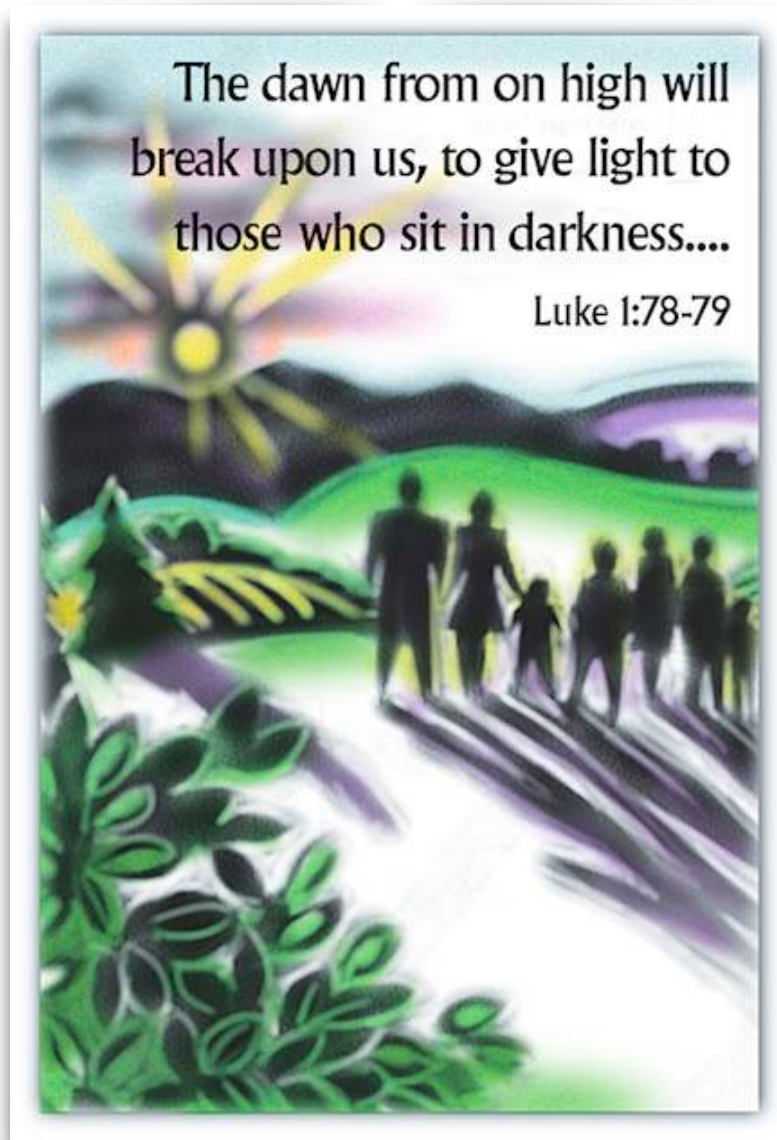


ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

– CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION –
LAKEWOOD, COLORADO



**1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
DECEMBER 1, 2019**

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

www.clclutheran.org

Thomas Schuetze, pastor (303-428-5524)

Ed Chiappetti, president – Mike Sprengeler, SS Superintendent

ORDER OF WORSHIP: SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT

(printed on liturgy insert inside front cover of maroon hymnal)

- ◆ Pre-service Devotion: Psalm 24 (pew bible, p.491)
- ◆ The Hymns: 350, 357, 354 (1-3), 354 (4)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 40:1-11; Romans 15:4,8-13
- ◆ Psalm of the Day: From Psalm 38
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed (last page of liturgy insert)

Sermon Text – Luke 1:67-79

THE MESSAGE OF ADVENT IS “COME”

TODAY – GOD’S PEOPLE CRY TO THE LORD: “O COME!”

- ◆ Offering of Our Hearts and Gifts
- ◆ Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer
- ◆ Communion Liturgy (liturgy insert, pp.17-21)
- ◆ Benediction & Closing Hymn (354, stanza 4)

† † †

A CORDIAL GREETING AND WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS. We are pleased to have you worshiping with us today and invite you to come often. Please take a few moments to sign our guest book. If you have no church home in the community and are seeking a fellowship in which you might worship and serve your Lord, we invite you to speak with the Pastor who will be happy to call on you to share our confession and mission with you.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

First Lesson – Isaiah 40:1-11

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. 7 The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever." 9 You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" 10 See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. 11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

Psalm for the Day – From Psalm 38

P O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger
C Or discipline me in your wrath.
P For your arrows have pierced me,
C And your hand has come down upon me.
P My guilt has overwhelmed me
C Like a burden too heavy to bear.
P All my longings lie open before you, O Lord:
C My sighing is not hidden from you.
P I wait for you, O LORD:
C You will answer, O Lord my God.
P O LORD, do not forsake me:
C Be not far from me, O my God.
P Come quickly to help me:
C O Lord my Savior.

Second Lesson – Romans 5:4,8-13

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. 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.

Sermon Text – Luke 1:67-79

67 Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: 68 “Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, 69 and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, 70 as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, 71 that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, 72 to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, 73 the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: 74 to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, 75 in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life. 76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, 77 to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the remission of their sins, 78 through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.” [NKJV]

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today (12/1)	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Sunday School (Saul, OT 37)
	10:45 am	Christmas Decorating
Sat	10:00 am	Children’s Christmas Eve Service Practice
Sun (12/8)	8:00 am	Elders’ Meeting
	8:30 am	Choir Practice
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children’s Christmas Eve Service Practice
	10:45 am	Christmas Potluck / Christmas Baskets Assembly (<i>see note below</i>)

UPCOMING EVENTS IN DECEMBER

- Children's Christmas Eve Service Practice: Saturday, Dec.7,14,21 (10:00 - 11:30 am)
- Elders' Meeting: Sunday, Dec.8, 8:00 am
- Choir Practice: Sunday, Dec.8,15,22, 8:30 am
- Children's Christmas Eve Service: Tuesday, Dec.24, 6:30 pm
- Christmas Day Service: Wednesday, Dec.25, 9:30 am
- NY's Eve Communion Service: Tuesday, Dec.31, 7 pm
- NY's Eve Gathering at the parsonage: Tues., Dec.31 8:15 pm

SERVING US AT GOD'S HOUSE TODAY

- Organist: Lisa Sprengeler
- Ushers: Wayne Ruegge, Joshua Ruegge
- Elder: Ed Chiappetti
- Communion assistant: Mike Sprengeler

IN OUR PRAYERS: Lisa Sprengeler, who is scheduled to undergo hip replacement surgery tomorrow. *"He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust" (Psalm 91:1-2).*

CHRISTMAS DECORATING: After the service today.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE PRACTICE: This Saturday, December 7, from 10:00-11:30 am. This is the first of three Saturday practices.

POTLUCK: Next Sunday we will have our annual Christmas potluck meal after the service.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS: The Mary & Martha ladies group is planning to prepare Christmas baskets (eight in number) for sharing with St. Paul members who are unable to regularly attend our worship services. If you have *non-perishable* food items you would like to donate for the baskets, please bring them to the church by next Sunday. Cash donations for purchasing items for the baskets are also welcome. These may be given to the ladies' treasurer, Crystal Ruegge. If you have questions, see Crystal.

DAILY REST DEVOTIONAL: The latest issue was distributed to subscribers last Sunday. It contains one-page devotions authored by CLC pastors for each day from December 2 through February 23. If you aren't a subscriber but would like to be, speak with the pastor. The annual subscription rate is \$15 (for four quarterly issues).

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR HOME DEVOTIONS
DECEMBER 2-7

Mon Isaiah 2:1-5 A corrupt, rebellious, rotten bunch of degenerate humans (ch. 1) had good reason to dread God, but He was planning to salvage what could be salvaged. He raised up good king Hezekiah, for example, and when Jesus walked the earth, more souls in Judah and Jerusalem were salvaged. God is still at work among the nations, and one day everyone will meet Him.

Tues Matthew 24:37-44 More information about the advent/arrival of Jesus: humans in general won't be properly prepared, no more than they were ready for the Deluge; they enjoyed eating and drinking without thought of the Giver. When Jesus returns, He will select one wage-earner for heaven and discard another, one home-maker but not the other, for He knows those who are His. Are we ready and waiting, prepared and watchful for His advent?

Wed Romans 13:11-14 What is it that we should be doing in view of Jesus' return? Serving Jesus' love to repentant sinners, so that they be cleansed by the blood of Jesus and live as reclaimed, reconfigured, regenerate children of God, brothers/sisters of Jesus. We are recognized by how we live, naturally.

Thurs Psalm 18 is so loaded with nutrition that we could dine on it all day long, inwardly digesting it mouthful by mouthful. "Through all the changing scenes of life, in trouble and in joy (4-13), of His deliv'rance I shall boast (16-19) till all that are distress from my example comfort take and charm their griefs to rest (20-24). The hosts of God encamp around the dwellings of the just; deliv'rance He affords to all who in His succor trust (25-45). Fear Him, ye saints, and you will then have nothing else to fear; Make you His service your delight, He'll make your wants His care" (46-50). [Borrowed from *TLH*, 29]

Fri Matthew 24:45 Just one verse to explore: Who is the *faithful and wise servant* to whom the Lord has entrusted the privileged responsibility of feeding His family of saints—and what is the food he distributes as the seasons progress? If it's the spiritual food that God lays on our hearts throughout the seasons of the Church Year, then the servant is the man we call "pastor," who provides us a seasoned diet of God's Word in person and in our assembly. We thank you, our pastors, for serving us this way!

Sat Acts 5:1-11 Peter was the pastor who served so as to save, and He knew how to approach folks who had fallen into the sin of sanctimonious cheating. He worked with them one-on-one; he asked a perceptive and appropriate question -- then waited for an answer. No answer, so another question. No answer, another question. Four times he gave Ananias the opportunity to face his sin, repent of it, ask forgiveness, and be forgiven. Four opportunities lost. And that's how Ananias lost all that he hoped to keep by his cheating, lying, and faking. How utterly foolish! Lord, have mercy on us when we fall into such a weakness, and come to our rescue, for Jesus' sake. Amen.