



The Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 21, A+D 2024



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

508 N. Chicago Road • Thornton, IL 60476

Landline: 708-877-6564

Church Cell: 312-533-1896

office@splcms.org

www.splcms.org

www.facebook.com/splcms

DIVINE SERVICE

Setting 3 – Page 184

Lutheran Service Book

God's Word Is Fulfilled for Us in the Flesh and Blood of Christ Jesus, the Son of Mary

The Fourth Sunday in Advent turns our attention toward the Nativity of Our Lord. With the blessed Virgin Mary, we await the coming of the Christ, her Son, conceived in her womb by the Word and Spirit of God. This fulfillment of the sign once given to the house of David, that “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son” (Is. 7:14), is now given to us in the Gospel. It declares that salvation is by His grace alone, entirely His work and a free gift. It also is the way and means by which the Lord our God is Immanuel, “God with us.” The almighty and eternal Son of God is conceived and born of Mary, and is thus “descended from David according to the flesh” (Rom. 1:3–4). He comes in this way to save us with His own flesh and blood; wherefore, He is called “Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). As Joseph received this sign in faith and immediately “did as the angel of the Lord commanded him” (Matt. 1:24), we also live by faith in this Holy Gospel.

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Confession and Absolution

350 Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

Stand

Invocation

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

184

- 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.
- P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
- P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

LSB 184

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

LSB 185

- 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.

Stand

Service of the Word

Introit

Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

P Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,

C that the mountains might quake at your presence.

P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

C and in his word I hope;

P my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,

C more than watchmen for the morning.

P O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love,

C and with him is plentiful redemption.

P And he will redeem Israel

C from all his iniquities.

Gloria Patri

LSB 186



C 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, world with-out end. A-men.

P Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,

C that the mountains might quake at your presence.

Kyrie*LSB 186*

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



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

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading*Isaiah 7:10–17*

A The Old Testament Reading for The Fourth Sunday in Advent is from the seventh chapter of the prophecy of Isaiah.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹"Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹²But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test." ¹³And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil

and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 1:1–7

A The Second Reading is from the first chapter of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans.

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia

190



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

Holy Gospel*Matthew 1:18–25*

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



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

159

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.

Sit

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

sts. 1-4

Sermon: "Today... Tomorrow... I Will Be!"

Matthew 1:18-25

357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

sts. 5-7

Sit

Gathering of Tithes & Offerings

If you are submitting a prayer request on a prayer card, kindly hand it directly to the usher. Do not place it into the offering plate.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 192

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

159

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

Service of the Sacrament

Preface*LSB 194***P** The Lord be with you.**C** And with thy spir - it.**P** Lift up your hearts.**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.**C** It is meet and right so to do.**Proper Preface (Full)**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

LSB 195



Q Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

196

P 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



Q For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the



glo - ry for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 197

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 cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

LSB 197

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 198



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution of Christ's Body and Blood

Members of other Christian denominations who are present may come forward to receive a blessing from the Pastor during the distribution. It is requested that you cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire this blessing.

Silent Prayer Just Before Communing: Dear Savior, at your gracious invitation, I come to Your table to eat and drink Your holy body and blood. Let me find favor in Your eyes to receive this holy Sacrament in faith for the salvation of my soul and to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Silent Prayer Just After Communing: Almighty and everlasting God, I thank and praise You for feeding me the life-giving body and blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit that, having with my mouth received the holy Sacrament. I may by faith obtain and eternally enjoy Your divine grace the forgiveness of sins unity with Christ, and life eternal; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

352 Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

Stand

The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

C Amen.

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,

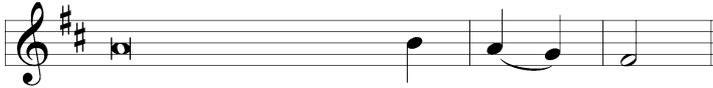


a light to light-en the Gen-tiles and the glo-ry of Thy
 peo-ple Is - ra-el. Glo-ry be to the Father and
 to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

Thanksgiving

200

A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Salutation*LSB 201***P** The Lord be with you.**C** And with thy spir - it.**Benedicamus***LSB 202***A** Bless we the Lord.**C** Thanks be to God.**Benediction***LSB 202***P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.**349 Hark the Glad Sound****Acknowledgments**

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV®

Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright ©

2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

Prayer of the church is adapted from "Let us Pray" a service of the Commission on Worship of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



FOOD PANTRY



GENERAL FUND



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

Wednesday, December 24th

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 21, 2025

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

ST. PAUL'S FAMILY

Bob & Deb Brandy
Chris Carr
Diana Carr
Nicholas & Dana Carr

BAPTISM ANNIVERSARIES

Marina Middleton, 12/24
Dominic Ramirez, 12/25
Camden Wisely, 12/27



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

Contact the office to share a personal testimonial about what God has done for you. Or original art that is inspirational or humorous to the artist.



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



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.

Christ For You the week of December 21st on KFUFU.org: Merry Christmas! On Thursday, December 25th at 10 a.m. CT, Village Lutheran in Ladue, MO will broadcast their Christmas Day service live on KFUFU. But the celebration doesn't stop there! Join us as we rejoice in the coming of our Savior during the 12 Days of Christmas! Tune in December 24th-January 6th for special programming and beautiful sacred music in honor of the season!

The Week of December 21st Sacred Music For The Christmas Season... "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come," "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is," "Once in Royal David's City," "Silent Night, Holy Night," "Joy to the World." Beginning Christmas Eve, you can listen to sacred music for the Christmas season 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org, Amazon Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomePod, TuneIn and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

"As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us pray for all mothers who find themselves pregnant and afraid. Abortion is never the answer. We pray daily that the Lord will strengthen all expectant mothers who find themselves alone and seemingly without hope and that He will help them choose life. Every human being's life is a precious and beautiful miracle." Judie Brown, American Life League – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org



FOOD PANTRY



GENERAL FUND



WWW.SPLCMS.ORG

An Angel Appears to Joseph

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. Matthew 1:24-25 (NIV)



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

ANGEL
NAME
MARY

IMMANUEL
SON
JESUS

AFRAID
CHRIST
JOSEPH

DREAM
CHILD
VIRGIN

MARRY
BIRTH
HUSBAND

GOD'S PEOPLE IN ACTION



ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

December 10th

December 14th Attendance 7, 4 Online

Envelopes	\$867.00	Weekly Missions	\$40.00
Basket	65.50	Luth. Church Charity	30.00
Advent	221.00	Church Maint	10.00
		Social Ministry	425.00
Budgeted Total	<u>1,153.50</u>	Non-budgeted Total	<u>\$505.00</u>
Offering Needed	<u>1,423.00</u>		
Short	\$-269.50		



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today

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

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

6:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service

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

SERVANT SCHEDULE

Sun, Dec 21, 9:30 AM

Sun, Dec 28, 9:30 AM

Pastor

Pastor Rock

Pastor Klein

Lay Reader

ZOOM ROOM

MONDAY – FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

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

Lutheran Hour 8:00pm to 8:15pm

For the Link:

Call or Text Church Cell: 312-533-1896

Email: letsdiscuss@splcms.org

Let's Discuss

