

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 3-4, 2022

***"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education"***



*"In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"*  
*Matthew 3:1-3*

Music of Preparation  
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting

**Our Ministry:** We are a people of God who are: ***"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education."***

**Welcome!** Welcome to the promise of Advent: Amid barren trees, Isaiah announces spring growth — a "shoot" representing new life in Jesus (11:1).

**Devotions & Publications** are available in the Main Entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

..... **WORSHIP NOTES** .....

**\*Communion:**      ***The Lord's Supper - A Reverent Sacrament***

The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:27,29, "Anyone who eats the bread or drinks the Lord's cup in an unworthy way is guilty of sinning against the Lord's body and blood. Anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the Lord's body brings judgment on himself as he eats and drinks." In view of the serious nature of the Lord's Supper, Paul commands us to examine ourselves to see if we are partaking the supper for the purposes for which Christ instituted with our hearts properly prepared. We heartily invite Confirmed members of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to receive of the Lord's Supper. Other guests, we ask you to see the pastor or lay minister first so that you may receive the supper to your benefit rather than to your harm as the Apostle Paul warns.

NOTE: If you are allergic or cannot drink full strength wine, The two (2) cups in the center of each tray have water with a drop or two of wine.

**Note About Attendance Cards...**Remember that the only way we may know you are worshiping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. ***Please list the name of each person in worship.*** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

**To Our Visitors...**Please sign our guest book found in the main entryway. Our church and school have a few nooks and crannies, so don't be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available near the guest register in the main (west) entryway.

## DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

*(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 203 in the Hymnal)*

**Notes for Worship:** As you prepare to receive the Lord's Supper this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for use before and after receiving the Lord's Supper (page 308 as well as on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

**Before worship prayer** - Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that, by patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.

**Pre-Service Music: "Pipings & On Jordan's Banks"** Liz Deck, Flute

**We're So Glad God Brought You Here Today!**

**Opening Hymn: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"** LSB, hymn #344

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry    Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings    Glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;    Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare    For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,    Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away    Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Lay on the sick Thy healing hand    And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face    Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee    Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore    And Holy Spirit evermore.

### **INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

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

C: **Amen.** Matthew 28:19b

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made heaven and earth.** Psalm 124:8

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition.  
Let us humble ourselves before our Good and gracious God.

*(Moment of silent reflection)*

P: Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Luke 18:13

C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God,

C: **merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto 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: **Amen.** John 20:19-23

**KYRIE ~ Lord Have Mercy (Sung)** Mark 10:47

**Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.**

**Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory To God In The Highest (Sung)** Luke 2:14; John 1:29

**To God on high be glory    And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven    Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father;    Your holy name we sing  
Our thanks for Your great glory,    Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

To You, O sole-begotten,    The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior,    You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus;    Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated    At God's right hand on high

For You alone are holy,    You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever,    Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit    Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.    "Amen!" our glad reply.

P: The Lord be with you. 2 Timothy 4:22

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . . Lord of life and light, as Your Word and call to repentance was spoken by John the Baptist, so speak to us now through that same Word to prepare the way and make straight the paths to receive and welcome Your only-begotten Son that we may have life and bear fruit in Your name; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*(Please be Seated)*

### THE READING OF THE WORD

**Old Testament Lesson:** Isaiah 11:1-10    *(A Shoot From The Stump Of Jesse)*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand

on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples - of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

*Stand (as you are able)*

### Alleluia and Verse

*John 20:31*

**C: (Sung) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 3:1-12

*(John The Baptizer Prepares The Way)*

In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight." Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be Seated)*

## Sermon Hymn: “Prepare the Royal Highway”

LSB, hymn #343

Prepare the royal highway;    The King of kings is near!  
Let ev’ry hill and valley    A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory    Foretold in sacred story:  
*Hosanna to the Lord,    For He fulfills God’s Word!*

God’s people, see Him coming:    Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before Him!    Spread garments! Shout and sing!  
God’s promise will not fail you!    No more shall doubt assail you!  
*Hosanna to the Lord,    For He fulfills God’s Word!*

Then fling the gates wide open    To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev’ry nation    Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him!    All nations, now adore Him!  
*Hosanna to the Lord,    For He fulfills God’s Word!*

His is no earthly kingdom;    It comes from heav’n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom    And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding    For kindness so abounding:  
*Hosanna to the Lord,    For He fulfills God’s Word!*

## Sermon: “Uncomfortable”

Matthew 3:1-12

Stand (as you are able)

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C: 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**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

As You raised up a voice in the wilderness, O Lord, continue to equip Your people to speak to those in darkness and to call them forth into Your light. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Guide Your Church, O Lord, and all who serve her, that they may be faithful in their vocation as pastors, missionaries, and church workers, and bless this congregation that we may be steadfast in hope, faithful in confession, and united in the work of proclaiming Your holy name in this community and to the world, that in repentance, the Good News of forgiveness may be known to all here and throughout world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Make our leaders wise and selfless, Lord, that our nation may faithfully use all that You have entrusted to us and that we may act with mercy and justice for all people; lead all nations in the path of peace and bless our armed forces here and abroad. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, open our eyes to those in need that we may extend the comfort of Your grace to the hungry, the unemployed, the aged, and those forgotten in our society. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, give aid to the wounded in body or spirit, give healing to the sick, give relief to the suffering, and sustain the dying in Your peace. We pray that You



be with those hospitalized this past week (*Especially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

(*Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .*)

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

**C: Hear Our Prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen**

(*Please be Seated*)

#### **Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards**

**Special Music: "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"**

*Liz Deck, Flute*

#### **OFFERTORY - Let The Vineyards**

*LSB, Hymn # 955*

**C: (Sung) Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

#### **HOLY COMMUNION**

(*In preparation to receive the Sacrament, please read the Communion notes on page 2*)

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*2 Timothy 4:22*

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

*Colossians 3:1*

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Psalms 136*

P: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord. We praise and thank You for Your love for us for You have conquered sin and death and You give to us eternal life. Therefore with

angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

#### **SANCTUS ~ Holy, Holy, Holy (Sung)**

*Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;**

**Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.**

**Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;**

**Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

P: Let us pray . . . . Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us, Your children, and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts that he may establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to remember our Redeemer and receive him who comes to us in his body and blood. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

**C: 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.**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

#### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION:**

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: Take, eat; this is my + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me. In the same way also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: Drink of it, all of you; this is my + blood of the new testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

*Mt 26:26-28, Mk 14:22-24, Lk 22:19-20, 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## Agnus Dei

LSB pg210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*(Please be Seated)*

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### LSB628 - Your Table I Approach

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.  
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;  
A contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,  
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;  
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined  
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night  
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

### LSB347 - Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

"Comfort, comfort ye My people, Speak ye peace," thus saith our God;  
"Comfort those who sit in darkness, Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover And her warfare now is over."

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, Blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved His anger He no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many\_a day, Now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness Into ever-springing gladness.

Hark, the herald's voice is crying In the desert far and near,  
Calling sinners to repentance, Since the Kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet Him And the hills bow down to greet Him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked; Make the rougher places plain.  
Let your hearts be true and humble, As befits His holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token That His Word is never broken.

### LSB352 - Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Let the earth now praise the Lord, Who has truly kept His word  
And at last to us did send Christ, the sinner's help and friend.

What the fathers most desired,    What the prophets' heart inspired,  
What they longed for many\_a year,    Stands fulfilled in glory here.

Abram's promised great reward,    Zion's helper, Jacob's Lord—  
Him of twofold race behold—    Truly came, as long foretold.

As Your coming was in peace,    Quiet, full of gentleness,  
Let the same mind dwell in me    Which is Yours eternally.

Bruise for me the serpent's head    That, set free from doubt and dread,  
I may cling to You in faith,    Safely kept through life and death.

Then when You will come again    As the glorious king to reign,  
I with joy will see Your face,    Freely ransomed by Your grace.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**P:** Let us pray. . . . Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we thank You for having welcomed us at Your Table, giving us a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. Strengthen us through this blessed gift that we may live in hope-filled anticipation of the end of all earthly things and await with joy Your final coming in glory. Grant that Your Holy Spirit enlighten us with His gifts that we be kept in the true faith until the last and greatest day of our Lord's return. We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Savior.

**C: Amen**

**BLESSING**

**P:** Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm 103:1*

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

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

*Numbers 6:24-26*

**Closing Hymn: “Hark the Glad Sound”**

*LSB, hymn #349*

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,    The Savior promised long;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne    And ev'ry voice a song.

He comes the pris'ners to release,    In Satan's bondage held.  
The gates of brass before Him burst,    The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,    The bleeding soul to cure,  
And with the treasures of His grace    To enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,    Thy welcome shall proclaim,  
And heav'n's eternal arches ring    With Thy beloved name.

**See You In Worship Next Week!**

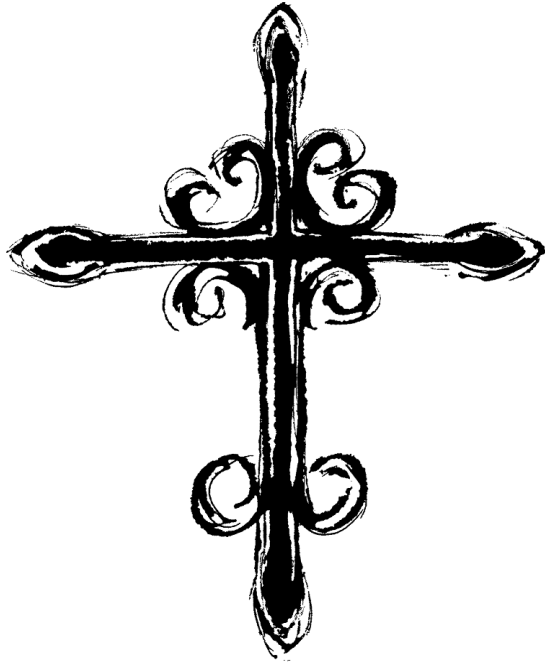
**After worship prayer**

*Enable us in sincerity of heart to follow You, the only true God. By Your holy Word enlighten all who are in error, doubt, or temptation with the sure and certain knowledge of Your truth that all who live in sin may be led to repentance. Show mercy and grace to all those suffering any distress, to those who are sick or hospitalized, and to those facing death. Let them know the sure comfort of Your holy Word. AMEN.*

*There will be Prayer Ministry Member(s) in each service that will be wearing a prayer ministry tag around their neck. Please look for them if you are wanting prayer for yourself, someone else or prayer for a concern or situation you may have.*

*Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.*

**Altar Flowers** Altar flowers this weekend are given In loving memory of my mother, Marsha Wagner, by Kayla Wagner.



## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

<b>Rev. Karl J. Koeppen</b> . . . . . Senior Pastor	<b>Rev. David Baker</b> . . . . . Missionary to Mongolia
<b>Rev. Roger A. Drinnon</b> . . . Associate Pastor	<b>Church &amp; School Office:</b> . . . . . 932-0312
<b>Mr. Richard Nordmeyer</b> . . . Interim Principal	<b>Mary Weber, Family Counselor</b> . . 932-0312 ext 1458
<b>Church Campus</b> . . . . . 348 E. Merchant, Kankakee	
<b>School Campus and Church &amp; School Office</b> . . . . . 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais	
<b>Church &amp; School Website</b> . . . . . <a href="http://www.stpaulslutheran.net">www.stpaulslutheran.net</a>	

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(PK)

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