

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 7-8, 2024

**“Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education”**

**“Persevere With Thanksgiving”**



**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 worship at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church as we continue to prepare our hearts for the coming Messiah.

**Devotions & Publications Available** are found in the main entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

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

**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...**Our school has 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.

**For All Who Worship...**If you are arriving after the service has started, please allow our ushers to assist you with seating. We ask that you avoid entering during the confession, prayers, or Bible readings as these are quiet and meditative moments.

**For Parents with Small Children...**We love and want children in our services as a part of God’s family, to spend time with Jesus, and to learn how to worship. We also know that kids can be kids. If you need assistance, we have a nursery for children up to age 4 manned with people who love to share the love of Christ with little kids in the lower grade wing. The nursery is staffed during Sunday School and the 11:05 worship service. We want you and your children to experience our Lord’s love and to have a great opportunity to worship the Lord along with all who are gathered here to praise our Savior’s name.

## DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING ONE

*(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 151 in the Hymnal)*

**Notes for Worship:** As you prepare for worship 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 all aspects of the Christian Life (some of the prayers are also located on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

### **Before worship prayer**

*Almighty God, grant that we, who have been redeemed from the old life of sin by our baptism into the death and resurrection of Your Son Jesus Christ, may be renewed by Your Holy Spirit to live in righteousness and true holiness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.*

**8:30am Special Music: "We Light the Advent Candle"** Hope Brammer, Solo

### **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: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*

P: Dear Friends in Christ, let us humble our hearts before our Holy God and silently reflect upon our sins.

*(Moment of silent reflection)*

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. 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. *John 20:19-23*

C: **Amen**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE**

**Gloria in Excelsis ~Glory to God in the Highest** *Luke 2:14, John 1:29*

P: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

C: **(Sung) Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father: We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

P: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

**C: (Sung) And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . . Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; 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:** Malachi 3:1-7b

*(A Prophet Foretold)*

“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.”

*Stand (as you are able)*

**Alleluia and Verse - Common**

*John 6:68*

**C: (Sung) Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

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

**C: (Sung) Glory to You, O Lord.**

**Gospel Lesson:** Luke 3:1-20

*(A Prophet Speaks Of The Messiah)*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin 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.” And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.” As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people. But Herod the tetrarch, who had been reproved by him for Herodias, his brother’s wife, and for all the evil things that Herod had done, added this to them all, that he locked up John in prison.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C: **(Sung) Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Sermon Hymn: “When All the World Was Cursed”** *LSB, hymn #346*

When all the world was cursed By Moses’ condemnation,  
Saint John the Baptist came With words of consolation.  
With true forerunner’s zeal The greater One he named,  
And Him, as yet unknown, As Savior he proclaimed.

Before he yet was born, He leaped in joyful meeting,  
Confessing Him as Lord Whose mother he was greeting.  
By Jordan’s rolling stream, A new Elijah bold,  
He testified of Him Of whom the prophets told:

Behold the Lamb of God That bears the world’s transgression,  
Whose sacrifice removes The devil’s dread oppression.  
Behold the Lamb of God, Who takes away our sin,  
Who for our peace and joy Will full atonement win.

O grant, dear Lord of love, That we receive, rejoicing,  
The word proclaimed by John, Our true repentance voicing,  
That gladly we may walk Upon our Savior’s way  
Until we live with Him In His eternal day.

**Sermon: “Prepare The Way For The Lord”** *Luke 3:4-6*

Stand (as you are able)

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

C: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And 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 sits at the  
right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards**

**8:30am Special Music: “Promise Fulfilled”** *Hope Brammer, Solo*

**OFFERTORY - Create In Me** *LSB, Divine Service 3, pg 192-193*

C: **(Sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within  
me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy Holy Spirit  
from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with  
Thy free spirit.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** *1 Timothy 2:1-4*

P: Let us pray, . . . Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for  
all people according to their needs. . . . Dear heavenly Father, as we prepare  
the way for Christ to come, we proclaim: “Blessed is the King who comes in  
the name of the Lord! Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, we have kept our distance from You. Our repentance and return to You  
has been halfhearted and imperfect. Forgive us, and return to us despite our  
failures. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, we have kept our distance from our neighbors, from the suffering and  
forsaken, from the widow and the orphan, from the foreigner and refugee.  
Strengthen us to serve our neighbors, and strengthen them in their trials. Lord,  
in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, heal the sick, injured, and recovering among us. We lift up before You  
those hospitalized this past week (*Epecially, . . .*). 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*). Strengthen them with Your gracious hand  
and with Your unwavering presence. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, console the grieving with Your presence. Comfort them with the hope of resurrection life that is ours in Christ Jesus. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Lord, help us to live under Your perfect care. Prevent us from turning aside to idols and distractions. Keep our eyes fixed on Jesus that we evermore proclaim: "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! 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, who has taught us to pray:

**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**

### **BENEDICTION**

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: (Sung) Amen**

**Closing Hymn: "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"** *LSB, hymn #345*

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding! "Christ is near," we hear it say.  
"Cast away the works of darkness, All you children of the day!"

Startled at the solemn warning, Let the earthbound soul arise;  
Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling, Shines upon the morning skies.

See, the Lamb, so long expected, Comes with pardon down from heav'n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, One and all, to be forgiv'n;

So, when next He comes in glory And the world is wrapped in fear,  
He will shield us with His mercy And with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, dominion To the Father and the Son  
With the ever-living Spirit While eternal ages run!

### **See You In Worship Next Week!**

#### ***After worship prayer***

*Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. AMEN.*

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

*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 sister, Paulette Forehand and nephew, Eric Forehand, by Michelle and Randy Gossman, Rhonda & Dustin, Parker & Carter Childs; and Angie & Ryan, Luke & Audrey Chalmers; also in loving memory of our son and brother, Jimmy Jenkins, by Marilyn & Dick Jenkins, Amanda Fedrow, and Edie & Rob Rudolph and family.



# ADVENT

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

<b>Rev. Karl J. Koeppen</b> ..... Senior Pastor <b>Rev. Roger A. Drinnon</b> ..... Associate Pastor <b>Mr. Brian Porter</b> ..... Principal	<b>Rev. David Baker</b> ..... Missionary to Mongolia <b>Rev. Ross Engel</b> ..... Adopt-A-Chaplain <b>Church &amp; School Office:</b> ..... 932-0312
<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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