

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Who Is This?

“Jesus Christ is the Heart of Christmas”

November 30 & December 1, 2013

AS WE GATHER

Welcome to St. Paul's! Whether you are someone who has come for the first time or you are a long time member of St. Paul's, whether you are an infant, a young child, middle aged, or old, you are someone for whom Jesus Christ came. Today we begin a new “church year” with the season of Advent. Advent means “coming” and during this season we prepare to celebrate, in spirit and truth, what the coming of Christ and Christmas is all about. Some people see Christmas as a nice family tradition. Others see it as some religious myth. Yet, in reality, it is about God coming personally into the world, coming to save you from sin and death.

+ PREPARATION +

WELCOME

“The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Revelation 7:17

FELLOWSHIP GREETING

OPENING HYMN

5:00 & 8:00 #571 “God Loved the World So That He Gave”

God loved the world so that He gave His only Son the lost to save,
That all who would in Him believe Should everlasting life receive.

Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, Who was made flesh and suffered death; All
then who trust in Him alone Are built on this chief cornerstone.

God would not have the sinner die; His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word declares How we in Christ are heaven's heirs.

Be of good cheer, for God's own Son Forgives all sins which you have done; And,
justified by Jesus' blood, Your Baptism grants the highest good.

If you are sick, if death is near, This truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ
Jesus saves your soul from death; That is the firmest ground of faith.

Glory to God the Father, Son, And Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To You, O blessed Trinity, Be praise now and eternally!

10:30

“Shine Jesus Shine”

Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness shining;
Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us,
shine on me, shine on me.

Refrain:

*Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.*

*Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance;
by the blood I may enter your brightness,
search me, try me, consume all my darkness, shine on me, shine on me. *Refrain*

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness;
ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here may our lives tell your story,
shine on me, shine on me. *Refrain*

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: The Holy Scriptures of the Bible reveal the “mystery” of the One True
God, namely that He is three persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit. We begin worship each Sunday by invoking His holy name.
In the name of the Father,

People: who created us, giving us life and all its blessings;

Pastor: In the name of the (+) Son,

People: who redeemed us through His death on the cross;

Pastor: In the name of the Holy Spirit,

People: who brings us to faith and leads us in the paths of righteousness.

All: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: I was glad when they said to me,

People: “Let us go to the house of the LORD!”

Pastor: The Lord is my Light and my Salvation,

People: whom shall I fear?

Pastor: The Lord is the stronghold of my life,

People: of whom shall I be afraid?

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Pastor: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

People: the light no darkness can overcome.

SONG "Light One Candle" AGPS 163

Light one candle for hope. One bright candle for hope,
He brings hope to ev'ry heart, He comes! He comes!

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CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Every Sunday when we gather for worship, we confess our sins. God's Word tells us: "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Yet, if we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive our sins and cleanse us of unrighteousness for Jesus' sake. Lord God, we confess that we have failed to "cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light". Rather than living in the light of Christ, we have instead walked in the darkness of our sinful flesh, sinning in thought, word, and deed. Grant us refuge in your infinite mercy, O God, our heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: "Understand this present time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed." Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

5:00 & 8:00 HYMN OF PRAISE #806 "Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son.

And now let the weak say "I am strong", Let the poor say "I am rich",
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

And now let the weak say "I am strong", Let the poor say "I am rich",
Because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks, give thanks.

10:30 HYMN OF PRAISE "Shout to the Lord"

My Jesus, my Saviour, Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength;
Let ev-'ry breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing. Power and majesty, praise to the King. Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name. I sing for joy at the work of Your hands, forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand, nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

My Jesus, my Saviour, Lord, there is none like You;
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength;
Let ev-'ry breath, all that I am, never cease to worship You.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing. Power and majesty, praise to the King. Mountains bow down and the seas will roar at the sound of Your name. I sing for joy at the work of Your hands, forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand, nothing compares to the promise I have in You. (Repeat)

Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lord, God, heavenly Father, at His first advent, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the light of the world. Grant that during this season of Advent, we put on the armor of light so that we may live as people who are spiritually awake in eager anticipation of our Savior's second advent; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

5:00 BAPTISM of Gideon Renard Aschebrock

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10:30 BAPTISM of Macy Ann Piotter

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Please refrain from taking photographs during the worship service.

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 2:1-5 (*The Mountain of the Lord*) This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be

established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

EPISTLE Roman 13:8–14 (*Fulfilling the Law through love*) Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 21:1–11 (*The triumphal entry*) As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Hosanna in the highest!" When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

5:00 & 8:00 SERMON HYMN #341 "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits.

The King of kings is drawing near; The Savior of the world is here.

Life and salvation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.

To God the Father raise your joyful songs of praise.

A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.

How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heaven's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov' reign enter in And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!

Redeemer, come and open wide My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine; Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame We offer to Thy name.

10:30 SERMON HYMN "In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh Fulness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

SERMON

“Who is this King?”

Matthew 21:1-11

(Rise)

8:00 APOSTLES’ CREED

Pastor: As believers in the One True God, we regularly confess our faith in Him. Today we use the words of an ancient confession of faith called the Apostles’ Creed, which dates back to the 2nd Century A.D. We confess together:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life +everlasting. Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS If you are one of our guests, please do not feel obligated to give an offering. As the offering is collected, please **sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

10:30 OFFERTORY

“He Knows Your Name”

Praise Band

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Gracious Father, as you sent your beloved Son riding humbly on a donkey into Jerusalem to give His life for all mankind, so bless us in this holy season to share the true gifts of Jesus Christ with our neighbors.

People: Grant our lips to share the truth of salvation, our tongues to sing your praise, and our lives to be wholly given to others.

Pastor: Almighty God, as you have promised to raise your mountain above every other mountain and to draw all nations to yourself, gather the nations to the Christ’s holy Church;

People: we pray that many more may come to know the truth, find hope in Jesus, that together with us, all would receive your saving Word and Sacraments.

Pastor: Lord of the Church, through the waters of Holy Baptism you have

claimed us as your own, cleansed us of our sins, and called us to walk with you day by day. We rejoice as Gideon and Macy are united with Christ and His church through Baptism.

People: Grant that these newborn Children of God may grow with us in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, as you bless us with the start of another church year, awaken us from the sleep of sin.

People: Grant us faithfulness amid temptations, knowing that salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

Pastor: Everlasting God, shine the light of your Word into the dark corners of our lives, enabling us by your grace to cast off the works of darkness.

People: Preserve us from covetousness and greed, that in a world that values the accumulation of possessions, we might be generous toward others and delight to remain the people of your possessing.

Pastor: Almighty God, even as your Son bore in His body our sins and suffering, hear our prayers for those who suffer afflictions of the body or of the mind. In mercy, remember those who have requested our prayers, especially Dorothy, Leona, Dorothy, Bob, June, Jerry, Dolores, Eugene, Eleanor, Lorina, Jean, Sarah and Joe.

People: Touch them with your healing hand, grant them the knowledge of Christ’s abiding presence, and fill them with hope for healing and restoration.

Pastor: Gracious Father, as the crowds gladly received their King, riding humbly on a donkey, grant us faith to receive Jesus as our King.

People: Bless us with faith that Jesus continues to come to us humbly, in the waters of Holy Baptism and under the forms of bread and wine, bringing us grace, mercy, and the forgiveness of our sins.

Pastor: Lord of all blessings, with joyful hearts we join with Anna, Brian, Peggy, Dalen and Pam thanking you for your generous gifts.

People: May we always remember that all good gifts come from you.

Pastor: Giver of life that has no end, receive our thanks for all who have fallen asleep in the faith while awaiting the joyous advent of Christ, the resurrection of the body, and the glories of life eternal. With Susan we remember all our loved ones already with you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

8:00 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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!

People: We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The LORD look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #370 "What Child is This"

What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mary!

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist 5:00 & 8:00

Organist 10:30

Praise Band Director

Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Manley Hurst, Marty Osell, Marc Stefanic

Montana Wendt, Abbie Moravec, Bree Novotny

Roger Gottschalk

JoLynn Bender

Mark Maline

Kim Woller

Advent Worship

"Time and Eternity"

Wednesday December 4th 10:00am & 6:00pm



A yummy Advent Dinner of Homemade chicken noodle soup, hot dogs, French bread with butter, fresh vegetables with dip and chocolate peanut butter bars will be served beginning at 4:45pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers are always welcome to help set-up & clean up!