

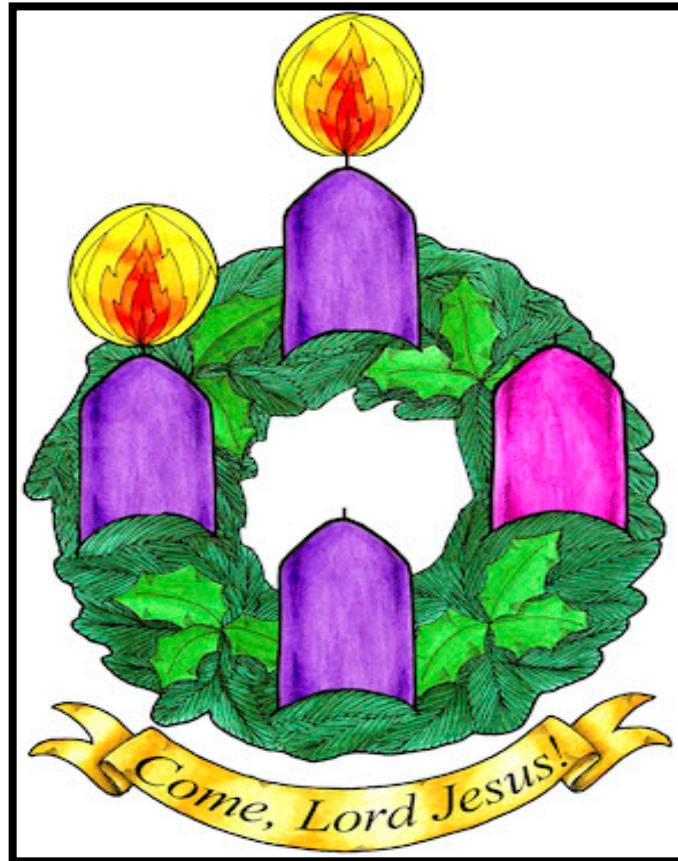
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214

Pastor: Thomas Schuetze, 303-428-5524, trschuetze@yahoo.com

Congregation President: Ed Chiappetti, 303-882-1776

Sunday School Superintendent: Derek Barthels



Heavenly Father, fill us with the power of Your Holy Spirit during this Adventide. Help us follow the example of John the Baptist, who prepared the world for the coming of its Savior. Lead us to examine our hearts. Cleanse them from the sickness of our sins, O Lord, and prepare us for the coming of Your Son, Jesus, at Christmastime. Because He wishes to dwell in our hearts, may we leave no stone unturned, no task undone. When He comes, may He find our hearts a fit dwelling place. We pray in holy and blessed name. Amen.

www.denverlutheran.com

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

Member Congregation:
Church of the Lutheran Confession
www.clclutheran.org



2nd Sunday in Advent – December 10, 2023

A Warm Welcome to Our Worship Guests. The members of St. Paul are pleased to meet you and are happy that you are here to worship with us today. We are a congregation committed without reservation to the entire truth of God's Word in the Bible. We have found joy and hope in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have found moral guidance, a way of life, and the promise of eternal life in the Holy Scriptures. It gives us pleasure to share these blessings with you. Please sign our guest book and come worship with us again!

Find today's order of worship printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. Large print copies of the order of worship are on the shelf under the tract rack, or speak to an usher who will be happy to share one with you.

Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Carly Mess

Ushers: Bob Rankin, Don Claeys

Pre-Service Meditation and Prayer

Psalm 85 (pew bible, page 526)

O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?
Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, Lord, most holy, Your lamp within my breast
To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.

Your Zion strews before You Green boughs and fairest palms;
And I, too, will adore You With joyous songs and psalms.
My heart shall bloom forever For You with praises new
And from Your name shall never Withhold the honor due.

He comes to judge the nations, A terror to His foes,
A light of consolations And blessèd hope to those
Who love the Lord's appearing. O glorious Sun, now come,
Send forth Your beams so cheering, And guide us safely home.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

Opening Prayer

Hymn

354 – *Arise, O Christian People*

Invocation

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


C 
A - men.

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 Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C 
A - men.

+++ We Praise Our Lord +++

Psalm of the Day

From Psalm 71

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me!:

C **O LORD, make haste to help me!**

P May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you!:

C **May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"**

P But I am poor and needy:

C **Hasten to me, O God!**

P You are my help and my deliverer:

C **O LORD, do not delay!**

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, th' angelic host rejoices, Heav'nly 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 40:1:1-11

Comfort for God's People

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

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



Second Lesson – Mark 1:1-8

John the Baptist Prepares the Way



1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, 3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" 4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



Our Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

344 – *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

Sermon

Text – 2 Peter 3:8-14

8 But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

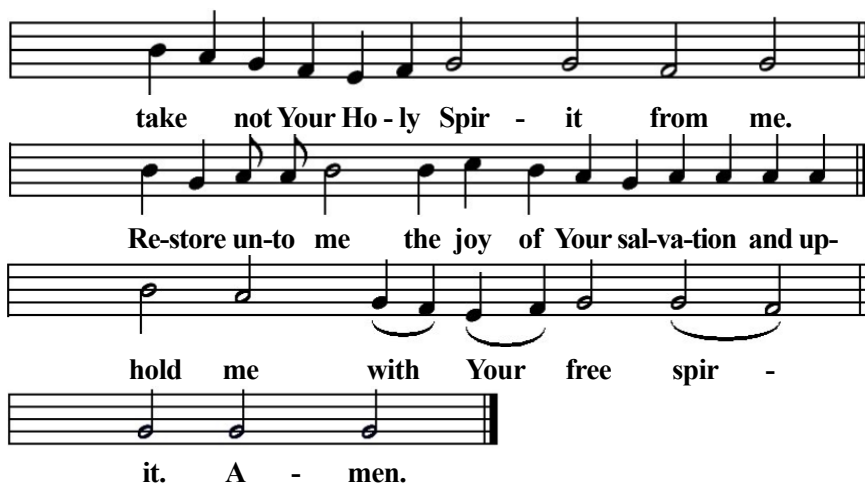
Theme – During This Time of Watching and Waiting ... What Kind of People Ought We to Be?

- ◆ People who are living lives of holiness and godliness.
- ◆ People who are looking forward to a new world.

+++ **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 / Altar Prayer / Lord's Prayer


Hymn

333 – *Once He Came in Blessing*

+++ **Our Lord Blesses Us** +++

Benediction

P The LORD bless you and keep you . . .

C 

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

Closing Hymn

348 – *The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns*

+++++

This Week at St. Paul

| | | |
|---------------|----------|--|
| Today (12/10) | 8:30 am | Choir practice |
| | 9:30 am | Worship Service |
| | 10:45 am | Christmas Potluck & Gift Bag Preparation |
| Sun (12/17) | 8:30 am | Choir practice |
| | 9:30 am | Worship Service |
| | 10:45 am | Bible Class & Sunday School |

Extended Calendar

- Children's Christmas Eve Service: Sunday, Dec.24, 6:30 pm
- Christmas Day Worship: Monday, Dec.25, 9:30 am

Donations Are Welcome for the gift bags being prepared today for our shut-ins. To give a donation for this purpose you may put it in the offering plate in a marked envelope or give it directly to Lisa Sprengeler or Crystal Ruegge.

The Ladies Are Also Accepting Donations for our Kinship seminary student sponsorship which is coming due in January (annual amount: \$360). To make a contribution for this purpose:

- Place your gift in your offering envelope with “Mary/Martha Kinship” in the “OTHER” blank,
- Place your gift in a regular envelope marked “Mary/Martha Kinship” and place it in the collection, or
- Give your donation directly to ladies’ treasurer, Crystal Ruegge.

If you make a donation with a check make it out to “St. Paul Lutheran Church” with “Mary/Martha Kinship” on the memo line.

Synod News & Notes

- **Please keep our brothers and sisters in Southern India in your prayers.** The area has been hit by a typhoon and flooding. This has caused damage to church roofs, members and pastors’ houses. Many have had to evacuate and stay in temporary shelters. One of the chairmen who lives near the BELC seminary had to evacuate his house and he and his family are staying in the BELC office.
- **Severe flooding has hit the northern part of Tanzania,** affecting the TZ-CLC congregation in Mbulu. Although no deaths have been reported, Pastor Jeremiah states that twenty members are in need of food, blankets, and tents for temporary shelter. Pastor Jeremiah has visited the area to evaluate the needs and provide emergency supplies. Thank the Lord for keeping Pastor Solomon, his family, and the Mbulu congregation safe from death and serious injury. Pray for the Lord’s blessings on the recovery efforts, and the Lord will continue to provide for and protect the members of His Mbulu flock.
- **The December CLC World Missions Prayer List,** provided by Missionary Todd Ohlmann, is available in the tract rack. You may also view it at: missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com. *"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" (Romans 12:12).*
- **Immanuel Lutheran College** will present its Christmas Choral Service, "The King in the Cradle," on Friday, December 15, 2023 at 7:30 pm CST at Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. The service will be live-streamed and recorded. The stream will be accessible via [youtube.com/ilcvideos](https://www.youtube.com/ilcvideos) and ilc.edu/tv
- **Walk with the Apostle Paul (Greece and Turkey trip)** – A group trip to Greece and Turkey is planned for May 27-June 5, 2024 with a possible three day extension to Rome for those who are interested. The trip will include visits to Athens, Corinth, Berea, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Ephesus and much more. It will include visits to the traditional sites of many of the cities and churches the Apostle Paul visited as recorded in the Book of Acts. We will be reminded of the zeal and spread of the early Christian church. The extension to Rome will include visits to the Sistine Chapel, Basilica of St. Peter, Catacombs, Colosseum, St. Paul's Church, and more. A video of a similar trip can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul-o6E47MMw>. If you would like more information about this trip, please contact Nathanael Mayhew (nnmayhew@sleepyeyelutheran.com). Brochures with additional trip details are available upon request.

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Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

December 11-16

Mon Luke 17:20-30 The Pharisees (v20), who assumed they were in the kingdom of God, did not even recognize God's ruler in their midst. His disciples (v22) knew Him and would one day long to see Him come again, which will happen suddenly at just the right time.

Tues 1 Timothy 6:11-16 Unlike the false prophet who thinks godliness is a means to gain material things, the man of God is encouraged to pursue all that reflects the Savior who is coming again.

Wed Malachi 4:1-6 In the closing verses of his book, Malachi contrasts the wicked and the faithful in the day of the Lord's coming. One is trampled by the Lord's power, the other leaping for joy.

Thur Romans 15:4-13 Paul encourages patient endurance and receiving fellow-believers as the God of hope fills us with complete joy, peace, and hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Fri Hebrews 10:35-39 The writer to the Hebrews also encourages Christians to patient endurance, continuing in the faith while waiting for the sure promises of God in Christ.

Sat James 5:7-10 As the prophets of old waited patiently for the end of suffering (v10) and the fulfillment of God's promises, so believers today need patience, also with one another (v9), while waiting for the coming of the Lord.