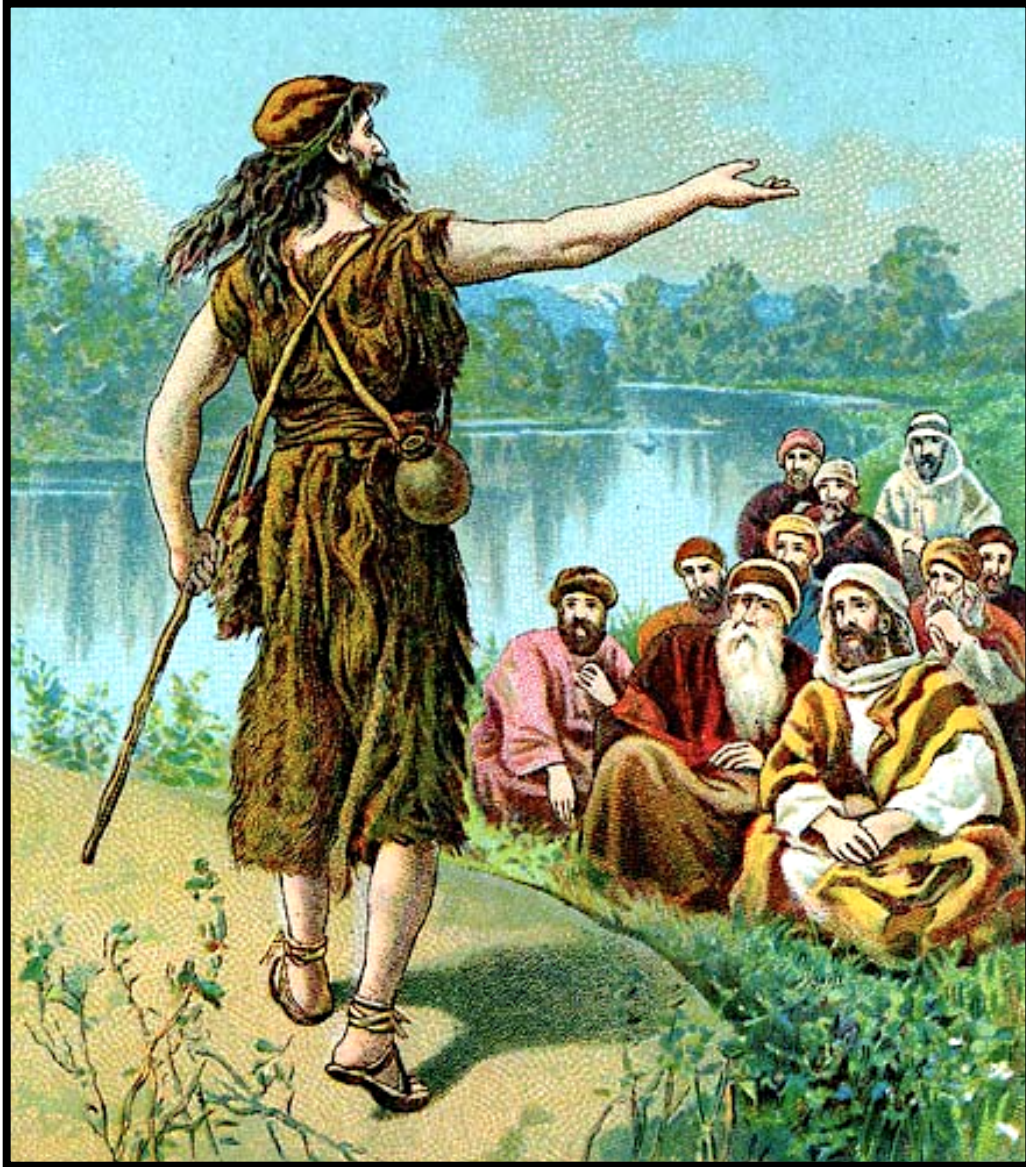


# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

– Church of the Lutheran Confession –  
Lakewood, Colorado



In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” Matthew 3:1.

† † †

2nd Sunday in Advent – December 4, 2022

# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214

[www.denverlutheran.com](http://www.denverlutheran.com)

Find us on Facebook at: “St Paul Ev. Lutheran Church”

Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

[www.clclutheran.org](http://www.clclutheran.org)

Thomas Schuetze, pastor (303-428-5524)  
Ed Chiappetti, president – Mike Sprengeler, SS Superintendent

## Serving Us At God’s House Today

Organist: Carly Mess; Ushers: Bob Rankin, Wayne Ruegge

Communion Usher: Mike Sprengeler

## Pre-Service Meditation and Prayer

Psalm 24 (pew bible, page 491)

*Blessed Jesus, at Your Word we are gathered all to hear You.  
Let our hearts and souls be stirred now to seek and love and fear You,  
By Your teachings, sweet and holy, drawn from earth to love You solely.*

**A Warm Welcome to Our Worship Guests.** It is our prayer that your faith is strengthened today by the preaching of our Lord’s pure Word and by the psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that our Scripture-based liturgy offers every week. St. Paul is a member of the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). The CLC is represented by congregations throughout the United States and Canada, with affiliated churches in Africa, India, and neighboring nations. All of our churches confess the Bible to be the inspired and unerring Word of God. We invite our Guests to record their visit by signing the Guestbook and to come worship with us again.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

+++ We Prepare to Meet Our Lord +++

### Opening Prayer

### Hymn

340 – *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

### Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.




## Our Confession of Sins

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. <> Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C   
Who made heav'n and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C   
And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**P/C O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. I justly deserve Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for my sins and sincerely repent of them. I pray that You would of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C   
A - men.

+++ We Praise Our Lord +++

## Psalm of the Day

From Psalm 130

P Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD:

C **Lord, hear my voice!**

P Let Your ears be attentive:

C **To the voice of my supplications.**

P If You, LORD, should mark iniquities:

C **O Lord, who could stand?**

P But there is forgiveness with You:

C **That You may be feared.**

P I wait for the LORD, and in His word I do hope:

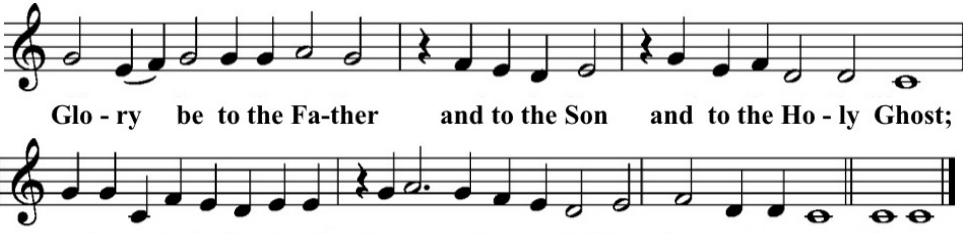
C **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.**

P O Israel, hope in the LORD:

C **For with the LORD there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption.**

P Glory be to God!

C



Glo - ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost;  
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, for - ev - er-more. A-men.

**Kyrie**



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

**Congregation sings:**

**Hark! what mean those holy voices Sweetly sounding through the skies?  
Lo, the angelic host rejoices, Heavenly hallelujahs rise.**


**Listen to the wondrous story Which they chant in hymns of joy,  
Glory in the highest, glory! Glory be to God most high!**

**Peace on earth, good will from heaven, Reaching far as man is found;  
Souls redeemed and sins forgiven! Loud our golden harps shall sound.**

TLH 83 (1-3]

P Let us pray:

C



A - men.

**+++ Our Lord Speaks to Us in His Word +++**

**First Lesson – Isaiah 11:1-10**

1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD— 3 and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; 4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. 6 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. 7 The cow will feed

with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. 8 The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. 9 They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. 10 In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and treasure it. Alleluia!

C    
 Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**Second Lesson – Romans 15:4-13**

C    
 Glo - ry be to You, O Lord!

4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs 9 so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name." 10 Again, it says "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." 11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples." 12 And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him." 13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

C    
 Praise be to You, O Christ!

**Our Confession of Faith**

*The Nicene Creed*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. <> And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. <> And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the

Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**Hymn**

347 – *Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People*

**Sermon**

Text – Matthew 3:1-12

1 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea 2 and saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: “A voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’” 4 John’s clothes were made of camel’s hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

***Take to Heart the Advent Message of Jesus’ Forerunner,  
John the Baptist***

1. A message of repentance.
2. A message which must not be ignored.
3. A message by which we will be judged.

**+++ We Offer Ourselves to Our Lord +++**

**Offertory**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spi-rit with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Your pres-ence, and take not Your Ho-ly Spir - it



from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Your sal - va -  
tion; and up - hold me with Your free spir-it. A - men.

**Offering of Thankful Hearts**

**Special Petitions / Altar Prayer**

**Hymn**

331 – *The Advent of Our King*

**+++ Our Lord Gives Himself to Us +++**

P The Lord be with you.

C 

And with your spir - it.

P Lift up your hearts.

C 

We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C 

It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore with all the saints on earth and the angel hosts in heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising God and saying:

C 

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
heav'n 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,

bless-ed is He, bless-ed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est!

*Sabaoth* (SAH-bay-oath) is Hebrew for "heavenly hosts"  
*Hosanna* is a Hebrew word of praise meaning "save us now"

P (The Lord's Prayer)

C

For Thine is the kingdom and the pow'r and the  
glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

### Words of Institution

P The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C

A - men.  
O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the  
world, have mer-cy up-on us. O Christ, the Lamb of God, You  
take a - way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.  
O Christ, the Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin of the  
world, grant us Your peace. A - men.

### Distribution of the Sacrament



## Lord, Now Let Us Depart

Lord, now let Your servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to Your word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation,  
which You have pre - pared be - fore the face of all people.  
A light to light - en the Gen - tiles, and the glo - ry of Your  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost, as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, for - ev - er - more. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endures for - ev - er.


P We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us with this holy supper. We implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

+++ Our Lord Blesses Us +++

**Benediction**

P The LORD bless you and keep you . . .

C   
A-men, a-men, a - men.

**Closing Hymn**

705 – *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*  
(Tan Hymnal)

+++++

**This Week at St. Paul**

Today (12/4)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Christmas Decorating
Sun (12/11)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Christmas Potluck and Baskets Prep

**Extended Calendar**

- Children’s Christmas Eve Service: Saturday, Dec.24, 6:30 pm
- Christmas Day Worship: Sunday, Dec.25, 9:30 am
- New Year’s Eve Communion Service: Saturday, Dec.31, 7:00 pm
- CLC Cooperative Budget Plan (CBP) Presentation: Sunday, Jan.15, 10:45 am
- Mary/Martha Ladies’ Meeting: Sunday, Jan.22, 10:45 am
- Annual Voters’ Meeting: Sunday, Jan.29, 10:45 am

**Choir Practices:** Next two Sundays, December 11 & 18, 8:30 am.

**Christmas Concert:** Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will present a Choral Christmas Service entitled *Christmas Memories* at Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire, WI on Friday, December 16, at 7:30 pm. Video streaming information will be published at [ilc.edu/tv](http://ilc.edu/tv) as it becomes available. "The service is themed around a carol by 17<sup>th</sup> century English composer Thomas Ravenscroft and explores what we are to remember about the birth of Jesus and what that birth means for us. Senior seminary student Mr. Jonah Albrecht will deliver devotional thoughts recalling that first Christmas night as well as lead us to consider thoughtfully our own memories of Christmases past. Music will include works by Hubert Parry, J. S. Bach, Piotr Tschaikovsky, John Rutter, and others. Arrangements of familiar carols include *In the Bleak Midwinter*, *The First Noel*, *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*, *Silent Night*, and others" (choir director, Prof. David Schaller).

## **Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions**

### **December 5-10 '22**

**Mon Luke 17:20-21** Jesus' first coming to this earth was in "quietness" in Bethlehem's stable. Also during His earthly ministry, the Pharisees were asking about when "God's kingdom" would come while the King Himself was right there among them. May we ever be ruled by Him!

**Tues Luke 17:22-30** To His disciples, who did listen to His Word, Jesus says that He must first suffer before they see His glory. They should not be misled by claims here and there, for when He returns all will see Him wherever they are, as with lightning in the sky. Nor should they get so wrapped up in daily living that they forget His promised coming, as with many in the days of Noah and Lot.

**Wed 2 Peter 1:3-11** Our Savior God gives us everything we need for body and soul, for this life and the next. Therefore, as we await the promised coming of the eternal kingdom, let us seek those gifts which come through our faith in the forgiveness of our sins (cp.v9). By the gifts listed (vv5-7), our calling and election as members of His kingdom becomes evident.

**Thurs Malachi 4:1-3** The prophet looks forward to the day when the faith of God's followers is vindicated, and God's enemies are cast down. That age will begin and end with Christ's coming. When He came to Bethlehem, it was the Sun of Righteousness rising with the morning rays shooting forth like healing wings.

**Fri Malachi 4:4-6** Malachi ends his book of prophecy reminding his people to live as God's people under the Law of Moses, and to look for Elijah the prophet as the New Covenant Era begins. Jesus pointed to John the Baptist as the Elijah who was to come (Mt11:14). Under the New Covenant, fathers and sons would no longer be ashamed of each other, reconciliation would extend to generations.

**Sat 1 Timothy 6:11-16** Pursuing money has led some to stray from their trust in God (v10), but Paul urges Timothy (and us) to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, and gentleness (v11), looking forward to the second coming of Jesus at the end of this age. Whether we are looking to celebrate Christ's first or second coming, the preparation that matters most is inward, accomplished by His Spirit.

## In Our Prayers

- Pastor John Hein of Grace Lutheran Church, Fridley MN, who is undergoing treatment for cancer of the thymus gland.
- Pastor Michael Eichstadt who is suffering from a heart ailment. He was taken by ambulance to the hospital after experiencing a passing out episode a week ago Friday. He is receiving medicare care at a local hospital. In an email last week Pastor Eichstadt wrote: "After numerous tests, the cardiologists are convinced the root cause is a congenital disease of the right ventricle (ARVC) which makes recurrence of the heart arrhythmia a danger. The plan is have an internal cardiac defibrillator (ICD) surgically implanted to act as a safety net in case of another incident. My Thanksgiving sermon text included Phil. 4:12-13: *'I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation...I can do all this through him who gives me strength.'* Praying for that all-sufficient strength made perfect in weakness."
- The family and friends of Marilyn Greening (mother of Ruth) who was called into the heavenly presence of the Lord on Thanksgiving Day. Her funeral service will be held at Wiederspahn/Radomsky Chapel in Cheyenne (located across the street from Redeemer Lutheran Church) on Saturday, December 10, at 10:00 am. A lunch will follow. Cards of condolence may be sent to: Mary Greening, 4408 Huron Ave, Cheyenne, WY 82001-2001.
- The family and friends of Pastor V.S. Benjamin of the Church of the Lutheran Confession of India (CLCI) who was called to his eternal rest week before last, on Nov.21. His son, Jyothi, wrote in an email message: *"My father, Rev V. S. Benjamin, Chairman of the CLCI, went to be with the Lord at the age of 89 years. Please pray for the comfort family members. His race ended, but we still have our race to run."* Words of encouragement and condolences can be sent to: [jyothifiles@gmail.com](mailto:jyothifiles@gmail.com)

## Synod News & Notes

Call News: Pastor Bruce Naumann of Messiah Lutheran, Eau Claire WI, has accepted the call to to serve as the CLC's Third Foreign Missionary.

Call for Eastern Nebraska Contacts: "Beginning in January of 2023, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Hecla, SD, will be sponsoring monthly services in Lincoln, NE, the third weekend of every month. We held four services this past year, attendance ranging from 12 to 24 with interest in more regular offerings. If you know of any family, friends, and/or former CLC members living in the greater Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa region, please send their contact info to [pastor\\_daub@hotmail.com](mailto:pastor_daub@hotmail.com). No lead is too far-fetched. Some of the current group have resulted from the most surprising connections!"

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