



December 13, 2020
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

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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:

Bob Grimm, 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: Lydia Dowling, Lomis Weber, 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, Ed Balusek, Ella Kuhl, Clifford Mahlow.

Our family, friends, and loved ones:

Danthia Joyce, Brett Safarik, Adam Eubank, 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, Dorthy & Vaughn Brune, Kirrin Leslie, , Ricky Cain, John Pelzel, Joseph Cerda, Michael Walton, Jose Juan Espinoza, Jessie Mead, Donna Woodworth, 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

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

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

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

P 256

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Reader: Sharon Naiver

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

- ¹The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
- ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
- ³to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

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 wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being 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 with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 126

The LORD has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.

²**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."**

³The LORD has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.

⁴**Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

⁵Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.

⁶**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

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 the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil. ²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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 **John 1:6-8, 19-28**

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for 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. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming

after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Third Sunday of Advent-Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

As we light the candles on this wreath,
strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory.

Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may serve our neighbors in need.

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

Amen.

Light three candles.

Jesus Loves Me"
Children's message

Congregation

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

P. 257

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, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship. Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm. Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Remember all those who are ill and struggling with physical challenges especially Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. 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, Paul & Jay in Bolivia, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Hebron Lutheran Church in Hebron, Kentucky. Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders.

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love (*especially Lucy, martyr of the church*). Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. 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



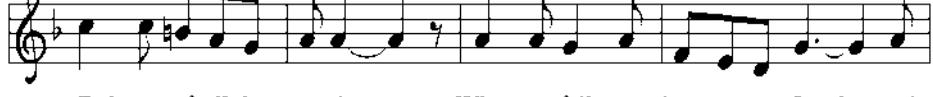
Sal - va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -



ev - er and ev - er. | 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



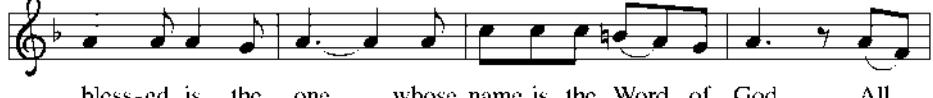
sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va-tion be-longs to our



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



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

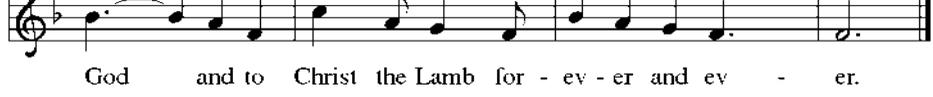


bless-ed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All

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

"Joy to the World"

P. 267

DISMISSAL

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

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Thanks.

CDC December News

Christmas is Coming!

St Paul Child Development would like to share the Christmas spirit with All, especially the less fortunate that will not have funds to celebrate Jesus Birthday.

Do you want to help?

We are collecting Food for Shepherd Heart Food Pantry and Food for Known Families of Young Children that are experiencing financial difficulties, also cash to purchase a small gift for known small children that will not have Christmas.

If you would like to share Christmas Joy with any of the above you may place your contribution of food or cash in the containers at the Church entrance or stop by the CDC Monday through Friday between 6:45 am & 5:45 pm..

Questions: Please contact 512-352-2773. Names of Donors or Receiver will not be released.

LET'S MAKE THIS A MERRY CHRISTMAS FOR ALL.

Thanks.

Lorena P...
Rita Kelm

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.



ORDER
YOUR

Poinsettias

I would like give _____ (number) Christmas Poinsettia plant(s) to decorate the church for the Christmas Worship Service. The plants are \$10.00 each, and order form must be received by:

Wednesday, December 16.

Please include payment

Name: _____

Phone: _____

My Christmas Poinsettia is given in memory of:

AND/OR

My Christmas Poinsettia is given in honor of:

AND/OR

My Christmas Poinsettia is given in thankfulness to God.

(Only the person(s)' name who is giving the plant will be listed.)

Number of poinsettias ordered: _____

X \$10.00 _____

Total Enclosed _____

You may put this form in the offering plate, give to an usher,
leave it at the church office or mail to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 401 W 7th St. Taylor TX 76574



CHRISTMAS EVE @ ST PAUL

Our beautiful Christmas Eve service will look a little different this year!

The service will begin at 6pm with no caroling before. Communion will be taken with pre-filled cups at your seats. We will hand out white glow sticks instead of candles. You are welcome to download a “candle” app on your phone if you prefer.

The service will be broadcast on Facebook Live. We will maintain social distancing with every other pew marked off for seating and recommend that everyone wear a mask.

Additional seating, as needed, will be set up at the back of the church.



Even in the midst of an ongoing unprecedented uncertain 2020, we approach this “most wonderful time of the year” to celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 500 Immanuel Road, invite ALL to the *Live Nativity* drive-thru this Sunday, December 13 6-7pm. This is our gift to YOU! Viewers will remain in their vehicles tuning in on their radio to hear recorded readings and carols. Extending *Best Wishes* to each of you and may the precious gifts of PEACE, JOY, HOPE, LOVE and good health be yours every day.