

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Paulding, Ohio
Sunday, November 29, 2020
First Sunday of Advent
10:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. Stir up your power and come!
The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

**please stand as able*



PRELUDE & QUIET MEDITATION

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***GATHERING SONG**

LBW 55

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door,
and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!**

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

***ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP**

We begin this season, focusing on our Lord's coming, by lighting a candle of hope—hope found in Jesus Christ alone.

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all people.

(The first blue candle is lit.)

This hope teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.

While we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people who are his very own, eager to do what is good.

O Lord, enter our hearts and join our voices with those of all the saints as we sing:

***ADVENT SONG**

WOV 630

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

(verse 1)

**Light on candle to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.**

***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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

¹O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence ²as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, stir up your strength and come to help us.**

³Restore us, O God; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴**O LORD God of hosts, how long will your anger fume when your people pray?**

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶**You have made us the derision of our neighbors, and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

¹⁷**Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one you have made so strong for yourself.**

¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you; give us life, that we may call upon your name.

¹⁹**Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—⁶just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁸He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Emmanuel”

W&P 36

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us;
His name is called Emmanuel.**

***GOSPEL**

Mark 13:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark the thirteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ²⁴“In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

²⁸“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³²“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

³⁵Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, ³⁶or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MORNING MESSAGE

Barry DeLong

SONG

“King of Glory”
(verses 1 & 3)

W&P 136

**The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.**

Who is the King of glory; how shall we call him?

He is Emmanuel, the promised of ages.

**The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.**

Sing then of David's Son, our Savior and brother;
in all of Galilee was never another.
The King of glory comes, the nation rejoices.
Open the gates before him, lift up your voices.

*** OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH – THE APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each petition concludes: "Hear us, O God."

The congregation responds: "Your mercy is great."

God of power and might, tear open the heavens and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

We pray for the ministry we share in Christ's name. Open our hearts to your call for justice, peace, and healing. Attune us to the needs of the world as you draw near. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this planet in need of restoration: for devastated habitats, polluted waters, thawing ice, blazing fires, swelling floods, and long-lasting droughts. Renew the face of the earth and our relationship to it. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who care for others in our community and around the world. Fill them with compassion and the power to respond with justice for those who are oppressed, with welcome for those who are excluded, and with relief for those who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for people who are in crisis as the seasons change: for those without homes facing severe weather, for those who are unemployed or underemployed, and for those in poverty or facing food insecurity. Relieve their burdens, sustain their bodies, and ease their minds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the people in our families and congregation who live with depression, anxiety, chronic pain, addiction, and other invisible illnesses especially Carol Flint, Elaine Sierer, Betty Blockberger, Mary & Steve Clark, Lynn Conrad, Bud Cotterman, Betty Smalley, Jared DeLong, Sam Clippenger, Burl Barnes, John Englehart and Ivan Aldred. Our friends Nick Bostelman, Alice Hunt, George Hunt, Roberta, Tom Zuber, Scott St. John, Dave Foltz, Romaine Boundy, Shaun & Jodi Mataka, Nellie Householder and Nancy Kuns. Ease their suffering and support them when they struggle. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for the lives and witness of those who died while waiting for justice, peace, or healing, those whose names we know and those whose names are known only to you. Sustain all who still yearn for the completion of your redeeming work. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Prayers conclude:

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light.

Amen.

***OFFERING SONG**

"We are an Offering"

W&P 146

We lift our voice, we lift our hands,

We lift our lives up to you; we are an offering.

Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,

Lord, use our lives, they are yours; we are an offering.

**All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to
you, we give to you.**

We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:

We are an offering, we are an offering.

***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

***THE 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.

***BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG**

"We Are Called"

ELW 720

Come! Live in the light!

Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom,

to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain

**We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
we are called to serve one another,
to walk humbly with God.**

**Come! Open your heart!
Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more. *Refrain***

**Sing! Sing a new song!
Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other
as sisters and brothers united in love. *Refrain***

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Birthdays:

Levi Ankney.....December 1
Addison Hunt.....December 1
Robert Howell.....December 3
Chris Rickels.....December 3

Anniversaries:

Dan & Deb Howell.....December 3

WHEN YOU PRAY, REMEMBER.....

Carol Flint, Elaine Sierer, Betty Blockberger, Mary & Steve Clark, Lynn Conrad, Bud Cotterman, Betty Smalley, Jared DeLong, Sam Clippenger, Burl Barnes, John Englehart and Ivan Aldred. Our friends Nick Bostelman, Alice Hunt, George Hunt, Roberta, Tom Zuber, Scott St. John, Dave Foltz, Romaine Boundy, Shaun & Jodi Mataka, Nellie Householder and Nancy Kuns.

Those Serving In The United States Military: Jordan Phlipot, Taylor Hatcher, Jared DeLong, Miah Coil, Brad Crawford, Adam Deatrick, Adriana Gonzales, Ian Munger, Brendon Lothamer, Suzanne Laney, Sarah Scott, Westen Phlipot and Macy Iler.

Child Fund Orphans: Andre & Ana

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 29, 2020:
OFFERING November 22: \$3379 NEEDED WEEKLY: \$3458

The flowers adorning our altar this morning are given to the glory of God by Mindy Ankney.

There will be a congregational meeting, Sunday December 6 after worship service to elect council and approve the budget.

Christmas for Kids are asking for monetary donations this year due to COVID. If you would like to donate, please mark Christmas for Kids on your donation envelope.

THOSE SERVING SUNDAY, November 29, 2020:

Morning Message.....Barry DeLong
Pianist.....Bill Brune
Reader.....Joan Mapes
Assisting Minister.....Dan Wilder
Money Counters.....Dave Burtch, Margaret Phlipot & Michelle Johns
A/V Tech.....Tim Boss

THOSE SERVING SUNDAY, December 6, 2020:

Morning Message.....Pastor Clyde Singh
Pianist.....Bill Brune
Reader.....Camille Myers
Money Counters.....C.W. & Sandra Harper, Cindy Kauser
A/V Tech.....C.W. Harper

