



December 20, 2020
FOURTH 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 need*

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, Eida Heselmeyer, Ed Balusek, Ella Kuhl, Clifford Mahlow.

Our family, friends, and loved ones:

Danithia 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, 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, 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

God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."

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

"My Soul Proclaims Thy Greatness "

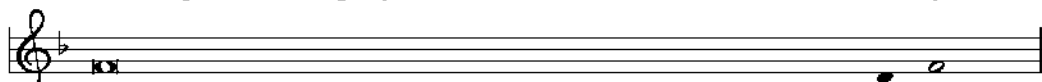
P. 251

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



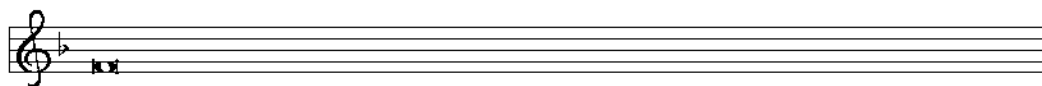
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



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,



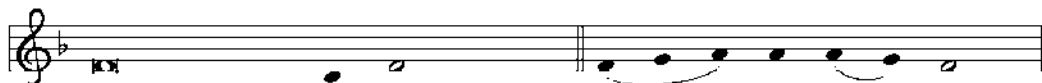
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



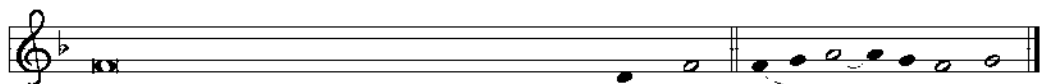
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

Reader: Sharon Naivar

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.

¹Now when David the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you." ⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. ⁷Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" ⁸Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; ⁹and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52)

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm;
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,

⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27

Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.

²⁵Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to **Luke 1:26-38**

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But

she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Fourth Sunday of Advent- Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

As we light the candles on this wreath,
open our eyes to see your presence
in the lowly ones of this earth.

Enlighten us with your grace,
that we may sing of your advent among us
in the Word made flesh.

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

Amen.

Light all four candles.

Please be seated.

Congregation

Children's message

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Light, One Candle"

P.240

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

A brief silence.

Gracious God, all generations call you blessed. In this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Inspire the faith of their people. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community, and the one true God. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Creator God, you scatter the proud. Everything we have belongs first to you. Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us. Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. We pray for the leaders of all nations, that they amplify the voices of people in need. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, you fill the hungry with good things and send the rich away empty. Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage others to provide for their neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Healing God, you pour out mercy to all you cry out to you. Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence (*especially*). 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, Shedd & Kris from the USA serving with the World Mission Prayer League. and for our sister congregation at Hegland Lutheran Church in Hawley, Minnesota. Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders.

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold leadership of female leaders in our own time. Inspire others with their steadfast witness. 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.

Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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, . . .
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.**

COMMUNION

Lamb of God

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.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Prayer After Communion

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

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

P.283

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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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.

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.

