

The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 8, 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 “Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord” R. Anderson

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 “Prepare the Royal Highway” #264

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 SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Holy are you, God of righteousness and peace; you promised to wait with patience for all to come to repentance, and to send your prophet to cry in the wilderness to prepare the way of the Lord. As we light these candles, open our ears to hear you speak tenderly to your people and open our hearts to welcome you as a shepherd who gently leads his flock. Comfort us, O God, and forgive the sin of your people.
Reveal your glory to us and speak to us your word of peace. Amen.

“Christ, Be Our Light”

[The second 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.

RESPONSIVE READING

With hope when we might have given up; we pray, O Lord,
Stir up our hearts and come.

With love when we might turn cold or hard; we pray, O Lord,
Stir up our hearts and come.

To thankfulness when we might simply complain; we pray, O Lord;
Stir up our hearts and come.

To action when we might simply watch; we pray, O Lord,
Stir up our hearts and come.

For joy when we are tired and forgiveness when we are hurt; we pray, O Lord,
Stir up our hearts and come.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to prepare the way for your only Son. By his coming give us strength in our conflicts and shed light on our path through the darkness of this world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

A Reading from Isaiah

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples;
the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. (Isaiah 11:1-10)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

¹Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;

²**that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.

⁴**He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

⁵He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.

⁶**He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**

⁷In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

¹⁸**Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹And blessed be his glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.

Amen and Amen.

A Reading from Romans

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰and again he says,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Romans 15:4-13)

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 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“On Jordan’s Bank”

#247

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.

God of promise, your reign has come near. Call your people to the way of repentance and inspire your church to bear fruit through acts of faithful service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for the wolf and the lamb, the lion and the calf, and all species whose lives are intertwined. Repair and preserve your good creation, that all life on earth may be sustained. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, teach those with power and privilege to serve the vulnerable. Give wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, and a heart of compassion to every leader. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the poor, set abundant tables in places where stomachs ache with hunger and where hearts and minds suffer pain. Bring healing and wholeness to all who suffer in any way (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, bring joy and peace to those facing anxiety, depression, or alienation. Guide this community of faith to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of eternal life, you forgive our sin and promise to gather us in your care forever. We give thanks for those who now rest from their labors, freed from pain and the power of death. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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) “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” arr. J. Purifoy

Anthem (10:30) “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” M. Praetorius
Chancel Choir

OFFERTORY HYMN



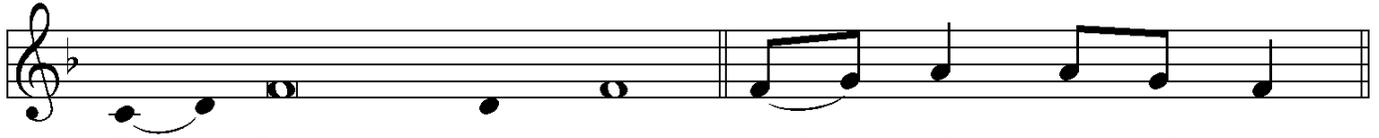
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

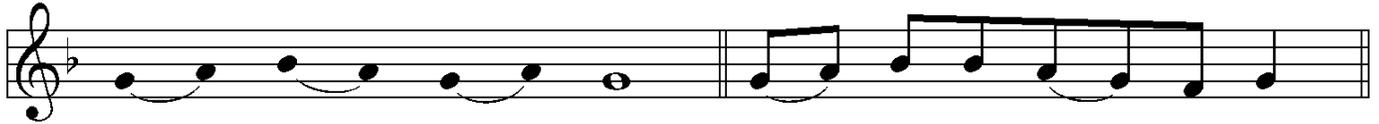
Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. **Amen.**

MEAL

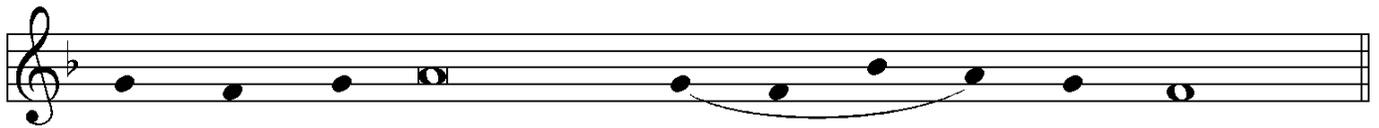
GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 “What Feast of Love” #487

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 “Hark, the Glad Sound!” #239

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “From Heaven Above” G. Young

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

Altar flowers are presented in loving memory of Clark “Duke” Schenck by Sue, Kurt, and Juli

Chancel flowers are presented in memory of my parents, Mr. & Mrs. George Sabald, by daughter Gloria Diewechter

SERVING TODAY (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

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (12/15/19)

8:00 AM

LECTOR: Deb Moyer; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Kay Weidensaul;

10:30 AM

LECTOR: Doug Travor; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Sue Schenck;

USHERS: Sue Reier & Karen Travor; GREETER: Doug Travor;

COUNTERS: Joyce O'Rourke, Gloria Diewechter, & Dana Jenkins;

ALTAR GUILD: Barbara Lafko & Fern Moyer

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!**

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!

CALENDAR

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
Monday, December 9	7:00 PM	Council
Tuesday, December 10	12 Noon	WELCA Christmas Luncheon
Wednesday, December 11	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Thursday, December 12	10:00 AM	Rainbow Friends
Saturday, December 14	5:30 PM	Worship
Sunday, December 15	8:00 PM	Worship Breakfast Gathering Angel Tree Gifts Wrapping
	9:15 PM	Adult Forum
	10:30 PM	Worship

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!

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!

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.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our Annual Christmas Concert will be held on Sunday, December 22, at 4 PM. Selections will be offered by the Bell and Chancel Choirs and several instrumentalists. Come and bring your family and friends!

REFRESHMENTS NEEDED!

Refreshments and good fellowship following our Christmas Concert is a tradition here at St. Paul’s. If you can bring a snack (or snacks) to share, please see the sign-up sheet in the gathering room!

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.

PASTOR ON VACATION

Pastor Mike will be on vacation and will not lead worship on Saturday, December 14th and Sunday, December 15th. The Reverend Norman Drescher of Hamburg, PA, will lead worship on those above dates. If you or someone you love needs pastoral care in an emergency during this time, please call 717-649-3532 and leave a detailed message.

CANCELLATION OF WORSHIP

When you are not sure that we will have worship because of inclement weather, please call the church office (570-366-2316) and listen to the outgoing message on the answering machine. The decision to cancel worship will not be made hastily, so please check about an hour before the service is scheduled. You can also check our Facebook page for a possible cancellation of worship.

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Office Support Staff - VACANT office@stpauls-orwigsburg.org	570-366-2316
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Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary	570-366-8766
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