

St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Crossroads (ELCA)

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Sunday, December 16, 2018

Third Sunday in Advent

Holy Communion

The presence of the Lord “in your midst” in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the Lord in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one “more powerful” than John, even with his winnowing fork in his hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.



Let your guard down,

Let God in,

Be among friends

WELCOME . . .

We are privileged to have you as our guest in the Lord's house this morning. We pray that the time you share with us will be meaningful for you and that God will bless you through it. If you have a question that is not answered here, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you.

Registry: Please take time to complete the registry/attendance sheet found in the pew in the black folder at the center aisle. It is important to us that we know who is worshipping with us today. Thank you.

Worship: This booklet is our order of worship for today. Hymns are found in the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" hymnals located in the racks on the back of the pew in front of you. Everything else is printed in this booklet.

Our worship includes **Holy Communion**. As Christians in the Lutheran heritage, we believe that our Lord Jesus is physically present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine we receive. However, if you believe that Jesus' body and blood were given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins, you are welcome to commune with us, regardless of your faith background. A white grape juice is available at the center of the tray for those who do not wish to receive wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those with gluten sensitivity.

If you desire to receive communion but are unable to come forward to the communion rail, inform the usher of such and communion will be brought to you.

. . . WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Ministers: The people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Crossroads	
Pastor:	Pastor Creighton
Greeters:	Gene and Mary Lou Krieger
Accompanist:	Kathy Westerfeld
Acolytes:	Brayden Siebert and Macy Young
Assisting Minister:	Laura Nicholson
Communion Assistant:	Aaron Nicholson
Sound System:	Seth Gausman
Offering Counters:	Dennis Westerfeld and Larry Siebert
Altar Committee:	Larry and Ellen Siebert

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH *(Assisting Minister)*

- The third candle of Advent is the Candle of Joy. It reminds of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her - a child who would save and deliver his people.
- We light this candle to remember that Christ brings the promise of a new life - a life in which the blind receive sight, the lame walk, and the prisoners are set free. We light it to remember that He is the bringer of true and everlasting joy.

Light the Third Candle

- LET US PRAY - Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

5 O come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain*

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

6 O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Lord of Israel who comes to set us free,
the mighty Savior who comes to show mercy,
the Dawn from on high who guides us into peace.

Amen.

Let us come before God in confession.

Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God,
**we lift up our souls. You know us through and through; we confess our sins to you.
Remember not our sins; remember us with your steadfast love.
Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth,
for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Children of God, come with joy and draw water from the well of salvation.

Remember the gift of baptism:

your sin is washed away in the name of † Jesus;

you belong to Christ; you are anointed to serve.
Stand up and raise your heads! The reign of God is near.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Gather Us In*

ELW 532

GREETING

The presiding minister and assembly greet one another.

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.

DIALOGUE

The assisting minister leads the assembly in dialogue.

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

So that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

The Birth of Jesus

Matthew 1:18-23

The congregation is invited to sing the first verse of each song with the youth.

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem ELW 279

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear ELW 282

Hark the Herald Angels Sing ELW 270

Joy to the World ELW 267

We Three Kings

We three kings of orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Go Tell It on the Mountain (all verses) ELW 290

Cast of Characters:

Narrator – Gena Mack

Registrar – Haley Barker

Innkeeper – Quinn Rasnick

Joseph – Luke Meyer

Mary – Lexi Allison

Angels – Addison Young

Lily Allison

Kennedy Rasnick

Jolenea Moore

Aaliyah Westerfeld

Wisemen - Jordan Meyer

Carter Wehr

Madelyn Bohman

Main Angel – Macy Young

Shepherds – Haley Barker

Ethan Wehr

Quinn Rasnick

Star – Hannah Barker

Sound System – Adam Mack

The assembly stands to proclaim their faith

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

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.

As we await the coming of Christ, we pray in hope for the church, the world, and all of creation.

For choirs, hymn writers, musicians, and off-key singing, we give you thanks, Holy One. Fill us with your song of joy. Open us to proclaim your glory in our singing, speaking, and silence. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For the hurting places in creation; for seas and lands ravaged by natural disasters; for communities and creatures displaced by floods and droughts. Grant peace through your presence and joy in your healing. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For peace to ring out in our hearts and in our homes; for mercy and forgiveness to reign in every community; for war to cease and hunger to end. Give us this joy now, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For those who are oppressed; for soldiers and veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and their families; for neighbors who have no access to medical care; for those who are ill and those who mourn, especially those listed in the bulletin and prayer book, and those we name aloud or in our hearts at this time. Fill them with your peace. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

For foster families opening their homes; for grandparents raising grandchildren; for single parents struggling to make ends meet; for expectant parents who now grieve. Give strength and comfort, Holy One. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

In thanksgiving for preachers and teachers who have guided us on the way. Bring us with them to rejoice eternally in you. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray and all for whom we have forgotten or neglected to pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERING SONG: **Come Now, O Prince of Peace**

ELW 247



O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gŭm
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
Text and music © Geonyong Lee

OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads a prayer.

Let us pray together.

God of abundance,

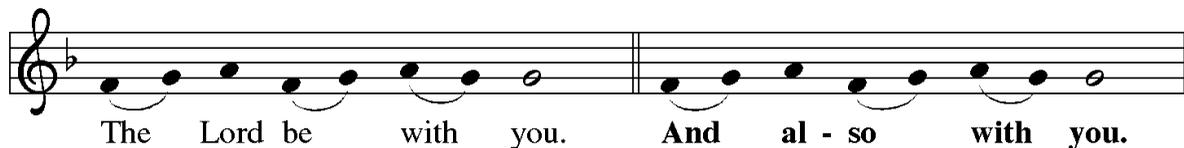
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives.

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

ELW p. 144

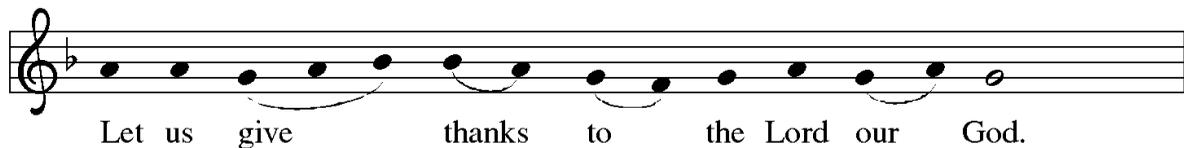
The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.



The Lord be with you. **And al - so 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, ...
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 144

**♪Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in invitation.

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome at Christ's table! If you are a visitor and receive communion at your home church, you are invited to do so here. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 146

♪Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

After Holy Communion has been distributed, the assembly stands and the presiding minister may say:

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

SONG AFTER COMMUNION: *Wait for the Lord*

ELW 262

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Wait for the Lord'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The first system of music has the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second system of music has the lyrics 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style with block chords and single notes.

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

Text and music © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Holy One, we give you thanks that in this bread and cup we have feasted again on your endless love. Let that love overflow more and more in our lives, that we may be messengers to prepare your way, harvesters of justice and righteousness, and bearers of your eternal Word, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessings.

Go out into the world in peace;
have courage;
hold on to what is good;
return no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak, and help the suffering;
honor all people;
love and serve the Lord,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

ELW 244

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

We remember in Prayer:

Carol Bergman

Chris Meyer

Leon Siebert

Aaron Nicholson

Todd Siebert

Art and Karen Salvitti

Marlin and Julia Siebert

Nicole Christie (Receptionist BMS)

Cheryl Strouse (BMS Principal's wife)

Ryan Westerfeld (Dennis and Andrea's nephew)

Patsy Holdsworth (Friend of Dennis and Andrea)

Michael Gibson (Marilyn Gausman's son)
Melody Briner (Marilyn Gausman's daughter)
Kasey Hester (friend of Marilyn Gausman's son Michael)
Nick and Ivy Gunter and their unborn twins
Ruth Booster (wife of former pastor)
Lois Bastien Brown (Tim Salvitti's grandmother-in-law)
Marie Dierckman (Ginny Low's mother)
Steve Gookins (Friend of Les & Martha Kessens and Dennis & Andrea Westerfeld)
Leonard (husband of Lisa Gausman's friend)
George Lerosé (Art Salvitti's brother-in-law)
Stella Long (Marilyn Gausman's sister-in-law)
Tessa Mayer (wife of Wanda Siebert's principal)
Nate McClintic (Spouse of Debbie Mack's co-worker)
Bekah Netherton (daughter of Debbie Mack's friend)
Erin Newcomb (Hauser HS student)
Ronnie Nicholson (Darrell's brother)
Barry Norman (Lisa Gausman's former principal)
Carol Rayve (Karen Salvitti's mother)
Ted Rayve (Karen Salvitti's brother)
Beverly Richardson (Laura Nicholson's mother)
Kristina Salvitti (Art's daughter)
Gary Schopmeyer (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)
Charlie Seibert (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)
John Ward (Eunice Sisson's brother-in-law)
Jasmine Westerfeld (Sharon Brown's great-granddaughter)
Melinda Wilson (wife of Ben Wilson)

anyone affected by natural disasters, warfare and violence
all who serve in the military

Honored Members:

Allen and Mary Lou Narwold Bill Westerfeld

Our members at St. Andrew's: Julia Siebert Ruth Thackery

Our Partner Churches: Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central Africa Republic and
St. John Lutheran Church, Napoleon

Today:

Welcome to worship this third week of Advent. May the Holy Spirit bless and strengthen you today.

Thank you to the youth who shared the Christmas story with us this morning in word and song.

Devotionals for the winter quarter are available in the narthex. There are large print and youth/family ones as well as regular print.

Today is the **deadline** for materials for the January newsletter.

This Week:

Office Hours – Monday 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Pr. Creighton's office hours –

Monday – Thursday

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Tuesday –

SEIC Clergy meeting 10:00 AM

Wednesday –

Advent worship service 6:30 PM

Choir Practice 7:00 PM

Sunday -

NO Sunday School

Worship Service 10:00 AM

Upcoming Events / Announcements:

Thank you to everyone who donated canned fruits and vegetables for the Food Pantry holiday baskets. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by our neighbors in need.

It's time to think about signing up for both **Altar Committee and Flowers** for the new year.

Plan ahead for December events:

Christmas Eve Service – December 24th at 7:30 pm

Service of Lessons and Carols – December 30th – NO COMMUNION

Any member interested in filling the soon to be vacant **secretarial position**, pick up a job description in the office. Also give your name and contact information to Pastor Creighton or any member of Council by Sunday, Jan. 13th.

**The worship area is adorned with poinsettias given to the glory of God
this Christmas season:**

In Memory of ...

... Harvey and Leona Davis by Bob and Carolyn Cornett

... Paul and Janet Gausman by Tony, Lisa, Noah, Kelsey, Emma and Seth

... Kate Krieger by Bob and Anita Krieger

... Wanita Linkel by Kim Linkel

... Paul and Janet Gausman by Tom and Pauletta Meyer

... Nathaniel Meyer by Tom and Pauletta Meyer

... Angela Marie Houston and Leonard and Opal Narwold by Pamela K Narwold and Family

... Wanita Linkel and Loved Ones by Pamela K Narwold and Family

... Richard “Dick” Nicholson by Darrell and Laura Nicholson

... Loved ones by Carol Siebert

... Lloyd Siebert by Donna Siebert

... Monroe and Eleanor Westerfeld by Gary and Jan Westerfeld

... Our Parents and Grandparents by Dennis and Andrea Westerfeld

... John and Helen Westerfeld and Fred and Dolories Krieger by John and Kathy Westerfeld

...Paul Gausman by Marilyn Gausman

In Honor of ...

... Sharon Brown by Chris, Jennifer, Jordan and Luke Meyer

... Beverly Richardson by Darrell and Laura Nicholson

... Our Children, Grandchildren, and Great-Grandchildren by Dennis and Andrea Westerfeld

... Our Daughters and their Families by John and Kathy Westerfeld



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Many happy returns



Somehow, not only for Christmas,
But all the long year through,
The joy that you give to others,
Is the joy that comes back to you.
And the more you spend in blessing
The poor and lonely and sad,
The more of your heart's possessing
Returns to you glad.

—John Greenleaf Whittier