



**The Third Sunday in Advent**  
**December 14, A+D 2025**



# St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

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DIVINE SERVICE

Setting 4 – Page 203

Lutheran Service Book

## **The Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ Brings True Rejoicing, Even Under the Cross**

Sometimes life requires the astonishing patience of Job. Like him, we are to rejoice in the midst of affliction, be grounded in repentance under the cross of Christ, and hope relentlessly in His resurrection, that we might see “the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful” (James 5:11). In the promise of the Gospel, therefore, “be patient” and “establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand” (James 5:7, 8). Like St. John the Baptist, whatever your own kind of prison or suffering may be, call upon Jesus and receive the strength of His Word from those He sends to you. For as “the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up,” so is the Good News of Jesus preached to you also (Matt. 11:5). He comes and restores the fortunes of Zion, His Holy Church, so that “sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Is. 35:10).

*Ringing of the Bells*

*Welcome*

## Confession and Absolution

**346 When All the World Was Cursed**

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

### Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

### Exhortation

*LSB 203*

- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

- 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. 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.

### Confession of Sins

*LSB 203*

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

### Prayer for Forgiveness

- P** Almighty God, 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.  
**C** **Amen.**

*Stand*

# Service of the Word

## Introit

*Psalm 71:14–18; antiphon: Philippians 4:4*

- P** Rejoice in the Lord always;  
**C** **again I will say, Rejoice.**  
**P** I will hope continually  
**C** **and will praise you yet more and more.**  
**P** My mouth will tell of your righteous acts, of your deeds of salvation all the day,  
**C** **for their number is past my knowledge.**  
**P** With the mighty deeds of the Lord GOD I will come;  
**C** **I will remind them of your righteousness, yours alone.**  
**P** O God, from my youth you have taught me,  
**C** **and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.**  
**P** So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me,  
**C** **until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.**  
**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**  
**P** Rejoice in the Lord always;  
**C** **again I will say, Rejoice.**

## Kyrie

*LSB 204*



- C** Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray.  
 Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

**Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 35:1–10*

**A** The Old Testament Reading for The Third Sunday in Advent is from the thirty-fifth chapter of the prophecy of Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;  
<sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly  
 and rejoice with joy and singing.  
 The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
 the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
 They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
 the majesty of our God.  
<sup>3</sup>Strengthen the weak hands,  
 and make firm the feeble knees.  
<sup>4</sup>Say to those who have an anxious heart,  
 "Be strong; fear not!  
 Behold, your God  
 will come with vengeance,  
 with the recompense of God.  
 He will come and save you."  
<sup>5</sup>Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
 and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
<sup>6</sup>then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
 and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.  
 For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
 and streams in the desert;  
<sup>7</sup>the burning sand shall become a pool,  
 and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
 in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,  
 the grass shall become reeds and rushes.  
<sup>8</sup>And a highway shall be there,  
 and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;  
 the unclean shall not pass over it.

It shall belong to those who walk on the way;  
 even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.  
<sup>9</sup>No lion shall be there,  
 nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
 they shall not be found there,  
 but the redeemed shall walk there.  
<sup>10</sup>And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
 and come to Zion with singing;  
 everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
 they shall obtain gladness and joy,  
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### Epistle

*James 5:7–11*

**A** The Second Reading is from the fifth chapter of the General Epistle of James.

<sup>7</sup>Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup>You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. <sup>9</sup>Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. <sup>10</sup>As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Alleluia and Verse**

**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



**C** These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**Holy Gospel***Matthew 11:2-15*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>2</sup>When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup>and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>4</sup>And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

<sup>7</sup>As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.

<sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you."

<sup>11</sup>Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. <sup>12</sup>From the days of John the



Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause He's giv - en\_\_ Je - sus  
 Christ His Son. Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, Give  
 thanks to the Ho - ly One, Give thanks \_\_\_\_\_ be - cause He's giv - en\_\_  
 Je - sus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say "I am  
 strong," Let the poor say "I am rich," \_\_\_\_\_ Be - cause of  
 what the Lord has done for us. And now let the  
 weak say "I am strong," Let the poor say "I am  
 rich," \_\_\_\_\_ Be - cause of what the Lord has done for us.  
 Give thanks, \_\_\_\_\_ give thanks. \_\_\_\_\_

Text and tune: Henry Smith, 1952

Text and tune: © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001510

## Prayer of the Church

*Ektene Form*

- P** ... let us pray to the Lord:  
**C** Lord, have mercy.

## Lord's Prayer

- P** 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.

### Concluding Collect

- P** Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** 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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.
- C** Amen.

### 398 Hail to the Lord's Anointed

*Silent Prayer*

*Announcements*

### Acknowledgments

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FOOD PANTRY



GENERAL FUND



[WWW.SPLCMS.ORG](http://WWW.SPLCMS.ORG)



## **Let's Discuss ZOOM Room**

Monday - Friday Devotions

Portals of Prayer 8:00am to 8:15am

LHM Advent Devotions 8:00pm to 8:15pm

For the Link:

Call or Text Church Cell: 312-533-1896

Email: [letsdiscuss@splcms.org](mailto:letsdiscuss@splcms.org)

### **Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**

9:30am Advent Worship Service

10:30am Breakfast

### **Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:30am Worship Service

10:30am Coffee &...

### **Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

6:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service



Join us on Christmas Eve, for coffee, hot cocoa, cookies & fellowship. Before or after our Candle Light service at 6



# The Glad Spirit

## St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

December 14, 2025

### **REMEMBER IN PRAYER**

#### **ST. PAUL'S FAMILY**

Norma Allen  
 Andrew Bahm  
 Dave Bloom  
 Sandy Bodza  
 Austin Brandy

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

Bill Sommer, 12/16  
 Kristen Dunne, 12/18  
 Margaret Loitz, 12/19



#### **CONFIRMATION ANNIVERSARIES**

Laurie Michels, 12/17  
 Janice Reichert, 12/18  
 Richard Reichert, 12/18

#### **SPECIAL CONCERNS**

**Pray for** Janice Abel, Sandy Bodza, Sondra Budde, Pastor Collins, Carmen Dampier, Judy Diekleman, Shirley Emerick, Latricia Harris, Ed Hoeksema Jr., Chester Orendorff, Violet Rich, Bill Sommer, Dolly Tagenhorst, Warren & Chris Van Mynen, Jean and Gene Wiltjer, Ray & Madelaine Zander.

**Serving in the Military** – Austin Brandy, Jessica Calderon-Phillips, Dakoda Gaut and Nathan Lopez.

**Serving as First Responders** – David Allen, Dave Bloom, Nathan Conway, Harrison & Arianna Cromey, Brianne Giba, Melanie Hudson, Brian Orth, Dana Tatgenhorst, Taylor VanDommelen and Dan Zander.

# NEWS UPDATE

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Join us on Christmas Eve, for coffee, hot cocoa, cookies & fellowship. Before or after our Candle Light service at 6

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St. Paul Book Club will meet on Wednesday January 14th at 10:00 am, to review *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods. We always welcome new members. We enjoy fellowship and lunch following the discussion.

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**Christ For You the week of December 14<sup>th</sup> on KFUE.org:** We're continuing our series, "Yearning for the Day of Christ's Return" on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT)! This week, we'll be studying 1 Thessalonians 5-2 Thessalonians 2. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as we continue our series, "Prophecy and Fulfillment, looking at Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Christ in the New. On the Coffee Hour this week (weekdays at 9 a.m. CT), we have some fun things to share, including a new learning opportunity through Concordia Nebraska, and an update from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Find your favorite programs on demand at [kfuo.org](http://kfuo.org) or in the KFUE Radio app!

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**The Week of December 14<sup>th</sup> Answering Arguments Against Christianity...** The Christian God is Misogynistic, The Meaning of Life Is Found in Using Technology, We Don't Need the Christian God to Be Good. Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to responses to common objections to Christianity at [issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

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“And every life matters to God. It is impossible to live—even for a few moments on this earth—and not influence somebody in one way or another. We are all always influencing somebody—either for good or for bad. Life matters. Your life matters. Lives of kings and lives of shepherds all matter. We all matter and are important to God.” Dennis D. Nelson, Lutheran CORE – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)

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# The Gifts that Jesus Brings

The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. Matthew 11:5 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 11:2-11 (NIV).



P	F	R	A	I	S	E	D	X	P	X	G	W	O	B
R	K	P	R	I	S	O	N	T	T	U	P	O	X	O
E	S	J	E	F	N	I	B	S	U	Q	D	O	O	A
A	D	O	F	K	O	I	I	S	B	C	N	E	O	D
C	U	H	N	G	I	R	H	E	Y	U	L	U	A	R
H	W	N	S	R	H	M	E	F	D	R	Z	N	F	D
E	A	M	F	C	C	C	A	D	L	E	Z	E	T	N
D	L	M	K	R	C	E	X	L	M	D	E	W	C	I
V	K	J	A	S	D	F	L	L	C	S	W	S	Q	S
H	B	E	S	B	B	I	E	E	D	H	E	A	R	T
E	H	L	U	I	L	A	M	E	P	H	O	N	N	I
A	Y	Z	I	P	G	W	H	I	P	R	B	P	X	N
R	O	N	C	N	H	H	M	I	M	G	O	Q	A	E
D	Y	D	X	Q	D	I	T	A	H	I	Y	S	M	J
A	O	Y	K	B	B	P	H	F	L	F	E	H	Y	E

BLIND  
GOOD  
RAISED  
NEWS

LAME  
PREACHED  
SEE  
CURED

HEARD  
POOR  
LEPROSY  
SIGHT

DEAF  
CHRIST  
PRISON  
WALK

HEAR  
DEAD  
JOHN  
HEAR



# GOD'S PEOPLE IN ACTION

## ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

December 3<sup>rd</sup> Attendance 12

December 7<sup>th</sup> Attendance 13, 12 Communed, 20 Online

Envelopes	\$1,080.00	Weekly Missions	\$35.00
Basket	175.00	Church Maint	10.00
Advent	186.00	Social Ministry	175.00
Lent	50.00		
General Fund	1,175		
<b>Budgeted Total</b>	<b>2,666.00</b>	<b>Non-budgeted Total</b>	<b>\$220.00</b>
Offering Needed	1,423.00		
	<b>\$1,243.00</b>		



## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today

9:30 am Worship Service  
10:30 am Coffee &...

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

9:30 am Lenten Worship Service  
10:30 am Lenten Brunch

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service  
10:30 am Coffee &...

## SERVANT SCHEDULE

Sun, Dec 14, 9:30 AM

Sun, Dec 21, 9:30 AM

Pastor

Lay Reader

Pastor Rock

## Let's Discuss

## ZOOM ROOM

### MONDAY – FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

Portals of Prayer 8:00am to 8:15am

Lutheran Hour 8:00pm to 8:15pm

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