**ST. PAUL’S LUTHERAN CHURCH***A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*The First Lutheran Church in Milwaukee*  
Established in 1841  
  
Pastor – Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse  
Congregation President – Mark Voelz  
Minister of Music – Nick Scaffidi

**December 4, 2022 – Advent 2**



2812 W. Wisconsin Ave. – Milwaukee, WI 53208-4047Phone **–** (414) 933-7825  
E-mail – [StPaulsMKE@yahoo.com](mailto:StPaulsMKE@yahoo.com)  
Web Site – http://www.saintpaulsmilwaukee.com

Please silence cell phones*.*

*“St. Paul’s Lutheran Church is a Reconciled in Christ Congregation.*

*We welcome people of every age and size, color and culture, every sexual orientation and gender identity, socio-economic status and merit, every ability and challenge.  
 We welcome believers and questioners, and questioning believers.”*

P indicates *Pastor*

A indicates *Assisting Minister*

**C**  indicates *Congregation* **(bold type)**

R indicates *Reader*

ELW indicates *cranberry red hymnal – Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

ACS indicates navy hymnal - All Creation Sings

+ indicates the congregation may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of baptism

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THEME POEM** “To Know the Dark” by Wendell Berry

A To go in the dark with a light is to know the light.

**C To know the dark, go dark. Go without sight,**

A and find that the dark, too, blooms and sings,

**C and is traveled by dark feet and dark wings.**

**GATHERING HYMN**“Now the Heavens Start to Whisper” ACS 901 verse 2



**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P God, our creator, we come to you hearts heavy, longing for forgiveness.

**C Receive our confession, and respond to our call.**

*Silence for self reflection.*

P God, we confess that we do not always know how to perceive your presence. As the days grow shorter and night stretches on,

**C we fear the dark of night.**

P We grasp for light, longing to dispel the darkness, certain it only brings fear and desolation. Even in our society, we buy into the narratives that try to tell us light is good and dark is bad.

**C We fear the dark around us.**

P We seek to numb, to avoid, to disentangle ourselves from the pain we feel, the pain of others, opting for positive platitudes and denials of real problems, too afraid to tell the truth about the pain of this world, turning on the lights without sitting in the dark.

**C We fear the dark within and without.**

P Forgive us, O God, and in this season of lengthening night, help us to perceive you in new ways. Remind us of your beautiful presence in the shadowy places of this world, of the way you show up in the dark with dreams and visions, journeys, and a savior born at midnight. Forgive us for the ways we fail to perceive you, and help us to recognize you within and without, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

P God has received our confession and forgiven us before we even ask. God of day and night and everything in between knows and loves us, and forgives us our sin in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**.

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

A The season of Advent reminds us of the peace we have in the humanity of Jesus. God came to us, leaving behind the glory of heaven to be a person like us feeling pain, joy, loss, and love.   
**Today, we light the candle of peace, because in Jesus, heaven came to earth.**A At every beginning there is a yearning for the one who is coming.   
P O Emmanuel, **Prepare us for your coming.**

A We gather together to get ready for what? Only heaven knows.   
P O Emmanuel, **Prepare us for your coming.**

A We wait for the day when God will create a prevailing peace on the earth, and natural-born enemies turn into newborn friends.   
P O Emmanuel, **Prepare us for your coming.**

A We get ready for God to come close by laying our lives open to Jesus, asking him to sort through all our mixed motives.  
P O Emmanuel, **Prepare us for your coming.**

**Jesus, we welcome your presence now with the lighting of**

**these candles, whose flames bring warmth to winter and fill this place with the glow of hope. Amen.***The first and second Advent Candles are lit.*

*You are invited to stand in body or spirit.*

**Hymn “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”  
 ELW 240 verses 1 and 2**1 Light one candle to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He shall bring salvation to Israel,

God fulfills the promise.

2 Light two candles to watch for Messiah:

let the light banish darkness.

He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,

gently lead them homeward.

**Blessing**P Praise to you, O God, who gives us courage to start again.

You fasten righteousness around your waist and baptize with the Holy Spirit’s fire. Bless us as we mirror your mighty fire in these simple flames, and teach us to mirror your justice in the paths we prepare. We ask that peace abound, until none hurt or destroy over all the earth. **Amen**

**Prayer of the Day**P Let us pray. **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**

**Readings**

R God is present when we are in the darkness of injustice.

**FIRST READING Isaiah 11:1-10**R 1A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 2The 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. 3His 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; 4but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek 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. 5Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
 6The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. 7The cow and the bear shall graze,  their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. 9They 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.  
 10On 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.

R Word of God, Word of Life.  
**C Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 72 1-7, 18-19**

R 1Give the king your justice, O God,  
  and your righteousness to the king’s son;  
2**that he may rule your people righteously**  
**and the poor with justice;**  
 3that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
 and the hills, in righteousness.  
4**Let him defend the needy among the people,**  
**rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**  
 5May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
 from one generation to another.  
6**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,**  
**like showers that water the earth.**  
 7In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an

abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
18**Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel;**  
**you alone do wondrous deeds!**  
 19And blessed be your glorious name forever,  
  and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.**SECOND READING Romans 15:4-13**

R 4Whatever 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. 5May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, 6so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
 7Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8For 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 patriarchs, 9and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,  
 “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,  
  and sing praises to your name”; 10and again he says,  
 “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; 11and again,  
 “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; 12and again Isaiah says,  
 “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the  
 Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”  
13May 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.  
R Word of God, Word of Life.  
**C Thanks be to God.**  
  
**CHILDREN’S TIME**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**  
 “We Are Waiting for Jesus” ACS 905 verse 2

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**GOSPEL**

P The Gospel according to Matthew 3:1-12

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**  
P 1In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” 3This 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.’ ”  
4Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.  
 7But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9Do 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. 10Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.  
 11“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12His 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.”

P The Gospel of our Lord.  
**C Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF DAY “Prepare the Royal Highway” ELW 264**

1 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:

*Refrain* Hosanna to the Lord,

for he fulfills God's word!

2 God's people, see him coming:

your own eternal king!

Palm branches strew before him!

Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you!

No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*

3 Then fling the gates wide open

to greet your promised king!

Your king, yet ev'ry nation

its tribute too may bring.

All lands will bow before him;

their voices join your singing: *Refrain*

4 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: *Refrain*

**APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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 THE PEOPLE** *(response)*A Lord, in your mercy,  
**C Receive our prayer.**

**PEACE**P The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**C And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**Offertory** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” ELW 254 vs 1  
  
1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,

born to set thy people free;

from our fears and sins release us;

let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,

hope of all the earth thou art,

dear desire of ev'ry nation,

joy of ev'ry longing heart.

**OFFERING PRAYER**   
A Eternal God,

you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and  
make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of

your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P Gathered together, we proclaim the mystery of this season, of your coming into the world, born of humanity, the creator of all that is, robed in mortal frailty.

**HYMN** “Creator of the Stars of Night” ELW 245   
*verses Pastor Delaney 1 and 2; All verse 5*

1 Creator of the stars of night,

your people's everlasting light,

O Christ, redeemer of us all,

we pray you hear us when we call.

2 When this old world drew on toward night,

you came; but not in splendor bright,

not as a monarch, but the child

of Mary, blessed mother mild.

**5 To God the Father, God the Son,**

**and God the Spirit, Three in One,**

**praise, honor, might, and glory be**

**from age to age eternally. Amen.**

**EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
 Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
**C Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.**  
P Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
**C 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.**

P With Mary, we magnify your name: My soul proclaims the

greatness of the Lord,

**C my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

P Gathered into one by God’s spirit, let us pray the prayer that the Lord Jesus taught us. God you are our parent, our mother,  
**C 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.**

**INVITATIONAL HYMN** “I Come with Joy” ELW 482 vs 1  
1 I come with joy, a child of God,

forgiven, loved, and free,

the life of Jesus to recall

in love laid down for me,

in love laid down for me.

**COMMUNION**

**Hymn During Communion** “Hark the Glad Sound” ELW 239

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,

the Savior promised long;

let ev'ry heart prepare a throne

and ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,

in Satan's bondage held.

The gates of brass before him burst,

the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,

the bleeding soul to cure,

and with the treasures of his grace

to enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,

your welcome shall proclaim,

and heav'n's eternal arches ring

with your beloved name.

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A Faithful God,

in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future,

coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**BLESSING**

P God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN** “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry” ELW 249  
  
1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

announces that the Lord is nigh;

awake and hearken, for he brings

glad tidings of the King of kings!

2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;

make straight the way for God within,

and let us all our hearts prepare

for Christ to come and enter there.

3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,

our refuge and our great reward;

without your grace we waste away

like flow'rs that wither and decay.

4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,

and make us rise to fall no more;

oh, let your face upon us shine

and fill the world with love divine.

5 All praise to you, eternal Son,

whose advent has our freedom won,

whom with the Father we adore,

and Holy Spirit, evermore.

**DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**Contributors to this morning’s Worship…Thank YOU!**

*Presiding Minister:* Rev. Delaney Schlake-Kruse  
*Minister of Music*: Nick Scaffidi

*Assisting Minister*: Nancy Day

*Communion Assistant*: Mary Klug or Mark Van Engen

*Reader*: Katia Scaffidi

*Greeter*: Karen Bromberek

*Usher Team*: 1

*Counter:* 3

*Altar Guild:* Judy Gilbertson and Marcia Mikich

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“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist Cry” Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621, Public Domain*



**KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**  
\*\* denotes newly added item

**Members with Special Concerns**

Larry Schulz

**Others with Special Concerns**

*Donna Kitzman*, mother of Tim Kitzman *Charles Schulz*, father of Larry Schulz

*Katie Ruen*, Pastor Ed’s wife/friend of St. Paul’s  *Jerry Zimmerman*, former member

*Kathy Hilmoe*, friend of MaryEllen & Howie Voelz *Avis Jeffers*, cousin of Mary Ellen Voelz   
*Bill Mueller*, friend & former member of St. Paul’s  
*LaVerne Mueller*, friend & former member of St. Paul’s

*Dennis & Barb Benjamin*, former members of St. Paul’s  
*Chuck & Caryl Nye*, brother-in-law & sister-in-law of Mary Klug

**Other Prayers**:

~ We pray for the people of Ukraine and others seeking refuge from war.

~ We pray for Rev. Dr. Charles (Chuck) Peterson who is currently serving in Indonesia.

~ We pray for responses to gun violence in our city and nation, and pray for the courage to

advocate for change so that all people might live in peace.

~ We pray for our partners at Neighborhood House and Our Safe Place.

~ For our partnership congregations: Shepherd of the Bay (Ellison Bay) and Galilee (Pewaukee)

~ For our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton & Greater Milwaukee Synod Bishop Paul Erickson.

