

A REAL CHRISTMAS



ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES

Third Sunday in Advent
A Real Christmas Results in Great Joy

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church | Jordan, Minnesota

December 15, 2024

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service, we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God’s holy and powerful word and celebrate his life-giving sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him.

TODAY’S THEME

Multiple studies have proven that the holiday season exacerbates mental health issues. For some, the pressure to have “a perfect Christmas” can be overwhelming. For others, their loneliness is amplified. Such people need a real Christmas, one that results in great joy. But joy is not the same thing as happiness. It is infinitely better. Happiness is an emotion. Joyfulness is a condition. Happiness comes from your circumstances. Joyfulness comes from Christ assuring you of his abiding love and your glorious future. Therefore, happiness – “Holiday cheer” – is fleeting. Joyfulness is enduring. The historic Christian Church gave Latin titles to each Sunday. They titled the Third Sunday in Advent “Gaudette,” which means “Rejoice!” As we reach the midway point of Advent, we ask Christ to empower us to do just that.

CLOSE COMMUNION

Following the guidance of Scripture, we invite those who are members of this congregation or one of our sister WELS congregations to join us as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper this morning. Those who are members of other church bodies are asked to speak with the pastor before attending the Lord’s Supper. With this practice, it is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God’s Word. Thank you for respecting our practice regarding the Lord’s Supper.

Pastor.....Jeremy Glowicki
Organist.....Noah Helke

Stand

In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4:6,10

Dear friends, the season of Advent is a time of preparation as we await Christ's second coming on the Last Day. We prepare our hearts to meet him as we humbly seek his forgiveness.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness; therefore, you are feared.

Psalm 130:3,4

975 My Soul Will Magnify the Lord

CW 975 st. 1

1 My soul will mag - ni - fy the Lord; I re - joice in God my
Sav - ior, in the won - der of his fa - vor.
For he has done great things for me, he was mind - ful
of his ser - vant; ev - 'ry age shall call me bless - ed.
The hope of A - bra - ham come in the
giv - ing of a Son; for he who prom - ised is
might - y in re - mem - ber - ing his mer - cy.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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God's promise to Abraham and his descendants was fulfilled in the coming of his Son. Jesus Christ humbled himself by submitting to God's law. He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross. God promises to lift up the humble and fill the hungry with good things because of the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor,
so that we through his poverty might become rich.**

2 Corinthians 8:9

Even as we await Christ's second coming, he comes to us here and now in the words he gives his messengers to speak: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

975 My Soul Will Magnify the Lord

CW 975 st. 2

2 My soul will mag-ni-fy the Lord for his grace to those who
fear him through ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.
The proud he scat-ters to the wind as the rul-er's
strength is bro-ken, and the rich are left with noth-ing.
The hum-ble lift-ed high, and the

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'My Soul Will Magnify the Lord'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '2' indicating a second ending. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: '2 My soul will mag-ni-fy the Lord for his grace to those who fear him through ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion. The proud he scat-ters to the wind as the rul-er's strength is bro-ken, and the rich are left with noth-ing. The hum-ble lift-ed high, and the'.

hun - gry sat - is - fied; our por - tion and our
 trea - sure, our hope and help for - ev - er.

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Lighting of the Advent Candle

We light three Advent candles, remembering Jesus, the Light of the world. He came to defeat the prince of darkness.

We remember Jesus, who came as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

We delight greatly in the Lord; our souls rejoice in our God.

We light the pink Advent candle as a sign of our joy.

Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come.

Through your Word and Spirit may we rejoice as we wait for your return.

Three Advent Candles are lit.

975 My Soul Will Magnify the Lord

CW 975 st. 1



1 My soul will mag - ni - fy the Lord; I re - joice in God my
Sav - ior, in the won - der of his fa - vor.

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The Word

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts, and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-17

We can rejoice, because the Lord has saved us and delights in us.

Sing out, daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, you daughter of Jerusalem. The LORD has removed the judgment against you. He has turned back your enemy. Israel's king, the LORD, is in your midst! You no longer need to fear disaster. In that day Jerusalem will be told, "Do not be afraid, O Zion. Do not give up. The LORD your God is with you as a hero who will save you. He takes great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love. He will rejoice over you with singing."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

130B Remember Your Mercy, O LORD

Psalm 130B

Refrain

Re - mem - ber your mer - cy, O LORD;
re - mem - ber your mer - cy and love.

Tone

Out of the depths I cry to / you, LORD;
Lord, / hear my voice.
Let your ears be at- / tentive
to my cry for / mercy.
If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, / serve you. *Refrain*

I wait for the LORD, my whole / being waits,
and in his word I / put my hope.
I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,
more than watchmen wait for the / morning.
Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,
for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.
He himself will redeem / Israel
from / all their sins.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,
as it was in the be- / ginning,
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Out of the depths I cry to / you, LORD;

Lord, / hear my voice.

Let your ears be at- / tentive

to my cry for / mercy.

If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, / who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, / serve you. *Refrain*

I wait for the LORD, my whole / being waits,

and in his word I / put my hope.

I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the / morning,

more than watchmen wait for the / morning.

Israel, put your hope / in the LORD,

for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full re- / demption.

He himself will redeem / Israel

from / all their sins.

Glory be to the Father and / to the Son

and to the Holy / Spirit,

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

What is the reason for our enduring joy? The Lord is near to us.

Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 11:10

Refrain

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

Tone

I will send my messenger a - head of you,
who will prepare your way be - fore you. *Refrain*

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Gospel

Luke 3:7–18

Those who rejoice in the good news of salvation joyfully produce fruits of repentance.

So John kept saying to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, “You offspring of vipers, who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore produce fruits in keeping with repentance! Do not even think of saying to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ because I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the ax is ready to strike the root of the trees. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is going to be cut down and thrown into the fire.” The crowds began to ask him, “What should we do then?” He answered them, “Whoever has two shirts should share with the person who has none, and whoever has food should do the same.” Tax collectors also came to be baptized. They said, “Teacher, what should we do?” To them he said, “Collect no more than what you were authorized to.” Soldiers were also asking him, “And what should we do?” He told them, “Do not extort money from anyone by force or false accusation. Be satisfied with your wages.” The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Christ. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But someone mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” Then with many other words, he appealed to them and was preaching good news to the people.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

324 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

CW 324

Children's Church

During the sermon, parents may choose to take their children ages 2-5 to children's church. Meet today's chaperone in the gathering area. They will hear a Bible story and sing songs. They will return to the sanctuary during the offering.

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Father, throughout the centuries you repeated and affirmed your promise to send the offspring of the woman to crush the serpent's head. Through your prophets of old, you continually directed the eyes of your people to the advent of their Savior.

We praise you, O Lord, for keeping your promise and sending your Son to destroy the works of the devil.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our King, use your mighty Word to shatter our pride and to rouse us from spiritual slumber and apathy.

Move us to take to heart the words of John: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

You sent your Son to redeem us from sin. Let this good news be our joy and strength. Use it to cheer the lonely, encourage the fearful, and give hope to the despairing. In these days before Christmas, spare us from the stress of deadlines and the frenzy of commercialism.

Fill our lives with the message of your peace and the music of your grace.

Direct our eyes not only to the manger but also to the skies, where we will see your Son coming again, not as a lowly child but as the Lord of lords.

Lift up our hearts in joyful anticipation of that day.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical and emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

Come, Lord Jesus! Amen.

Offering

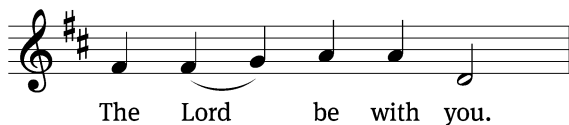
During the offering, please fill out the Friendship Register in the pew and pass it down to those sitting next to you.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 199



Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

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It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of seven staves of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts, heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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.**

Words of Institution

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Lamb of God

CW 202



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us, grant us peace.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

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Be seated

Distribution

672 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

CW 672

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

366 O Rejoice, All Christians Loudly

CW 366

Acknowledgments

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News & Notes

Radio Broadcast

The radio broadcast is sponsored by Gene and Cherly Martin in celebration of Blessings Received. Thank you!

Offering Envelopes

Please note that envelopes for 2025 have been placed on a table in the gathering area. Your envelope number may have changed, please do not use the envelopes or new number until January 1st, 2025.

Monday Worship

There will be no Monday worship on December 23 & 30.

Joy Has Dawned--A Children's Christmas Service

Sunday, December 22, 2024 - 9 AM service

Please arrive at 8:30 AM

Practice Dates:

Sunday, December 15 - Song practice for ALL kids after church

Saturday, December 21 - 9:00-10:30 AM





Christmas Schedule

Children's Christmas Service – December 22, 9 am

The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord – Christmas Eve – 6:30 pm

The Festival of the Nativity of our Lord – Christmas Day – 9 am

1st Sunday after Christmas – God Gives Both Substitute and Sacrifice –
December 29, 9 am



Epiphany Series – Begins January 12

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” When someone has an epiphany, it’s not that reality changed. The way they see that reality is what changed, for a deeper truth has been revealed. An epiphany is an “a-ha!” moment causing us to look at things very differently.

In the Church Year, Epiphany is the season where we see Jesus begin his ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. In this season we will come to understand that when we have Jesus in our lives, it does not always mean our reality drastically changes. It simply means that we see reality differently (and better). Jesus always provides an abundance of epiphany moments.

DECEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Advent Supper 5 pm Worship 6 pm	12	13	14
15 Worship 9 am Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am	16 Worship 7 pm Choir 7:45 pm	17 Oak Terrace 9:45 am	18 Foundations 6 pm	19	20	21 Christmas Practice 9 am
22 Christmas Program 9 am	23 No Worship	24 Christmas Eve Worship 6:30 pm	25 Christmas Day Worship 9 am	26	27	28
29 Worship 9 am Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am	30 No Worship	31				

SERVING THE LORD

	Acolytes	Ushers	Media Booth	Organist	
12/15	9 Am	Greta Newton	3	(Need Volunteer)	Noah Helke
12/22	9 AM	(Need Volunteer)	4	(Need Volunteer)	Lois Zander
12/24	9 AM	Greta Newton	1	Ryan Bertrang	Lois Zander

December Altar Guild	December Cleaners
Dianne Jabs/Lynn Sorenson	Kalal Family
December Counters	Fall Service Group Leader
Debbie Glowicki/Heather Nelson	Dianne Jabs
January Altar Guild	Children's Church Volunteer
Rachel Carlstrom/Karen Firle/Mary Zeman	12/15 - Ruth Lee

Attendance	
Sunday	103
Monday	12
Total	115

Gifts To Our Lord		
	Received	Needed
Current	\$5987	\$3834
Online Giving	\$480	
Total	\$6467	\$3834



For more information, be sure to subscribe to St. Paul E-News and Like us on Facebook!

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