

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



December 7, 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 | Education Hour with Sunday School, Adult Forum, Confirmation
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:

Lydia Zehsow & Taryn Walsh, *Altar Guild*
Ainsley S. and Jud S., *Acolytes*
Taryn Walsh, *Lector*
Bev Hjorth, *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*

Today's Cover Art: "The Peaceable Kingdom" by Edward Hicks. 1833.

pafa.org/museum/collection/item/peaceable-kingdom

*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

Puer nobis nascitur Recit-Duo-Trio Pierre Dandrieu (1664-1733)

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 grants you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins for the sake of Jesus Christ. 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 grants you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

* GATHERING HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.

Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.


Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain
Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

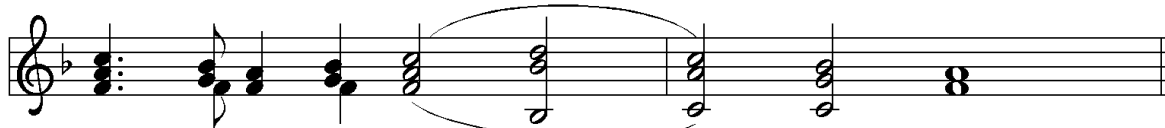
* GREETING

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 - le i - son.
Chris - te e - le i - son.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY


Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you 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 second candle on the Advent wreath is lit, we sing stanzas 1 & 2.



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

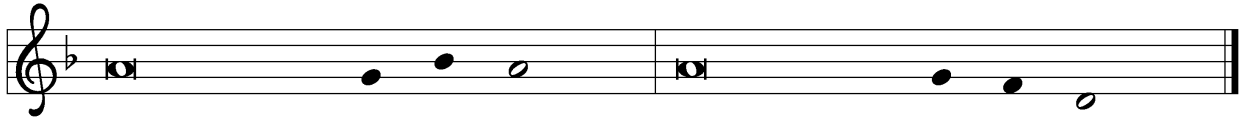
FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.
On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
 and your righteousness to | the king's son;
that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;
 that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
 and the | hills, in righteousness.
Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.
 May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
 from one generation | to another.
Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
 In his time may the | righteous flourish;
 and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
Blessed are you, Lord God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!
 And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
 and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

Continue next page

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;
and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of two systems of staves. Each system has a treble clef staff for the Soprano voice, a bass clef staff for the Bass voice, and a grand staff (treble and bass clef) for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo and meter are not specified. The lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the vocal staves. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a more complex pattern in the left hand, including chords and moving lines. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system also ends with a double bar line.

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

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

* GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Vicar Sam Menapace

SERMON

Vicar Sam Menapace

* HYMN OF THE DAY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry

ELW 249

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther

for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

*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.

With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease, especially Bobby, Dan, Diane, George, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, Roberta, Susan. Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith, especially Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, whom we commemorate today. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. 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)

The Yearning Craig Cortney/Susan Boersma

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow.

There is a yearning in hearts that in darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation.

There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who await the day of His appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, within our hearts, the yearning.

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.



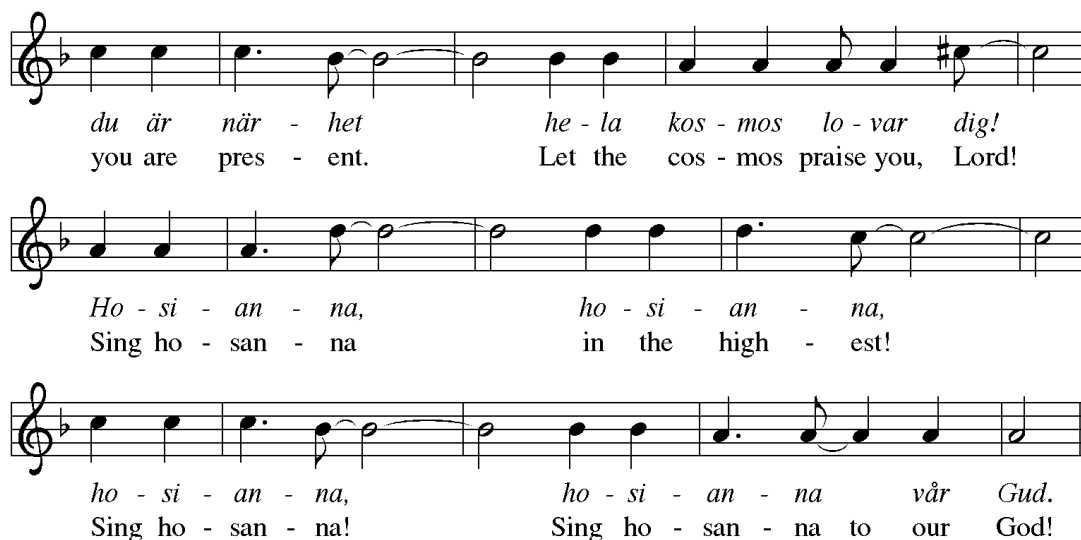
Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



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.



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

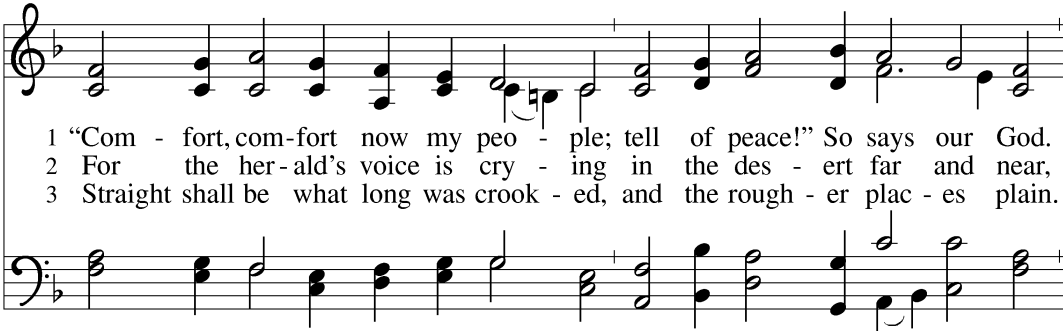
da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.



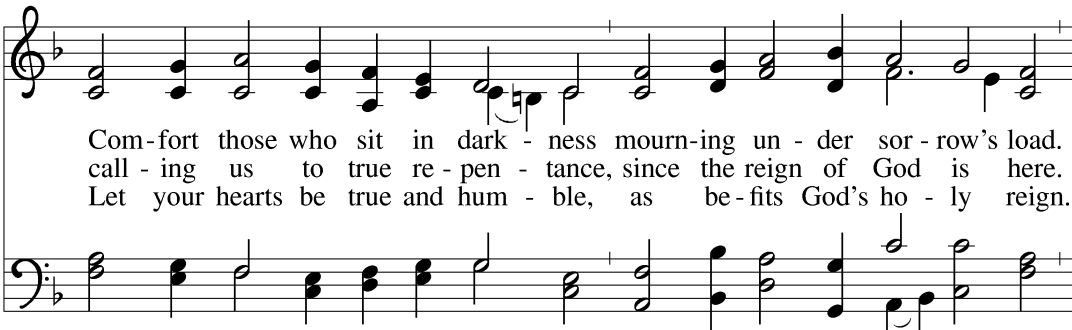
* COMMUNION HYMN (10:30 only)

Comfort, Comfort Now My People


ELW 256



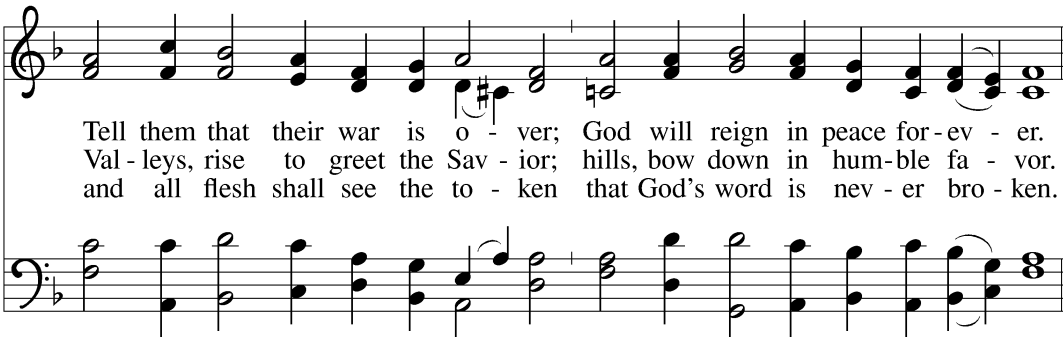
1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
 2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

*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.**

ANNOUNCEMENT

* SENDING HYMN

Come Thou, Long Expected Jesus

ELW 254



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer-it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

*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

Puer nobis nascitur Muzette-Double-Grand Jeu Pierre Dandrieu (1664-1733)

ANNOUNCEMENTS *and* UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

at **SAINT PAUL**



PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS | Tuesdays in Advent (December 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:

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 next week 10:30 worship on Sunday, December 14. Holy Communion will be celebrated at the 8:15 service but not at 10:30.

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 DECEMBER NEEDS

Pasta sauce, baked beans, soy sauce, stock/bouillon, crackers, barley, farro, instant mashed potatoes and monetary donations!

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	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Saturday	Sunday
December 7	December 8	December 9	December 11	December 13	December 14
8:15 Service 9:00 Choir 9:00 Education Hour 10:30 Service 11:30 Coffee Hour 11:45 Social Ministry Meeting	7:30PM Council Meeting (fellowship hall)	7PM Prayer Around the Cross (sanctuary)	7-8PM Bible Study (Zoom) 7-9PM Lessons & Carols Rehearsal (choir loft)	6PM Potluck with the Redeemer Recorder Consort	8:15 Service 9:00 Choir 9:00 Education Hour 10:30 Lessons & Carols (no Eucharist) 11:30 Coffee Hour

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*

stpaularlington.interim.pastor@gmail.com

stpaularlingtonvicar@gmail.com

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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

Committees

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

Chairperson

Marie Breitenbach

Bev Hjorth

Kristen Anderson

Janice Sniffen

Taryn Walsh

John Christiansen

Eric Haugen

Eric Haugen

Dan Ries & Andy Airasian



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



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