

# The First Sunday in Advent

Sunday, November 27, 2022

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

**PRELUDE** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" L. Smith

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THE LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

Blessed be God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure, and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.**

We praise you, Almighty God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

### "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.

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**

**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will  
and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**      “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”  
   [See back of bulletin]

## **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.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection, alert us to the great dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

### **A READING FROM ISAIAH**

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In 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.

<sup>3</sup>Many 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.

<sup>4</sup>He 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.

<sup>5</sup>O 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 (Read responsively)**

I was glad when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the LORD!"

**Our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

Jerusalem — built as a city  
that is bound firmly together.

**To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
as was decreed for Israel,  
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.**

For there the thrones for judgment were set up,  
the thrones of the house of David.

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

Peace be within your walls,  
and security within your towers."

**For the sake of my relatives and friends  
I will say, "Peace be within you."**

For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek your good.

## A READING FROM ROMANS

<sup>11</sup>Besides 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; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, 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

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But 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. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” (Matthew 24:36-44)

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

“The King Shall Come”  
[See back of bulletin]

## **THE NICENE CREED (Read 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.

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

## **ANTHEM**

“Waiting for a King”\*

J. Martin

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*A brief silence.*

God of all, break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths through your redemptive and healing work. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wonder, teach to us to guard fragile habitats, preserve wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, beat our weapons into tools for serving our neighbor and strengthen the resolve of all who work to end war. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of lovingkindness, feed the hungry, comfort the grieving, and attend to those near death. Bring healing and hope to any who are sick, ill, or injured, especially the people on our prayer list. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom and discernment to church councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of promise, we give thanks for the faithful who now rest in you. Abide with us until that day when you will bring us into the company of all the saints in light.

God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*(The worship leader concludes):* God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

## 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**

May Almighty God protect you from all evil.  
May you abide in hope and abound in faith.  
May you love God and serve your neighbor with great joy  
until that day when Christ comes again. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”  
[See back of bulletin]

### **THE DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Lord is near. **Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE** “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” R. Hobby

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**Introduction to the day:** In today’s readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord’s coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we watch for the day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ is among us as the word and heavenly meal.

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**Altar flowers** are presented in loving memory of Jeff Post by Tom and Gwen Wehr.

**Chancel Flowers** are presented in memory of parents, Guy R. and Frances Lengel, by James Lengel and the Lengel Family.

**Bulletins** are presented in memory of Ann and Lamar Butler by Tina and Scott Butler.

\*This **anthem** is presented in loving memory of D. Mark Herb and Ralph Herb by Tom and Gwen Wehr. (2000)

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### **WE WELCOME ALL VISITORS AND GUESTS**

Because of COVID-19 precautions, our offering plates are not “passed” during the service. Offerings can be placed in the plate located in the center aisle in the back of the church before or after worship. Our restrooms are in the back of our gathering room. Please look for the sign. If you have other questions, please ask our Greeter or Usher.

**SERVING THIS SUNDAY (11/27/22)**

**9:30 AM**

GREETER: Evan Davis; USHER: Karen Shoener; LECTOR: Leslie Guldin  
ALTAR GUILD: Crystal Brensinger and Cindy Ritschel  
COUNTERS: Connie Teter, Joanne Emerich, and Barb Sterner

**SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (12/04/22)**

**8:00 AM**

GREETER/USHER: Pastor Mike  
LECTOR/ COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Connie Teter

**10:30 AM**

GREETER: Cindy Ritschel; USHER: Jerry Goessel; LECTOR: Chris Long  
COMMUNION ASSISTANT: Evan Davis  
ALTAR GUILD: Sue Schenck and Barb Sterner  
COUNTERS: Gwen Wehr, Tom Wehr, and Glenda Bright

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**THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

Sunday, November 27	9:30 AM	Lay-Led Worship (No Communion)
Monday, November 28	6:00 PM	Service Ministry
Wednesday, November 30	6:00 PM	Bell Choir
	7:00 PM	Chancel Choir
Friday, December 2	10:00 AM	STiC Walk in Frog Hollow
Saturday, December 3	5:30 PM	Worship with Holy Communion
Sunday, December 4	8:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15 AM	Adult Forum
	10:30 AM	Worship with Holy Communion

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**WELCA NEWS**

Our Christmas Luncheon at the McKeansburg Hotel will be on Thursday, December 15 at 12 Noon. Details and a signup sheet are available at the table in the gathering room. Deadline to register and pay is Sunday, December 11. If you wish to send a "Message from Home" to service people, the address list is at the gathering table.



## **PASTOR ON VACATION**

We give thanks to Pastor Rob Reier and Doug Travor and their willingness to provide worship leadership for our congregation while Pastor Mike is on vacation.

If you or your loved one needs immediate pastoral care, please call 717-649-3532 as soon as possible.

## **ANGEL TREE**

Our Angel Tree just arrived! This project provides gifts to local, school-aged children who visit the Orwigsburg Food Pantry. Each child will have 2 gift tags and a stocking. The tags will contain name and age as well as a gift wish. (We ask that you spend about \$20/tag.) Each child will also have a stocking that you can fill with age-appropriate goodies. You do not need to select all the tags for the same child.

**Please return your wrapped gift, filled stockings, and Angel Tree tag by Sunday, December 11.**

Thank you in advance for your continued generosity! Kay Weidensaul is always proud of the support that St. Paul's gives to the Orwigsburg Food Pantry and the way we demonstrate "God's Work. Our Hands." Please contact Deb Bolinsky at (570)789-3540 or [debbolinsky@gmail.com](mailto:debbolinsky@gmail.com) with questions or concerns.

## **HOLLY JOLLY CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!**

Our "Second Sunday" Sunday School will host a "Holly Jolly Christmas Party" next Sunday, December 4, in the Gathering Room. Come between 1 and 3 p.m. for Christmas crafts, games, and hot chocolate! This is an event for the children of our church and our community (up to age 10). Spread the word and bring a friend! If you would like to help with the event by donating your time or an item needed for the party, there is a list on the table in the gathering room. Thank you for your help!

## **CALLING ALL CRAFTERS AND ARTISANS**

St. Paul's is establishing a crafting guild that makes items to sell at local community fairs and events as a new outreach program and an opportunity for fellowship. All proceeds from the sale of craft items will go to support St. Paul's ministries. We are looking for current crafters or anyone interested in learning a new craft. If you would like more information, please sign the interest sheet in the gathering room, or contact Kristin Durkee (804-380-9066) or Amy Dewald (570-449-4816).

# POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve will again be ordered from  
Blue Mountain Farms in New Ringgold, PA.

The cost of a 6.5" bloom plant is **\$8.50**.

Please indicate red or white blooms and to whom you wish to dedicate.  
If you choose not to dedicate the plants, you will be listed as a sponsor.

**THE DEADLINE TO ORDER POINSETTIAS IS DECEMBER 4!**

Please complete the bottom of this form and return it with payment to the plate  
marked "Poinsettias" in the Gathering Room.

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ red poinsettia(s),

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ white poinsettia(s),

at \$8.50 each. If you wish to dedicate your flowers(s) "in honor/memory of,"  
please circle one for the lines you complete below. **PLEASE PRINT.**

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Honor/Memory: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you paying with CASH?  or CHECK?  CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Poinsettias: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# GATHERING HYMN "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

## WE REMEMBER AND ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER!

The Evangelism committee would like to send cards, signed by our church family, to the home bound and military and college students away from home. The cards will be located on the small table with the prayer list. Please remember to sign our card(s) as you enter or leave the church.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### “The King Shall Come”

1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
 2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
 3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
 4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
 5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
 but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
 and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
 the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
 Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

## SENDING HYMN

### “Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding”

1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! “Christ is near,” we hear it say.  
 2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth’s bond - age let us rise;  
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav’n.  
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,  
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son

“Cast a - way the works of dark - ness, all you chil - dren of the day!”  
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.  
 Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv’n;  
 he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.  
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!