaylor.com



Follow us at [Facebook.com/stpaultaylor](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultaylor)

SUNDAY RADIO BROADCAST

KRXT 98.5 FM at 12:15pm

St. Paul Church does take pictures and videos which will be posted on their
Social Media and Web Page.

TWCWiFi - *no password needed*

St. Paul Lutheran Church

WALK WITH US AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST!

Welcome!

We welcome all who worship this Lord's Day! We are glad you are worshiping with us this morning. As we can be helpful to you, we look forward to doing so. If you would like the pastor to contact you, please mark that on the Record of Fellowship or call the church office.

We ask that the Record of Fellowship be filled out (members and visitors) so that we will have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

We Remember in Prayer

(Please call the church office to remove anyone from the prayer lists.)

Our members:

Bebe Beran, Ernest Rohlack, Jessica Schmidt, Sandi Umiker, Clifton Filter, Larry Safarik, Pam Mikulencak, Margaret Miller, Pr. Michael Domenech, Mark Lindell, Leon Tieman, Bo Stiles, Cynthia Beran, Paula Safarik, Norman Fuessel, Elaine Oser, and Our Shut Ins: Betty Sakewitz, Sarah Click, Bunny Schroeder, James Spinn, Edward Lantzsch, Greg Buetikofer, Harvey Cuzzort, Albert Zeplin, Katy Wilson, Lisa Cox, Dorothy Grimm, Inez Sladek, Geraldine Cox, Curtis & Rosalie Minzenmayer, Hilda Hanson, Nema Bohls, Melvin Steger, Elda Heselmeyer, Aline Kautz, Ed Balusek, Ella Kuhl, Clifford Mahlow.

Please remember Dorothy Brune and family with the loss of Vaughn Brune.

Our family, friends, and loved ones:

Brett Safarik, Merriam Buetikofer, Ronnie Bradford, Miriam Hardin, Zane Hyzak, David Martinez, Corrina Sims, Joseph Boswell, Stephanie Hanmann, Abel Robles, Penny Roeglin, Peggy Ging, Verdie Guettler, Sandra & Todd Rice, Louise Gore, Rosa Linda Hernandez, Kirrin Leslie, , Ricky Cain, John Pelzel, Joseph Cerda, Michael Walton, Jose Juan Espinoza, Jessie Mead, Mary Lefner, Sandy Millner, Garry Grau, Samantha Summers, Jimmy Grimm, Rosie Steamer, Marcella Schoener, Scotty Clifton, Carroll Holmstrom, Reagan Schroeder, Rosalina Martinez, Dana Melancon, John Harper, Bobby Harrison, Pamela Morton, Rosemarie Burney, Denny Hamilton, Jackie Oslick, Darrell Mikulencak, Tina Ausburn, Leslie Lawrence, Jarvis Harry, Lee Martinez, Tricia Van Til, Jacque Frazier, Alma Russell, Ann Zuehlke, Mike Parry, Diana Beran, Rex Anders, Matthew Retchloff, Paula Schwartz, Randy Dykowski, Carole Byler, Kellie Click, Mary Kidwell, Carolyn Wycoff, Glen Shelby, Joshua Bockerstette, Jennifer Neddeau, Julie Johnson, Marie Davis, Abby Alderete, Patrick Jordan, Lisa Heselmeyer, Cliff Peters, Jiana Milam, Kurt Laxson, Chandra Bivens, Jessica Golden, Betty Pickett, Abigail Alexander, Eric Richardson, Brianna Rivera, David Downey, Linda Dlouhy, Margaret Smith, John Blackwell, Rebecca Lucas, Cullen Eschberger

**WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS
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.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is 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.

GATHERING SONG

“Hark the Glad Sound”

P 239

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.

Kyrie



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

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.

WORD

Reader: Paula Safarik

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. [The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40–55, have not been realized.](#)

Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

- 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved. (Ps. 80:7)

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.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -

lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to **Mark 13:24-37**

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴In 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.

²⁸From 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.

³²But 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

First Sunday of Advent

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown
that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent.

As we light the first candle on this wreath,
rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord
when he comes with all the saints and angels.

Enlighten us with your grace,
and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy.

Grant this through Christ our Lord,
whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

Amen.

Light the first candle.

Congregation

Children's message

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

P. 264

Please stand as you are able.

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

CREED

Apostles' 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

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses (*especially*). Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries; Cheryl Kruckemeyer in Tanzania, Ben & Jody in Mongolia serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Heaven Bound Ministries in Pierpont, South Dakota. **Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders.**

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you

Please be seated.

THANKSGIVING

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Refrain



Sal - va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -



ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O



God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O



Rul - er of all the na-tions. Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and

Refrain



sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va-tion be-longs to our



God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.



2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and

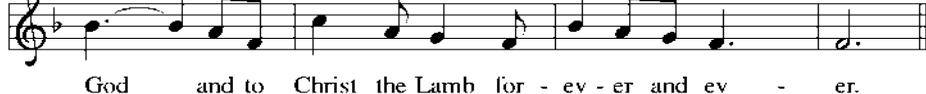


bless-ed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All

Refrain



praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va-tion be-longs to our



God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you
that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

"He Came Down"

P. 253

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks to all who donated to the Shepherd's Heart food drive!!!

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Salvation Army Red Kettle comes to St. Paul Lutheran Church Narthex

Please bring your donations on December 13 from 8:30 – 10:30 AM. Naomi Pasemann directed this effort annually and we continue it in her memory as we partner with the Salvation Army to assist those in need for emergency food, clothing, and shelter. All donations will be used in the Taylor area.



GUIDELINES FOR RE-OPENING CHURCH

• IF YOU FEEL SICK, PLEASE STAY HOME!

- EVERY OTHER PEW IS TAPED OFF TO HELP WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING
- MASKS ARE NOT REQUIRED BUT RECOMMENDED FOR SAFETY. WE DO NOT HAVE GLOVES & MASKS TO DISTRIBUTE TO ATTENDEES - ALL USHERS OR ANYONE HELPING WITH THE SERVICE WILL ALSO WEAR GLOVES.
- ALL EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR DOORS WILL BE PROPPED OPEN FOR ENTRY & EXIT. THEY WILL BE LOCKED AS USUAL ONCE THE SERVICE STARTS.
- NO CONTACT GREETINGS OR EXITS – PLEASE DO THE BIG WAVE TO EVERYONE!
- FAMILIES CAN SIT TOGETHER OR IF YOU'VE BEEN STAYING WITH SOMEONE NOT OF YOUR FAMILY DURING QUARANTINE – SEATING IS UP TO EACH INDIVIDUAL
- BULLETINS WILL BE EMAILED EACH FRIDAY FOR THAT SUNDAY'S SERVICE – WE WILL HAVE PRINTED COPIES EACH SUNDAY AS WELL & EACH PERSON WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO DISPOSE OF THEIR COPY IN THE RECYCLE BINS IN THE NARTHEX AT EXIT.
- ONLY THE ORGANIST, 1 LEAD SINGER AND 1 PERSON MANAGING THE SOUND BOARD WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE BALCONY.
- PLEASE VISIT AFTER THE SERVICE OUTSIDE TO HELP MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING AND TO ALLOW THE USHERS TO BEGIN WIPING AREAS DOWN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- COMMUNION WILL BE PROVIDED IN SEALED READY TO SERVE CUPS (GRAPE JUICE & WAFER) GIVEN OUT WHEN YOU WALK IN AND EVERYONE WILL TAKE IT AT THEIR SEAT DURING SERVICE – NO WALK UP TO THE ALTAR. YOU ARE ALSO FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN – TISSUES WILL BE IN THE PEWS AND THE USHERS WILL COME BY EACH PEW JUST AFTER COMMUNION WITH A BASKET TO PUT YOUR CUP IN. TRASH CANS WILL BE AT THE EXITS – **PLEASE BE VERY CAREFUL NOT TO SPILL ON THE PEWS OR FLOOR AND LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY IF THERE IS A SPILL!**
- OFFERING PLATES WILL BE IN THE NARTHEX FOR DROP OFF BEFORE AND AFTER CHURCH – ATTENDANCE CARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO FILL OUT AND DROP IN THE OFFERING PLATES.
- CHILDREN'S SERMON WILL BE TAUGHT WITH CHILDREN STAYING IN THEIR SEATS
- NO BIBLES, HYMNALS, OFFERING ENVELOPES OR SIGN IN/RED BOOKS IN PEWS
- THE NURSERY DOOR IS CLOSED AND NOT AVAILABLE FOR USE
- THE RED BAGS ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR KIDS
- THE WATER FOUNTAIN IS NOT AVAILABLE FOR USE
- NO FELLOWSHIP OR SUNDAY SCHOOL AFTER CHURCH THROUGH THE SUMMER
- NO SHARING OF PEACE
- **PLEASE REMAIN SEATED AT THE END OF THE SERVICE - USHERS WILL DISMISS ROWS TO MAINTAIN DISTANCE AND BEGIN AT THE BACK OF CHURCH.**

AFTER SERVICE:

THOSE ON DUTY WILL BEGIN WIPING OR SPRAYING DOWN ALL BATHROOMS (TOILET HANDLES, FAUCETS, DOOR HANDLES, TOILET SEATS, LIGHT SWITCH), DOOR HANDLES AT ALL ENTRY/EXITS WITH DISINFECTANT SPRAY OR WIPES. WE ASK THAT YOU EXIT THE CHURCH IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE AND VISIT OUTSIDE SO THIS CAN BE DONE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU FOR FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES AND FOR YOUR HELP IN HELPING PROVIDE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR US TO WORSHIP.