

# St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

*2470 Wadsworth Blvd, Lakewood, CO 80214*

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Congregation President: Ed Chiappetti, 303-882-1776

Sunday School Superintendent: Derek Barthels

*Heavenly Father, we, Your children, would like to heed the advice of the apostle Paul who urges us to be glad and rejoice in You at all times. Since our joy is the result of our faith and a free gift to us through the power of Your Holy Spirit, keep us ever mindful of this precious gift. Grant that we may never do, or say, or even think, anything that would destroy or weaken that faith. Help us to realize we are human and sinners. Help us to see how we stand in need of Your forgiving love through the merits of Jesus Christ, our advent King and Savior. In His name we pray. Amen.*

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

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Member Congregation:

Church of the Lutheran Confession

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



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent – December 24, 2023**

## Order of Worship: Service of the Word

You will find today's order of worship printed on the liturgy insert tucked inside the front cover of the maroon *Lutheran Service Book* (in the hymnal rack). If you'd like to have a large print worship bulletin speak with an usher, who will be happy to share one with you.

### Serving Us At God's House Today

Organist: Jeana Kettner

Ushers: Bob Rankin, Don Claeys

- ◆ Pre-Service Devotion: Psalm 98 (pew bible, p.533)
- ◆ Today's Hymns: 343 (1-3), 387, 352, 343 (4)
- ◆ Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 9:2-7, John 1:29-34
- ◆ Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

### **Sermon Text – Psalm 98**

#### **Theme**

***"Be Glad and Rejoice in Your Coming Lord!"***  
(Eagerly anticipate the blessings He will give you!)

- ◆ Offering of Thankful Hearts
- ◆ Altar Prayer & Lord's Prayer
- ◆ Benediction
- ◆ Closing Hymn (343, stanza 4)

## Today's Scriptures

**First Lesson – Isaiah 9:2-7**

*To Us a Child is Born*

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

**Psalm of the Day – From Psalm 89**

*Praise the Lord for His Steadfast Love*

P I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever:

**C With my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.**

P For I said, “Steadfast love will be built up forever:

**C In the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”**

P You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one:

**C I have sworn to David my servant:**

P ‘I will establish your offspring forever:

**C And build your throne for all generations.”**

P O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD:

**C With your faithfulness all around you?**

P Blessed are the people who know the festal shout:

**C Who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face.**

P Who exult in your name all the day:

**C And in your righteousness are exalted.**

P Blessed be the LORD forever!:

**C Amen and Amen.**

## Second Lesson – John 1:29-34

*Behold, the Lamb of God*

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ 31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32 And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

## Sermon Text – Psalm 98

*Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord*

1 Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. 2 The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. 3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. **4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!** 5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! 6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD! 7 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! **8 Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together 9 before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.**

*(Note: The Christmas carol "Joy to the World" is a paraphrase of the verses of Psalm 98 highlighted in purple)*

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**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.

### **This Week at St. Paul**

Today (12/24)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children's Christmas Eve Practice and Choir Practice
	6:30 pm	Children's Christmas Eve Service
Mon	9:30 am	Christmas Day Song Service
Sun (12/31)	9:30 am	Worship Service

### **Extended Calendar**

- Undecorating: Sunday, January 7
- Mary/Martha Ladies Meeting: Sunday, January 14, 10:45 am
- Annual Voters' Meeting: Sunday, January 28, 10:45 am
- Installation of Church Officers: Sunday, February 4
- CLC Cooperative Budget Plan Presentation: TBD

**Children's Christmas Eve Service – *Tonight at 6:30***

**Christmas Day Song Service – *Tomorrow at 9:30 am***

Can you think of a friend to invite?

**Pastoral Call:** Last week I received a divine call to serve as the pastor of the dual parish of Calvary Lutheran Church, Marquette MI, and St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Iron River MI. I will be giving consideration to this call in the days ahead. Pray that the Lord would lead me to a decision in keeping with His will and that serves for the spiritual welfare of His flocks in Lakewood and Marquette/Iron River. Your input and counsel as I deliberate on this call is welcome. Yours in Christ, Pastor Schuetze

# Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

## December 25-30

**Mon Luke 2:1-7** In only seven verses, Luke recounts the birth of Jesus. This is no embellished legend, but an event set in history, naming rulers, places and participants. And the hand of God was guiding all.

**Tues Luke 2:8-14** The Savior, Christ the Lord, was born for all, even shepherds out in the field. But if God had not let them (and us) know, we would all be in the dark about what He was doing for us.

**Wed Luke 2:15-20** The great importance of Jesus' birth is shown by the shepherds who leave their flock to go and see God's gift, and then to become messengers themselves. With Mary may we ponder it all again and again.

**Thur Hebrews 1:1-3** In the past God spoke through many messengers, but in these last days God spoke through His Son. Through Him God created and sustains the world. Through Him came purification for sins.

**Fri Hebrews 1:4-6** The Son of God is far superior to every other messenger of God, yes, even heaven's angels! He is the One whom all the angels worship! (v6)

**Sat Isaiah 9:6-7** The wondrous power and peace of the Christ-child is staggering, and cannot be over-emphasized! Through Him were all things made (Jn1:3). But the message that lifts our hearts to heaven is the "unto us," "unto us!" (v6). He is ours!