

# *The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

## *Sunday, December 22, 2019*

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**  
**215 N. Warren St.**  
**Orwigsburg, PA**  
**570-366-2316**  
**[www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org](http://www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org)**

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### **GATHERING**

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

**PRELUDE**

“The Angel Gabriel”

A. L. Page

**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**      “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”      #257 vs. 1-4

### **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 FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

Holy are you, God of steadfast love and faithfulness; you promised to make a covenant with your chosen ones, and to establish the throne of your servant David forever. As we light these candles, open our hearts to the mystery of the incarnation revealed to your servant Mary, and plant your word in us that it may grow and prosper. Show us your favor, O Rock of our salvation.  
**Reveal your love to us, and strengthen us for service in your name. Amen.**

### **“Christ, Be Our Light”**

*[The fourth 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**

Break into our world with your light, O Lord, we pray,  
**Stir up your power and come.**

Break into our world with your joy, O Lord, we pray,  
**Stir up your power and come.**

Break into our world with your peace, O Lord, we pray,  
**Stir up your power and come.**

Break into our world with your comfort, O Lord, we pray,  
**Stir up your power and come.**

Break into our world with your love, O Lord, we pray,  
**Stir up your power and come.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen**

## **WORD**

### **A Reading from Isaiah**

<sup>10</sup>The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, <sup>11</sup>Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. <sup>12</sup>But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. <sup>13</sup>Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? <sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup>He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. <sup>16</sup>For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”

(Isaiah 7:10-16)

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 146:5-10**

<sup>1</sup>Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

<sup>2</sup>**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

<sup>3</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

<sup>4</sup>**O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?**

<sup>5</sup>You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

<sup>6</sup>**You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

<sup>7</sup>Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

<sup>16</sup>**Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

<sup>17</sup>And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your name.

<sup>18</sup>**Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

## **A Reading from Romans**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, <sup>2</sup>which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, <sup>3</sup>the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup>and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, <sup>5</sup>through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, <sup>6</sup>including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

<sup>7</sup>To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

(Romans 1:1-7)

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 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.”<sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

### HYMN OF THE DAY

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” #265

### 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.*

Hear your church, O God, as we pray for all who belong to Jesus Christ. Where the church is scorned, preserve it; where the church is privileged, grant it humility.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear your earth, O God, as we pray for its healing and care. Protect the grapevine and the mighty cedar, the mountains and seas and all that is in them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear the nations, O God, as we pray for those who hold power and authority. Help those who create and uphold just laws and those working to reform what is unjust, that the world might better reflect your grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear those in need, O God, as we pray for all who face uncertainty: refugees and immigrants, those who are imprisoned, and those without work, housing, food, or health care. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear this community of faith, O God, as we pray for families and friends who gather in this season, for travelers and hosts, and for those who will work or serve others this Christmas. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear those who cry for healing and wholeness, O God, as we pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially...*). Comfort and bring abundant new life to all those who call upon your name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear all who mourn, O God, as we remember the lives of our beloved dead. Encourage us to learn from our ancestors in faith as we follow your call. 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)**

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

J. Purifoy

**Anthem (10:30)**

\*“Waiting”  
*Chancel Choir*

P. Choplin

### OFFERTORY HYMN



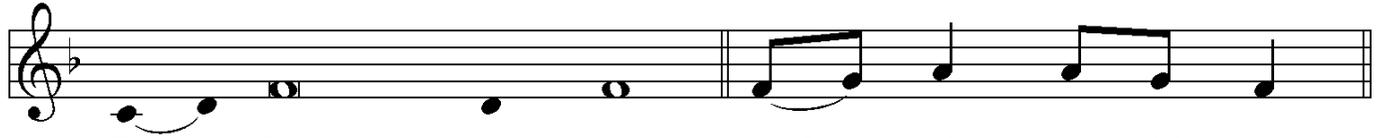
Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -  
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the  
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

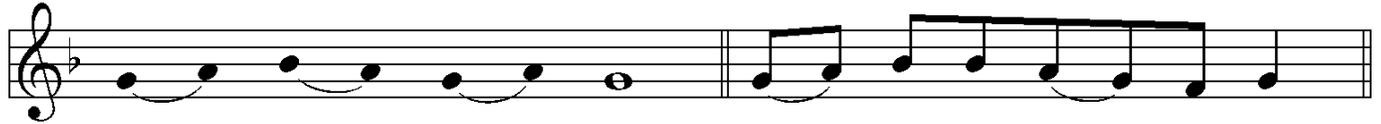
Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have given to us to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger. **Amen.**

# MEAL

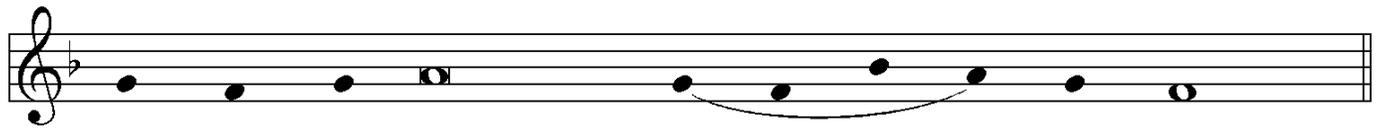
## GREAT THANKSGIVING



**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 “Canticle of the Turning” #723

## 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**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#257 vs. 5-8

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**

“And the Glory of the Lord”

G. F. Handel

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**Altar flowers** are presented in memory of Harry W. Lafko by his family

**Chancel flowers** are presented in memory of Dennis Wolfe by Joy Wolfe, Scott Wolfe, and Wendy Schuld and Family

**Bulletins** are presented in honor of Deborah, Bill, Cindy, Sandra & Scott, Fern & Rodney, and Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren by Fern Moyer

**\*Today's anthem** is presented in memory of Dick Foltz by Margaret Bair, and many of Dick's family members and friends.

**SERVING TODAY (12/22/19)**

**8:00 AM**

**LECTOR: Gail Rarick; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Ruth Ann Withers;**

**10:30 AM**

**LECTOR: Robert Schuld II; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Chris Long;**

**USHERS: Scott Butler & Brian Miller; GREETER: Doug Travor;**

**COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Jean Premich, & Barb Sterner;**

**ALTAR GUILD: Hope Clarke & Madelyn Knecht**

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (12/29/19)**

**8:00 AM**

**LECTOR: Ruth Ann Withers; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Gail Rarick;**

**10:30 AM**

**LECTOR: Hope Clarke; COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Scott Butler;**

**USHERS: Carl Heintzelmann & Wayne Lutsey; GREETER: Doug Travor;**

**COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Barb Sterner, & Glenda Bright;**

**ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger & Cindy Ritschel**

**CALENDAR**

Sunday, December 22	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	9:15 AM	Property
	10:30 AM	Worship
	4:00 PM	Christmas Concert
Tuesday, December 24	5:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship
	9:00 PM	“ “ “
	11:00 PM	“ “ “
Wednesday, December 25		Christmas Day
		No Worship Scheduled
Saturday, December 28		No Worship Scheduled
Sunday, December 29	8:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Worship

## **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!

## **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.

## **SHARING THE SIGN OF PEACE!**

The sign of peace is a wonderful part of our liturgy. As God has sent his peace to us in Jesus Christ, we delight in sharing that peace with one another. During this cold & flu season, let us share God's peace in ways that are not likely to spread illness from physical contact. You may even choose to "signal" your peace to one another without leaving your pew. Please remember that while winter colds and flu are troublesome to most people, they can literally threaten the lives of others.

## **CHRISTMAS DECORATING**

The final decorating of the church for Christmas will be done at 10 A.M. on Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Help will be needed to arrange the large number of poinsettia plants that have been ordered. Please join us!

## **PASTOR ON VACATION**

Pastor Mike will be on vacation and will not lead worship on Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>. 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.

## GROCERY CARDS FOR OUR FOOD PANTRY

One of the ways you can help the Orwigsburg Food Pantry during the cold winter months is by donating gift cards from our local grocery stores. These cards purchased in any amount and donations will allow our food pantry to purchase any item which they may need when they need it. They are an easy and effective way to help our food pantry help those in need. If you are interested in donating grocery gift cards, please tape your receipt to the gift card's back, and place it in the offering plate or in one of the alms' boxes located in our narthex. Thank you!

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

On Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve, three worship service are scheduled: 5:00 PM, 9:00 PM, and 11 PM. All services will include Christmas carols and the sharing of Holy Communion. Our Chancel Choir will sing and our hand bell choir will ring at the 11 PM service. Please come to our Christmas Eve worship and bring your family and friends!

## CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS!

Congratulations to Juli Schenck, our new Office Support Staff person. Our thanks to Juli and all our candidates, as well as to our Search Committee for their work.

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<b>Wayne Lutsey, Financial Secretary</b>	570-366-8766
<b>Jessica Swick, Social Media Manager</b> <u>jessica@stpauls-orwigsburg.org</u>	936-648-6809