

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



November 30, 2025

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy you have joined us for worship today. Wherever you are on your journey with or toward God, you are welcome here—you are a blessing to this assembly. We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.

We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Lutherans believe, teach, and confess that in, with, and under the bread and wine in Holy Communion we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. All who are drawn in faith are welcome to join in this confession and receive the Sacrament.

We invite and encourage your full participation in our worship this morning. With this service bulletin you can follow and participate in this morning's liturgy.

New to St. Paul? If you have questions or want more information, please fill out a newcomer form with the QR code at the right. Questions about transferring membership from another Lutheran church, or for beginning the process for baptism, confirmation, membership, or transferring from one of the other Christian traditions, may be directed to the Church Office at 781-646-7773 or parishadmin@stpaularlington.org.



SUNDAY SERVICE

8:15am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave
9:00am | Choir Practice
9:30am | No Education Hour (*One Church Support in the Fellowship Hall*)
10:30am | Service with Holy Communion and online
11:30am | Coffee Hour

LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Arlington Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY:

Kelli Oliver & Taryn Walsh, *Altar Guild*
Owen C. and Beatrix C., *Acolytes*
Josh Davis, *Lector*
Peter Schmidt, *Cantor*
Kerri Frick, *Deacon*
Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, *Ushers*
Hollie Schmidt & Mat Carter, *Livestream Broadcast Team*
Peter & Hollie Schmidt & Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*

*When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable.*

At the ✙, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism.

*The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, arranged by Lloyd Larson

Tune: Veni Emmanuel by Thomas Helmore (1854)

Mark Olson, trumpet

WELCOME

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly faces one another across the aisle and keeps silence for self-examination. The pastor begins, those on the **Right Side** of the sanctuary joining him.*

**I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my siblings in Christ,
that I have sinned by my own fault
in thought, word, and deed.
I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins,
and bring me to everlasting life.**

*Those on the **Left Side** of the sanctuary speak this assurance of forgiveness.*

**Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins.
Amen.**

Those on the *Left Side* of the sanctuary then confess their sin.

I confess to God Almighty,
before the whole company of heaven,
and to you, my siblings in Christ,
that I have sinned by my own fault
in thought, word, and deed.
I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me,
forgive me all my sins,
and bring me to everlasting life.

Those on the *Right Side* of the sanctuary speak this assurance of forgiveness.

Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins.
Amen.

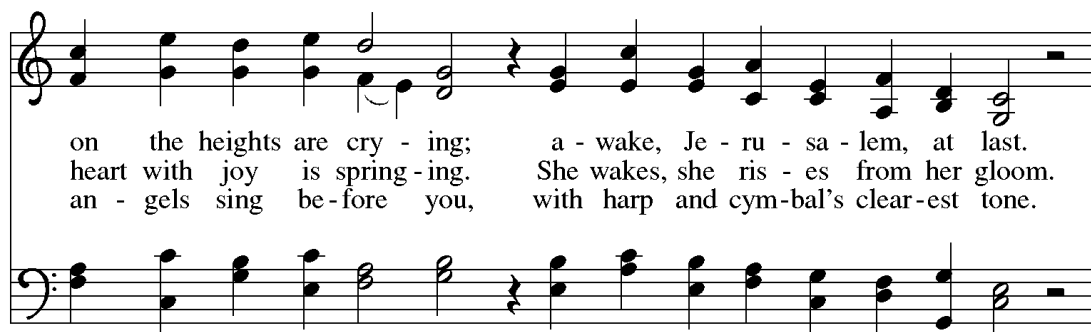
* GATHERING HYMN

Wake, Wake, For Night is Flying

ELW 436



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym - bal's clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

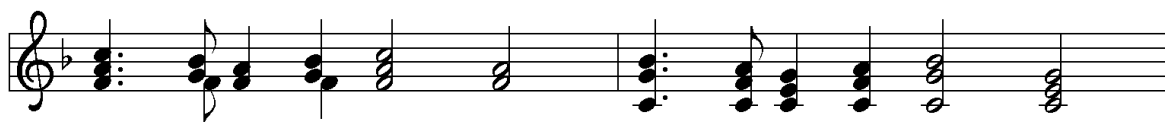


go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

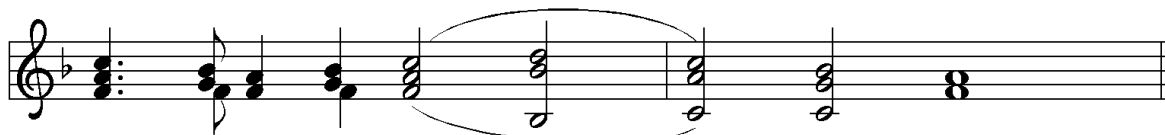
* GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

* KYRIE



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
 1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
 2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - lei - i - son.
 Chris - te e - lei - i - son.
 Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
 Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE ELW 240 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

As the first candle on the Advent wreath is lit, we sing stanza 1.



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
 He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

WORD



FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

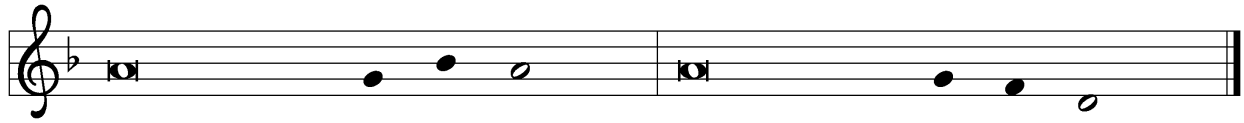
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



I was glad when they ¹ said to me,
“Let us go to the house ¹ of the Lord.”
Now our ¹ feet are standing
within your gates, ¹ O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem is built ¹ as a city
that is at unity ¹ with itself;
to which the tribes go up, the tribes ¹ of the Lord,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name ¹ of the Lord.
For there are the ¹ thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the ¹ house of David.
Pray for the peace ¹ of Jerusalem:
“May they pros- ¹ per who love you.
Peace be with- ¹ in your walls
and quietness with- ¹ in your towers.
For the sake of my kindred ¹ and companions,
I pray for ¹ your prosperity.
Because of the house of the ¹ Lord our God,
I will seek to ¹ do you good.”

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



* GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples, "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Don Larsen

SERMON

Pastor Don Larsen

* HYMN OF THE DAY

Fling Wide the Door

ELW 259



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
king's com-mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

***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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing, especially Bobby, Dan, Diane, George, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, Roberta, Susan and those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints, especially Andrew, Francis Xavier, John of Damascus and Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

*PEACE

Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

TEMPLE TALK (10:30)

ANTHEM (10:30 only)

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning, arr. Andre J. Thomas

Spiritual

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
The time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary,
Children, don't get weary,

Children, don't get weary,
'Til your work is done.

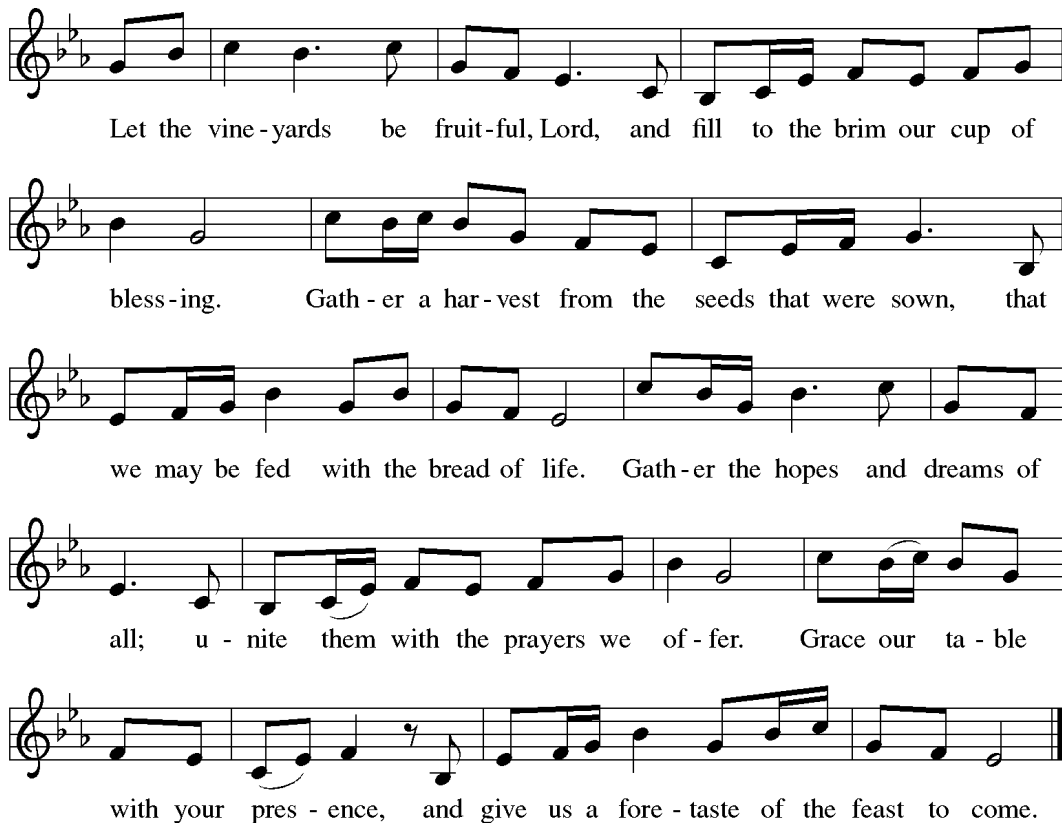
Christian, journey soon be over,
Christian, journey soon be over,
Christian, journey soon be over,
The time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
The time is drawing nigh.



MEAL

*OFFERING SONG



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING

You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code.

You may also make an offering by placing a gift in the offering plate, which is in the narthex.



* GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more

än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.

Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here

väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

²
Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,

du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!

Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!

ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

We praise you, living and loving God, that you have sent your Son into this world.
Christ is your Wisdom, sweetly ordering all creation,
our Lawgiver, burning with justice,
the Branch from Jesse's tree, sprouting flowers from old roots,
the Key of David, opening our prison doors.

And let the people cry, O come and save us:

O come and save us!

We praise you, serving and saving God, that you send your Son also to this table,
who on the night before he died took bread, and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

And let the people cry, O come and save us.

O come and save us!

We beg you, mighty and merciful God:
send us the Spirit of your Son.
Dwell in this food and in all who share it,
that the earth may rejoice in your presence.
In Christ, the Dawning Day, enlighten a darkened world,
reign as Sovereign to unite all peoples,
and live among us, Emmanuel,
our deepest desire now and forever.

And let the people cry, O come and save us.

O come and save us!

Even so, come, Lord Jesus, with your Father and your Spirit, to the church, and receive our praises, now and forever. Amen:

Amen.

And let the people pray:

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let these gifts to us be blessed.**

**Blest be God, who is our Bread;
may all the world be clothed and fed. Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request. Both wine and grape juice are available in each tray; the wine is red and the grape juice is white.

Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us, ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have . . mer-cy up-on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no-so-tros, have...mer-cy up-on us, ten pie-dad de no-so-tros. have...mer-cy up-on us.

Cor-de-ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do; O Lamb of...God, you...take a-way the sin of the world;...

da-nos tu paz, grant us your peace, da-nos tu paz. grant us your peace.

*** COMMUNION HYMN (10:30 only)**

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

ELW 490

1 Let all mor-tal flesh keep si-lence, and with fear and trem-bling stand;
2 King of kings, yet born of Mar-y, as of old on earth he stood,
3 Rank on rank the host of heav-en spreads its van-guard on the way;
4 At his feet the six-winged ser-aph, cher-u-bim with sleep-less eye,

pon-der noth-ing earth-ly-mind-ed, for with bless-ing in his hand
Lord of lords in hu-man ves-ture, in the bod-y and the blood,
as the Light of light, de-scend-ing from the realms of end-less day,
veil their fac-es to the pres-ence, as with cease-less voice they cry:

Christ our God to earth de-scend-ing comes full hom-age to de-mand.
he will give to all the faith-ful his own self for heav'n-ly food.
comes, the pow'rs of hell to van-quish, as the dark-ness clears a-way.
"Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!"

***TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

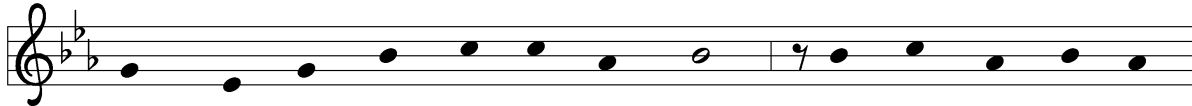
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ grant you peace. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

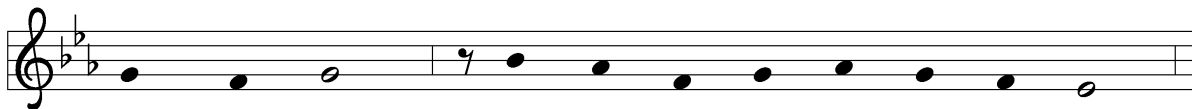
* SENDING HYMN

Creator of the Stars of Night

ELW 245



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -
2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in
3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all
4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,
splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child
hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,
ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low
Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.
of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.
like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
from all as - saults of our dread foe.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

*DISMISSAL

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us.
So be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Ave Maria

J.S. Bach (1685-1750) – C. Gounod (1818-1893)

Mark Olson, trumpet

ANNOUNCEMENTS *and* UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

at **SAINT PAUL**



TODAY'S COVER ART

The selection for today reflects on the question of time raised by the Second Reading. Originally untitled, this 1991 piece by Felix Gonzalez-Torres in the MoMA collection is now known as "Perfect Lovers." The gallery description reads: "Initially set to the same time, these identical battery-powered clocks will eventually fall out of sync, or may stop entirely. Conceived shortly after Gonzalez-Torres's partner was diagnosed with AIDS, this work uses everyday objects to track and measure the inevitable flow of time. When one of the clocks stops or breaks, they can both be reset, thereby resuming perfect synchrony. In 1991, Gonzalez-Torres reflected, "Time is something that scares me. . . or used to. This piece I made with the two clocks was the scariest thing I have ever done. I wanted to face it. I wanted those two clocks right in front of me, ticking."

ASCENTRIA GIVING TREE 2025 | Due TODAY November 30

We committed to fulfill the wish lists of 20 of Ascentria's Unaccompanied Refugee Minors and Unaccompanied Children. Each minor lists 3 wishes. If you can participate, you can choose to fulfill 1 wish or more. Some youth have been very specific in the things they have asked for (much like Ralphie in the movie *A Christmas Story*), so donors are welcome to purchase a gift card toward the item if that is preferred. Bring your gift to church: unwrapped, gift tag/label (provided) firmly taped to package by Sunday November 30!

PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS | Tuesdays in Advent (December 2, 9 and 16) at 7PM

Advent, a season for contemplative reflection, coincides one of the busiest times of the secular year. As an oasis of time in a month that often feels like a whirlwind, we will offer Prayer Around the Cross on the first three Tuesdays of December at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Silence, simple song, readings, and prayer. As a tactile form of prayer, participants can light candles and place them in bowls filled with sand, placed around the cross. Our time together each week will be about 30 to 45 minutes long. Come as often as you can. This is not an imposition. It is an opportunity for those who crave the space for silence and contemplation.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP | December 24 at 4pm & 8pm

We will gather for worship on Christmas Eve, Wednesday December 24, at 4pm and 8pm. The 4pm service will include a special children's message. 8pm will be a candlelight service.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT | December 21, 10:30 Service

St. Paul's annual Christmas Pageant will take place on Sunday, December 21 at the 10:30 service. We look forward to witnessing the story of Christ's birth told from the perspective of St. Paul's youngest disciples in word and song. If your child would like to participate, please contact Sarah Carter, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry, at stpaularlingtonfamily@gmail.com. Pageant rehearsal will take place during the education hour on December 14 and December 21.

UPCOMING CHOIR PRACTICE FOR ADVENT

Please join the choir for Lessons and Carols! Even if you are not able to join us during the choir season, you're invited to participate in this special event! Here is our rehearsal schedule:

Wednesday, December 3rd, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm (choir loft)

Thursday, December 4th, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm (choir loft)

Thursday, December 11th, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm (downstairs)

Saturday, December 13th 4:00 pm-6:00 pm (downstairs)

The Lessons & Carols concert will take place at 10:30 worship on Sunday, December 14.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS | Due by December 8

The Advent season is approaching! Please consider sponsoring poinsettias used to decorate the church for Christmas Eve services. They come in 6.5 inch pots and a choice of white, red, pink or marble colors, \$15/each. Any dedications will be printed in the bulletin. To order, you can call the church office, complete a form on the table in the Upper Narthex, or email your order to parishadmin@stpaularlington.org.

ARLINGTON EATS NOVEMBER NEEDS

We are thinking of soup and comfort food! In addition to monetary donations, we are spotlighting the following items for November:

- pasta sauce
- baked beans
- Soy sauce
- stock/bullion
- Crackers
- Barley
- Farro
- Instant mashed potatoes

ST. PAUL BIBLE STUDY | Thursday Evenings, 7-8pm by Zoom

All are invited to join our bible study! We will gather on Thursday evenings on Zoom from 7-8pm. Each week, we will study the upcoming Sunday's lectionary texts, which are the bible readings we hear in worship. To access the readings and Zoom link, please see St. Paul's Weekly Update email. If you are not a subscriber, you can sign up on our website or email Vicar Sam for the Bible Study Zoom link (stpaularlingtonvicar@gmail.com).

December Potluck: December 13 at 6PM

The last community potluck of the calendar year will feature special seasonal music by the Redeemer Recorder Consort, a group of musicians representing Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Woburn, MA. The Redeemer Recorder Consort has enriched worship services and social events for more than 10 years. The group has been the beneficiary of a number of original compositions composed by church member Karl Henning, one of which, Fantasy on When Jesus Wept, based on a piece by William Billings (1746-1800), was performed at St. Paul on Good Friday 2025. The players for the potluck program include Marie Breitenbach, Josh Morris, Greta Rosen and Ron Swanson. All are invited to join us with a dish to share and a chance to connect with the community of St. Paul.

THEOLOGY ON TAP | December 21, 4PM

We will gather once more at 4PM at **Mighty Squirrel** (411 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham). Vicar Sam will lead a relaxed conversation about a different theological topic each month. The brewery welcomes families and includes alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. All are invited!

TODAY AND THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Sunday
November 30	December 2	December 3	December 4	December 7
8:15 Service 9:00 Choir 9:00 No Education Hour – One Church Support in Fellowship Hall 10:30 Service 11:30 Coffee Hour	7PM Prayer Around the Cross (sanctuary)	7-9PM Lessons & Carols Rehearsal (choir loft)	7-8PM Bible Study (Zoom) 7-9PM Lessons & Carols Rehearsal (choir loft)	8:15 Service 9:00 Choir 9:00 Education Hour 10:30 Service 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:45 Social Ministry Meeting

New Database & Virtual Directory: One Church!

We have a new church database through One Church! A significant factor motivating this change was finding a database that fits not only the needs of staff, but also finding a program that can be used by all members of our congregation. Through One Church, each member of St. Paul can create an account, which provides access to an online directory and church calendar. We hope this software will make it easier for members to connect with one another and keep up with all that's going on at St. Paul!

Please follow the instructions below to create and update your account with One Church Software:

1. Register your account through One Church. To do this online, use the QR code below:



2. Follow the instructions to set up your new account. You will need to provide an email address and create a new password.
3. After creating a new account, please check the information that is on our records. Please make sure that your personal information, including your address, contact information, and family members, is correct.
4. There is also an app available for both iPhone and Android phones. Use your app store and search **"My One Church App"** to find it.



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

Staff

The Reverend Don Larsen, *Transition Pastor*

Samantha Menapace, *Vicar*

Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music*

Sarah Carter, *Children, Youth and Families Director*

Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*

Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*

Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

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Church Council and Officers

Kerri Frick, *President*

Sandy Walker, *Vice President*

Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*

Elizabeth Heichler, *Secretary*

Mark Olson, *Financial Secretary*

Kristen Anderson

Eric Carlson

Dave Hering

Kathleen Kean

Kevin Kreutter

Pierson Oliver

Taryn Walsh

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Altar Guild

Faith Formation Committee

Intern Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Nomination Committee

Worship & Music Committee

Finance Committee

Audit Committee

Usher Committee

Transition Committee Peter Hedlund & Sandy Walker

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Marie Breitenbach

Bev Hjorth

Kristen Anderson

Janice Sniffen

Taryn Walsh

John Christiansen

Eric Haugen

Eric Haugen

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