

*St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Paulding, Ohio*

*Sunday, December 6, 2020*

*Second Sunday of Advent  
Service of the Word*

**10:30 a.m.**

**Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church.** John calls people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing gets in the way of the Lord's coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to be heralds with John, to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, "See, your God is coming!" We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice and peace.

*\*please stand as able*



**PRELUDE & QUIET MEDITATION**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG**

*“My Lord What a Morning”*

**WOV 627**

**My Lord, what a morning;  
my Lord, what a morning;  
oh, my Lord, what a morning,  
when the stars begin to fall.**

**You will hear the trumpet sound,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall.  
My Lord, what a morning;  
my Lord, what a morning;  
oh, my Lord, what a morning,  
when the stars begin to fall.**

**You will hear the sinner cry,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall.  
My Lord, what a morning;  
my Lord, what a morning;  
oh, my Lord, what a morning,  
when the stars begin to fall.**

**You will hear the Christian shout,  
to wake the nations underground,  
looking to my God's right hand,  
when the stars begin to fall.  
My Lord, what a morning;  
my Lord, what a morning;  
oh, my Lord, what a morning,  
when the stars begin to fall.**

**\*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.**

**\*ADVENT CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✠Son, and of the Holy Spirit. God has brought us together as many people, from many places, and who have many different past experiences. And yet as we gather together, we are united.

**For Christ is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.**

By abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations.

**His purpose was to create one new person out of two, thus making peace.**

*(The first and second blue candles are lit.)*

And in this one body to restore the relationship of both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

**He came and preached peace to those who were far away and to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.**

And so we celebrate the Prince of Peace and sing:

**\*ADVENT SONG**

**WOV 630**

*“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”*

*(verses 1 & 2)*

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

**Light two candles to watch for Messiah; let the light banish darkness.  
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 40:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD’s hand double for all her sins.

<sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground

shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, “Cry out!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

<sup>1</sup>You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

<sup>2</sup>**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

<sup>8</sup>I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

<sup>9</sup>**Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

<sup>10</sup>Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup>**Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

<sup>12</sup>The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

<sup>13</sup>**Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

**SECOND READING****2 Peter 3:8-15a**

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

<sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness,

<sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****W&P 36***“Emmanuel”*

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

**\*GOSPEL****Mark 1:1-8**

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the first chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’”

<sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MORNING MESSAGE**

**Pastor Clyde Singh**

**SONG**

*"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*  
(verses 1 & 4)

**LBW 41**

**O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Immanuel!**

**\*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, comfort your people and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

Faithful God, you teach us to wait for you with faithfulness and patience. Sustain and support us in our doubts and questions. Nurture our faith as we discern and enact your mission. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Loving God, you set the stars in the sky and breathe life into the earth. Renew the face of creation where it is in need of your healing touch. Mend the wounds of environmental damage and restore balance to ecosystems so that all creation can declare your praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Steadfast God, you never tire of seeking justice. Where people suffer from discrimination, judgment, and injustice, speak words of truth and comfort. Lead us toward a world where faithfulness will sprout underfoot and righteousness rain down from above. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Leading God, you ask us to make uneven ground smooth. Make even the disparities between your people. Sustain and support people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Accompany disability advocates who work for a world accessible to all. Teach us to celebrate the great diversity in our midst. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Tender God, you know sorrow and joy alike. We pray for those in our families and congregation who are not joyful in this holiday season. Comfort those who grieve, be a companion to all who are lonely, tend those who are sick or struggling with depression especially Carol Flint, Elaine Sierer, Betty Blockberger, Mary & Steve Clark, Lynn Conrad, Bud

Cotterman, Betty Smalley, Jared DeLong, Sam Clippenger, Burl Barnes, and Ivan Aldred. Our friends Nick Bostelman, Alice Hunt, George Hunt, Roberta, Tom Zuber, Scott St. John, Dave Foltz, Romaine Boundy, Shaun & Jodi Matako, and Nancy Kuns and gather all people in your healing embrace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who have prepared your way in the wilderness and taught us to continue their faithful work. Make their generous lives an example for all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**\*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.**

**\*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.**

**\*DIALOGUE**

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.**

**\*PREFACE**

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:

**\*SANCTUS**

*“Holy, holy, holy...”*

**ELW pg. 153**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of pow’r and might:**

**Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and 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.**

**\*COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**\*THE BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

**Amen**

**\*SONG**

*"One Bread, One Body"*

**W&P 111**

(refrain, verse 2, refrain)

*Refrain*

**One bread, one body, on Lord of all;  
one cup of blessing which we bless,  
and we, though many throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.**

**Many the gifts, many the works,  
One in the Lord of all. *Refrain***

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

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.**

**\*BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**LBW 26**

*"Prepare the Royal Highway"*

(verses 1 & 4)

**Prepare the royal highway;**

**the King of kings is near!**

**Let ev'ry hill and valley**

**a level road appear!**

**Then greet the King of glory,**

**foretold in sacred story:**

**Hosanna to the Lord,**

**for he fulfills God's word!**

**His is no earthly kingdom;**

**it comes from heav'n above.**

**His rule is peace and freedom**

**and justice, truth, and love.**

**So let your praise be sounding**

**for kindness so abounding:**

**Hosanna to the Lord,**

**for he fulfills God's word!**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**



**Birthdays:**

Robert Cramer.....	December 7
Bev Hanenkrafft.....	December 11
Harold Hasch.....	December 12
Bill Brune.....	December 13
Ron Schmidt.....	December 13

**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, and Ivan Aldred. Our friends Nick Bostelman, Alice Hunt, George Hunt, Roberta, Tom Zuber, Scott St. John, Dave Foltz, Romaine Boundy, Shaun & Jodi Matakko, 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 DECEMBER 6, 2020:  
OFFERING November 29: \$1833                      NEEDED WEEKLY: \$3458**

**The flowers adorning our altar** this morning are given to the glory of God by the Hunt Family in honor of Addy’s 13<sup>th</sup> birthday.

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

We will be having a Blue Christmas service Sunday, December 13 at 4pm. Pastor Clyde Singh will be leading our service.

**THOSE SERVING SUNDAY, December 6, 2020:**

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

**THOSE SERVING SUNDAY, December 13, 2020:**

Pastor.....Pastor Clyde Singh  
Pianist.....Bill Brune  
Reader.....Renee Boss  
Money Counters.....Need Volunteers  
A/V Tech.....Brett Kauser