

The First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 1, 2019

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren St.
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org

GATHERING

As we gather together, let us now refrain from conversation, quiet ourselves, and welcome the Lord Jesus Christ into our midst.

PRELUDE “Prelude and Fugue in D Minor” J. S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We gather in the name of the Father,
and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

As we wait and watch for the promised day of salvation,
let us open our hearts to God.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Almighty God,
 search us and know us.
Reveal all that we keep hidden deep inside.
To you we confess our sins, known and unknown.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us
 in your ways of justice and peace.
Make us reflections of your abiding love
 through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Beloved children of God
the one who judges is righteous and merciful.
Dwell in the loving arms
of the one who has made you and all of creation.
And then go forth boldly
in the assurance that your sins are forgiven
in the name of † Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” #244

GREETING

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.

THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Holy are you, God of power and glory; you promised to make your mighty presence known among the nations, and to strengthen your people to the end, when Christ will come in the clouds to gather his people. As we light this candle, open our eyes to see the sin that separates us from you and from one another, and restore us again, that we may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

“Christ, Be Our Light”

[The first candle is lit.]

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your
church gath - ered to - day.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line. The third staff concludes the melody for the third line. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across two notes.

RESPONSIVE READING

Whenever evil or suffering hold sway; we pray, O Lord,
Stir up your power and come.

Whenever war, evil, or crime oppress your people; we pray, O Lord,
Stir up your power and come.

Whenever illness or injury causes pain; we pray, O Lord;
Stir up your power and come.

Whenever pride or indifference imprison your people; we pray, O Lord,
Stir up your power and come.

Whenever people grieve or hunger; we pray, O Lord,
Stir up your power and come.

Stir up your power and come and save us.
Reveal your face to us and give us life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

A Reading from Isaiah

²In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

(Isaiah 2:1-5)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 122

¹I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”

²**Now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city
that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.**

⁷Peace be within your walls
and quietness within your towers.

⁸**For my brethren and companions’ sake,
I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek to do you good.”

A Reading from Romans

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. (Romans 13:11-14)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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 Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON**THE NICENE CREED (In Unison)**

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the church cries to you. Wherever Christians gather, empower them to proclaim love and defy the powers of sin and evil. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your creation cries to you. Protect the earth from drought, bitter cold, eroding coastlines, and fires and floods, that the earth may flourish. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, the nations cry to you. Bring justice to those who live at the margins, courage to peacemakers, wisdom to leaders, and hope to generations who have only known conflict, oppression, or poverty. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, your people cry to you. Comfort those separated from loved ones by distance, estrangement, or loss. We especially pray for everyone on our prayer list, the men and women of our armed forces, and those whose names are kept in our hearts. Help us as we care for others and rely on others' care. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, this congregation cries to you. Guide our worship, service, and outreach, that our hearts and hands may be opened in generosity toward others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Not knowing the day or hour of your coming, O Lord, we remember those who rest now in your eternal love. Remind us of their faithful witness, that their example might inspire our daily living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

OFFERING

For 10:30 service ushers: Take the offering plates from the table in the back of the church. Receive the collection along the center aisle, from front to back, then walk behind the last pews and up the side aisles to receive the collection on the outside aisles, again from front to back. Return to the back and wait for the Communion Assistant to come forward with the alms basin.

Offertory (8:00) “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” P. Manz

Anthem (10:30) **“Waiting”* P. Choplin
Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY HYMN



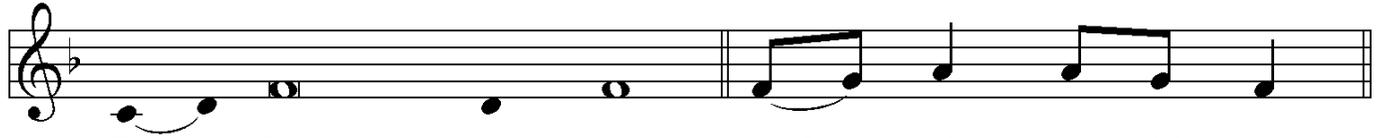
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

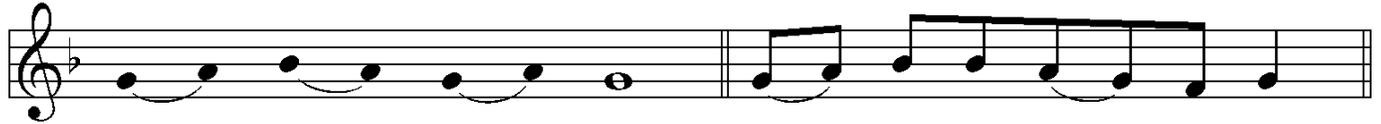
Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. **Amen.**

MEAL

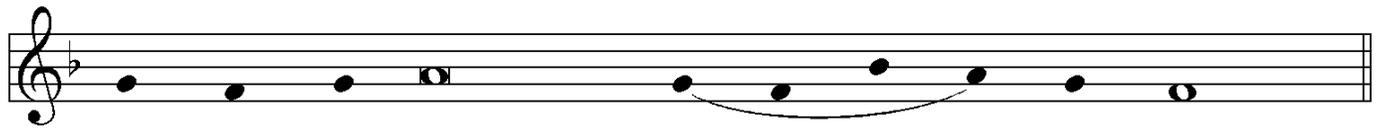
GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. 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 again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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.

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

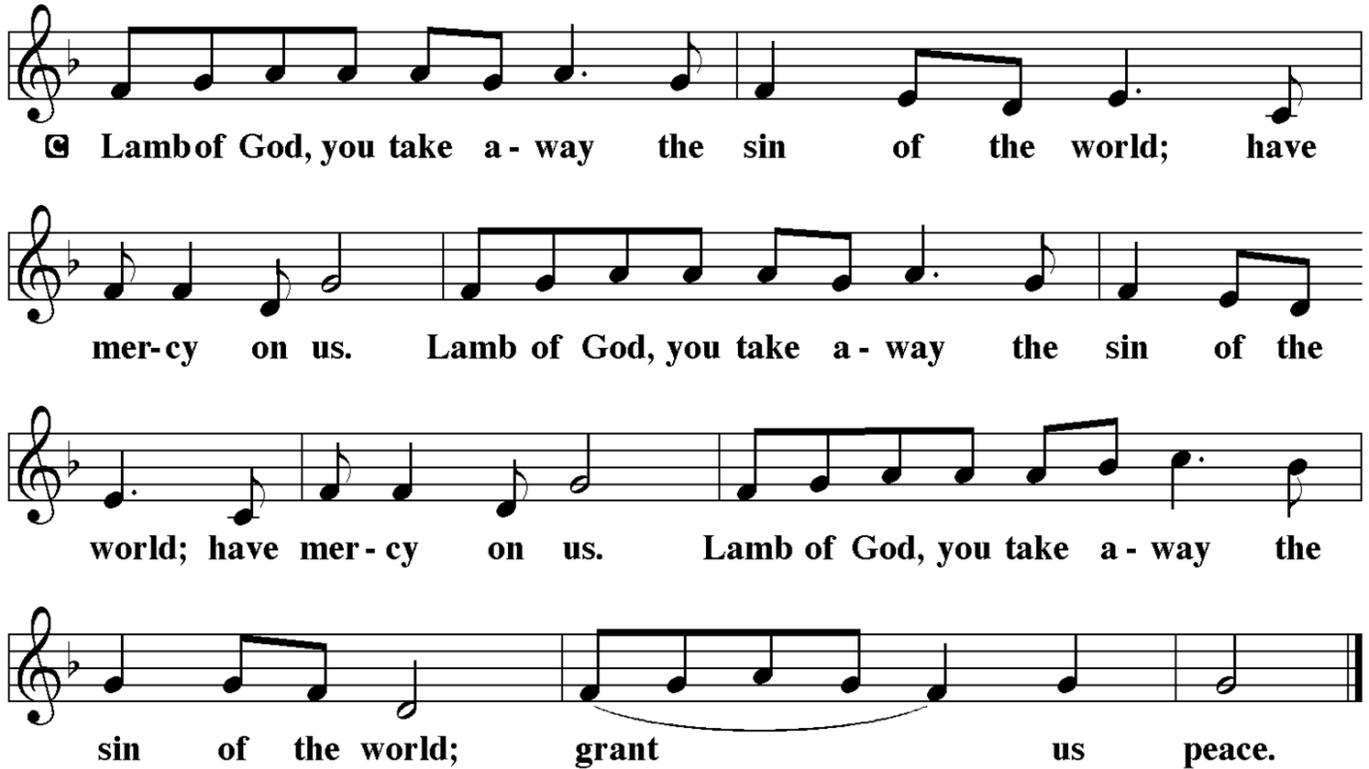
THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)

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

Come with joy to Emmanuel's table.
Let us share in God's banquet of hope and love.

AGNUS DEI



☐ 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

The Sacrament will be distributed by Intinction, pulpit side first. Please move into the center aisle, proceed to the Pastor, and receive the bread in your open hand. Then turn to the assistant, where you may dip the host into the wine and partake, returning to your seat by the side aisle. The lectern side will follow, then the choir. Those unable to come forward may receive the Sacrament in their pews. Those who do not desire to receive the Sacrament may come forward to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN “I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light” #815

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May our words and our work invite others into your bountiful grace. Now send us from your table to proclaim your goodness, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

May God, who gathers us in love,

lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice.

May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves,

lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom.

May God, who fills us with good things,

lead you in pathways of equity and abundance.

The blessing of the holy Trinity,

the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“People, Look East”

#248

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“People, Look East”

K. Langlois

Our Liturgy and Music are used by permission through Augsburg Fortress License #20611.

Altar flowers are presented in honor of Dr. Kevin Long by his mother,
Christine Long

Today’s bulletins are presented in honor of Joshua Clarke’s birthday (12/5) by
his mother & sister

***Today’s anthem** is presented in memory of Dick Foltz by Margaret Blair, and
many members of Dick’s family and his friends. (2015)

SERVING TODAY (12/1/19)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Becky Herb; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Gail Rarick

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Julianne Schenck; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Jim Spotts;

USHERS: Sue & Mike Petresky; GREETER: Doug Travor;

COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, & Glenda Bright;

ALTAR GUILD: Joanne Emerich & Gwen Wehr

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (12/8/19)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Kay Weidensaul; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Amy Dewald

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Sue Schenck; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Doug Travor;

USHERS: Jerry & Nora Goessel; GREETER: Doug Travor;

COUNTERS: Rosalie Wingle, Marlene Eidam, & Diane Brobst;

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Lafko & Fern Moyer

CALENDAR

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| Tuesday, December 3 | 6:00 PM | Service Ministry |
| | 7:00 PM | Men of St. Paul's |
| Wednesday, December 4 | 6:00 PM | Bell Choir |
| | 7:00 PM | Chancel Choir |
| Saturday, December 7 | 5:30 PM | Worship with Holy Communion |
| Sunday, December 8 | 8:00 AM | Worship 175 th Birthday Celebration |
| | 9:15 AM | Adult Forum |
| | 9:15 AM | Property Committee |
| | 10:30 AM | Worship |
| | 5:00 PM | Christmas Dinner |

ANGEL TREE GUIDELINES

Our congregation will again participate in “Angel Tree” giving this year. The following are guidelines for this project:

- The Angel Tree, which will be filled with names and gift ideas for area youth, will arrive around Thanksgiving.
- Each tag will contain the name, age, gender, and a gift idea—*please keep gifts in the \$15–\$20 price range.*
- Please drop off the gift, unwrapped and with the name tag, *by 9:00 AM on Sunday, Dec. 15.* The Sunday school kids will merrily wrap the gifts that morning.
- Each child will also get a Christmas stocking. The stockings will have a tag with the name, gender, and age of the child. Please fill it with age-appropriate snacks, toiletries, and other small items.
- We have plenty of wrapping paper, but can always use boxes, gift bags, and Scotch tape—we seem to go through a lot of tape!

Please contact Deb Bolinsky at 570-789-3540 with any questions.

EVANGELISM NEWS

Sunday, December 15, we will be having breakfast treats for all following the 8 AM service! Come and share good food and fellowship!

CHURCH FLOWER PRICES

As of January 1, Freed’s Flowers will increase their prices: The minimum price for a Chancel Basket will be \$25.00 and Altar Flowers will cost \$30.00. If you would like to order a special arrangement for a given date, you can do that by contacting Freed’s directly; just mark the flower book accordingly. Please see Sue Schenck with any questions.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Men of St. Paul's and WELCA will hold a dinner for all members of the congregation on Sunday, December 8, at 5:00 PM in Reidler Hall. There is a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place, so that we can know how many people to expect. Please plan to join us and add your name to our list!

BOOKS FOR KIDS DRIVE

Our Service Committee is holding a "Christmas" Book Drive for children whose families are served by the Orwigsburg Area Food Pantry. Your new or gently used books are needed now. Donations can be placed in a box located in the narthex today through Saturday, December 14! Thank you for your generosity!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

The Worship and Music Committee invites you to enjoy a piece of our congregational birthday cake between the 8 and 10:30 AM worship services on Sunday, December 8, 2019! **We will officially be 175 years old as an independent Lutheran congregation on Saturday, December 7, 2019!**

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jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org