

**See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.**

**Matthew 11.10**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent  
December 14, 2025**

*Welcome to*  
**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Lakewood, Colorado**

**A Warm Welcome in Christ to our Worship Guests!** We are glad for the opportunity to share with you the Gospel of forgiveness through Jesus. Please introduce yourself to the pastor and sign our guest book. We invite you to come worship with us again. If you would like to know more about St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and our national organization, the Church of the Lutheran Confession, please speak with the pastor. He will be happy to call on you to share our confession and mission with you. Questions? Please speak with one of the ushers. They will be happy to assist you!

**Note** – Today we are using a new bulletin format different from what we had been using previously (only one hand out, with the entire service printed inside, instead of two). This change is being made with the thought that the new format may be a bit more user-friendly, especially for first time visitors and worship guests. You are invited to share input and comments on this new format with one of the elders (Ed, Mike or Derek) or the pastor. Thank you.



**SERVICE OF THE WORD**  
*based on The Lutheran Hymnal (pp. 5-14)*

**Opening Prayer**

**Hymn**

LSB 331 "The Advent of Our King"

## The Invocation

P: Welcome ... in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C:   
A - men.

## Confession of Sins & Announcement of Forgiveness

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.

## Responsive Psalm Reading

Psalm 146

P Praise the LORD, O my soul!: **C I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.**  
P Do not put your trust in princes: **C Nor in a son of man, in whom there is no help.**  
P Happy is he whose hope is in the LORD his God: **C Who made heaven and earth.**  
P The LORD gives food to the hungry: **C The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners.**  
P The LORD opens the eyes of the blind: **C The LORD raises those who are bowed down.**  
P The LORD watches over the strangers: **C He relieves the fatherless and widow.**  
P The LORD keeps truth forever: **C He executes justice for the oppressed.**

P: Glory be to God!

## Glory Be to the Father

*Gloria Patri*

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.

## Lord, Have Mercy

*The Kyrie*

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

## Glory to God in the Highest

*The Gloria in Excelsis*

[LSB #947:1, alt.]

All glo - ry be to God on high And thanks for all His  
fa - vor; No harm can touch or ter - ri - fy A child of  
God for - ev - er. The Fa - ther's love, the Sa-vior's birth, Bring  
peace, good will, to all the earth, Oh, thank Him for His good - ness!

P: The Lord be with you:

C:

And may He be with you.

P: Let us pray:

C:

A - men.

## First Lesson

*Isaiah 35:1-10*

1 The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; 2 it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice, even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the excellency of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are fearful-hearted, “Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you.” 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. 7 The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water; in the habitation of jackals, where each lay, there shall be grass with reeds and rushes. 8 A highway shall be there, and a road, and it shall be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, but it shall be for others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, shall not go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast go up on it; it shall not be found there. But the redeemed shall walk there, 10 and the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

C:



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

## Second Lesson

*Matthew 11:2-11*

*(Upon announcement of the Second Lesson, the congregation sings:)*

C:



Glo - ry be to You, O Lord!

1 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples 3 and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?” 4 Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” 7 As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 But what did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft garments? Indeed, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. 9 But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet. 10 For this is he of whom it is written: “Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way

before You.' 11 "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

*(The Second Lesson ended, the congregation sings:)*

C:   
Praise be to You, O Christ!

## Confession of Faith

## *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

## LSB 344 "*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*"

## Sermon

## *James 5:7 -11*

1 Therefore **be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord.** See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. 8 **You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.** 9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! 10 **My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience.** 11 Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

***Bless Me, Lord, with "Prophetic Patience"***

1. As I await the Day of Your Second Advent.
2. When I experience trouble as a sojourner in a sinful world.

## Offertory

  
Create 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

### Prayer

#### 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.

### Hymn

LSB 350 (1-3) "*Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come*"

### Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you . . .

C: 

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

### Closing Hymn

LSB 350 (4)

## This Week at St. Paul

Today (12/14)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal
	10:45 am	Gift Bags Assembly
Sat	9:00 am	Christmas Bible School (till 2:00 pm)
Sun (12/21)	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Children's Christmas Eve Rehearsal

## Extended Calendar

Dec 24	Children's Christmas Eve Service, 6:30 pm
Dec 25	Christmas Day Service, 9:30 am
Dec 31	New Year's Eve Communion Service, 6:30 pm

## Upcoming in January

Jan 4	Church Undecorating, after the service
Jan 11	Mary/Martha Ladies Meeting, 10:45 am
Jan 18	Church Council Meeting, 8:30 am
Jan 25	Annual Voters Meeting, 10:45 am

## Synod News & Notes

- ◆ Pastor Emeritus Michael Eichstadt has accepted the vacancy call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. ◇ Pastor Emeritus David Schierenbeck has accepted the call to serve as Assistant to the Pastor at Berea Ev. Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN, after he concludes serving as vacancy pastor of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN, at the end of January. ◇ Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, has returned the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. Pastor Libby is still considering the call he received to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. ◇ Pastor Michael Gurath will be installed at Peace Thru Christ Lutheran Church, Middleton, WI, on December 21.
- ◆ The choirs of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary will be presenting Light Born From Light (*O Nata Lux de Lumine*) on Friday, December 19, at Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. The evening will begin at 7:00 p.m. with the strings, band, and flute choir presenting several songs prior to the choral service. The service will be streaming live at [youtube.com/@ilcvideos](https://youtube.com/@ilcvideos).

- ◆ The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC–Tanzania, CLC–Kenya, CLC–Zambia, and CLC–Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit [www.mht.lutheranmissions.org](http://www.mht.lutheranmissions.org).
- ◆ Missionary Bruce Naumann posted a new update to his Tanzania mission blog, which you can see here: [clc-tz.blogspot.com](http://clc-tz.blogspot.com)
- ◆ A National CLC Women's (Virtual) Retreat will be held via Zoom on January 31, 2026, 10:00 am to Noon (Mountain Time). To register visit: <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause26>. This is a free event.
- ◆ Hard copies of the CLC's November financial report are available in the tract rack. CLC Treasurer Stephen Lentz reports the good news that "with a large dollar amount of contributions received in November, the deficit in the fund has almost been eliminated! Praise be to our Lord for moving the hearts of His people."

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

### December 15-20

**Mon Matthew 11:2-10** When John sends disciples to ask Jesus to confirm His Messiah-ship, He points to the prophecies which He has fulfilled. He then turns and extols John's role in the coming Kingdom of God.

**Tues Romans 10:9-15** It is with heart and mouth that Jesus is honored and salvation is enjoyed by both Jew and non-Jew. The Lord our righteousness provides preachers of the gospel to speak to the heart.

**Wed Matthew 1:18-23** The Lord appears to Joseph in a dream to let him know that Mary has not been unfaithful to her promise. This miracle of God-with-us is not something Joseph or we would have thought up.

**Thurs Isaiah 60:1-5** The coming of the Lord means the coming of light in darkness and nations will be drawn to that light. As John also writes: "In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind" (Jn1:4).

**Fri Psalm 98** Although Jesus' coming in Bethlehem was without earthly fanfare, His coming to judge the earth will be reason for shouting and singing and sounding of trumpets. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

**Sat Psalm 4** God's children may have troubles, but they know that all blessings come from the Lord. To Him they will look and from Him receive greater joys than worldly prosperity can bring (v7).

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