



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Advent Midweek 2 — December 7, 2022



ANGELS

we have heard on high

Joseph

Compline

The full liturgy can be found on page 225 of the hymnal.

The Advent Candles

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light:

On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2

John the Baptist called out in the wilderness:

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

"Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him."

Matthew 3:2,3

Christ himself has given us the power for repentance. By his holy life and innocent death he has conquered Satan and sin and is able to help us when we are tempted.

Hebrews 2:18

He reigns in our lives with his grace and bring us to eternal life.

Romans 5:12

Let us pray.

Almighty God, your holy Word has called us to repent of sin and walk in your path of righteousness. For the sake of Jesus Christ, you have not quickly judged the world for sin, but have given all a time of grace, and a call to turn from evil ways.

By the power of your Spirit, turn our hearts to you. Make us grow in our obedience to your Word. In Jesus, you have revealed to us your holy love. Move us to love one another as he has loved us, and to serve one another as if we were serving you; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
 to sing praise to your name, O Most High,
 to her - ald your love in the morn - ing,
 your truth at the close of day.

Hymn 795

The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Is Ended

1 The day you gave us, Lord, is end - ed, the dark - ness
 2 We thank you that your Church, un - sleep - ing while earth rolls
 3 As o - ver con - ti - nent and is - land each dawn leads
 4 So be it, Lord! Your throne shall nev - er, like earth's proud
 falls at your re - quest; to you our morn - ing
 on - ward in - to light, through all the world her
 to an - oth - er day, the voice of prayer is
 em - pires, pass a - way; your king - dom stands and
 hymns as - cend - ed, your praise shall sanc - ti - fy our rest.
 watch is keep - ing and nev - er rests by day or night.
 nev - er si - lent, nor do the prais - es die a - way.
 grows for - ev - er un - til there dawns your glo - rious day.

Confession and Absolution

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.

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

—*silence for meditation*—

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
**we have sinned against you
in our thoughts,
in our words,
in our deeds,
and in all that we have not done.**

**Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Deliver and restore us,
that we may rest in peace.**

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ,
and in him we are forgiven.

Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun,
when we shall serve him in newness of life.

Amen.

Hymn 306

Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be - hold, the
2 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
3 Fling wide the gates; pre - pare your heart to be a
4 Re - deem - er, come! We o - pen wide our hearts to
5 E - ter - nal praise, un - end - ing fame we of - fer



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is
rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
tem - ple set a - part from earth - ly use for
you; here, Lord, a - bide. O en - ter with your
to your sav - ing name. Your Ho - ly Spir - it



draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
grace di - vine and cause your face on us to shine.
guide us on un - til our glo - rious goal is won.

Reading 2 Samuel 7:4,8-16

⁴But that night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying:

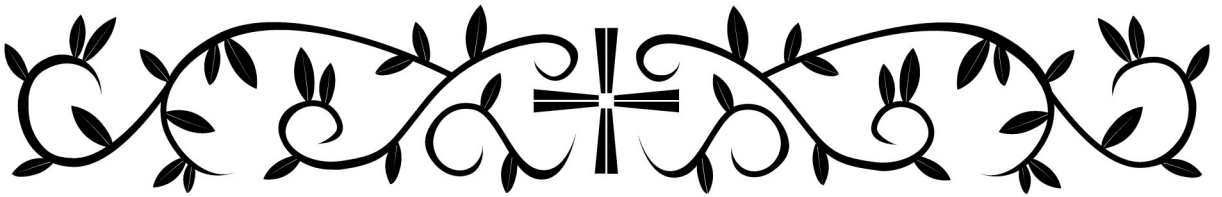
⁸“Now then, tell my servant David, “This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

“The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: ¹²When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.





Psalm 86 *spoken responsively*

A Prayer of David

Hear me, Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

Guard my life, for I am faithful to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.

You are my God; have mercy on me, Lord,
for I call to you all day long.

Bring joy to your servant, Lord,
for I put my trust in you.

You, Lord, are forgiving and good,
abounding in love to all who call to you.

Hear my prayer, Lord;
listen to my cry for mercy.

When I am in distress, I call to you,
because you answer me.

Among the gods there is none like you, Lord;
no deeds can compare with yours.

All the nations you have made
will come and worship before you, Lord;
they will bring glory to your name.

For you are great and do marvelous deeds;
you alone are God.

Teach me your way, Lord,
that I may rely on your faithfulness;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.

I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart;
I will glorify your name forever.

For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the depths,
from the realm of the dead.

Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God;
ruthless people are trying to kill me—
they have no regard for you.

But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

Turn to me and have mercy on me;

show your strength in behalf of your servant;

save me, because I serve you

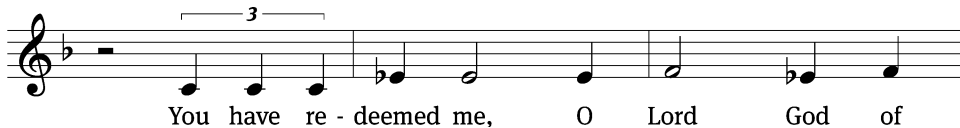
just as my mother did.

Give me a sign of your goodness,

that my enemies may see it and be put to shame,

for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Response



Sermon Reading *Matthew 1:18-25*

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

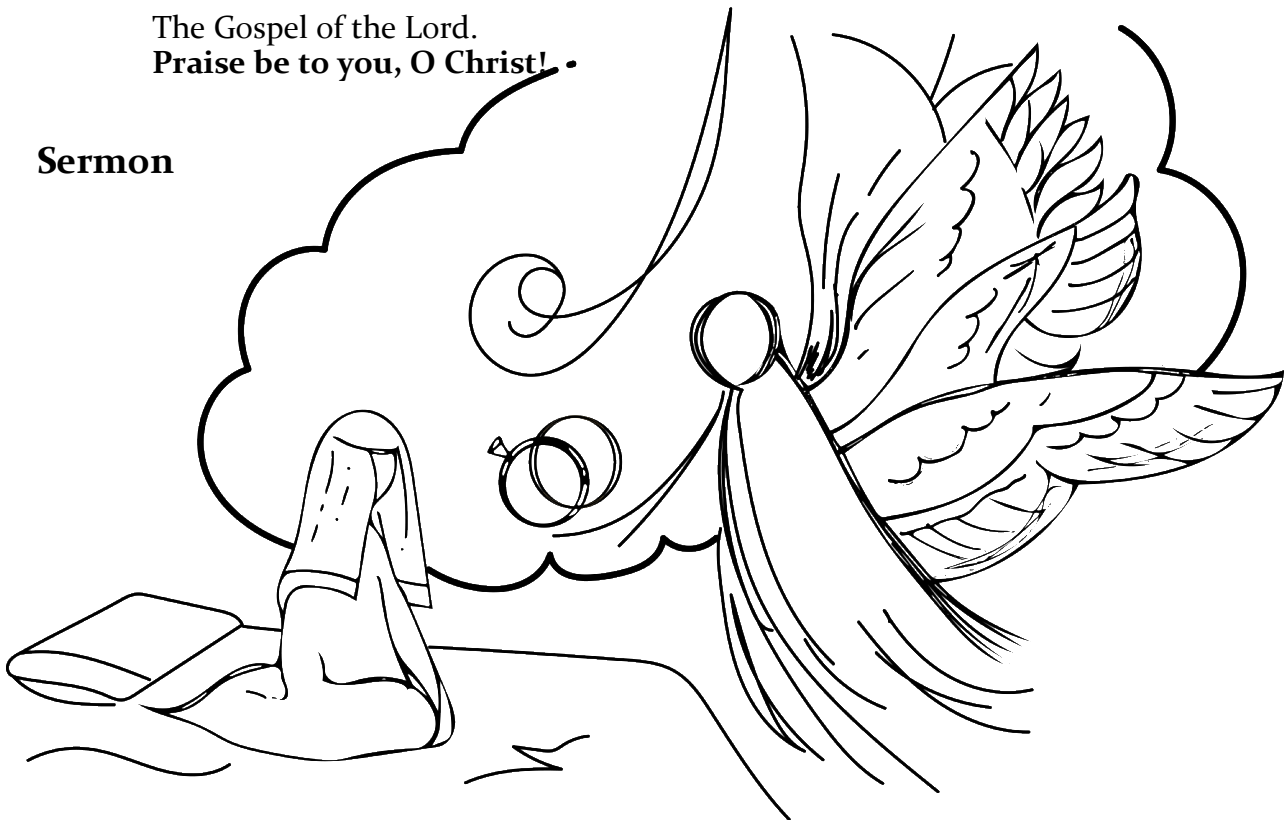
²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ! •

Sermon

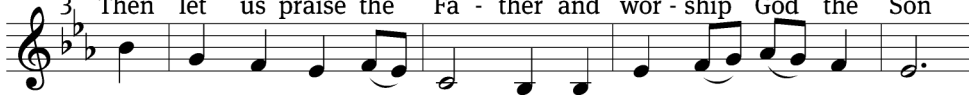


Hymn 892

By All Your Saints Still Striving



1 By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at rest,
2 We sing our praise for Jo - seph your guard - ian, dear - est Lord,
3 Then let us praise the Fa - ther and wor - ship God the Son



your ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er - more be blessed.
who, lis - t'ning to the an - gel, once saved you from the sword.
and sing to God the Spir - it, e - ter - nal Three in One,



You rose, our King vic - to - rious, that they might wear the crown
In tem - ple, home, and work - shop, he led you, honed your skill;
till all the ran - somed num - ber who stand be - fore the throne



and ev - er shine in splen - dor re - flect - ed from your throne.
so teach us, Christ our broth - er, to do our Fa - ther's will.
as - cribe all pow'r and glo - ry and praise to God a - lone.

Offering

Our offering is our reaction to God's Word. Do not feel obligated to give here, we are just thankful you are here. Your offerings here support the ministry here at this church, along with the mission work of our larger synod.

Prayer *music can be found on page 228*



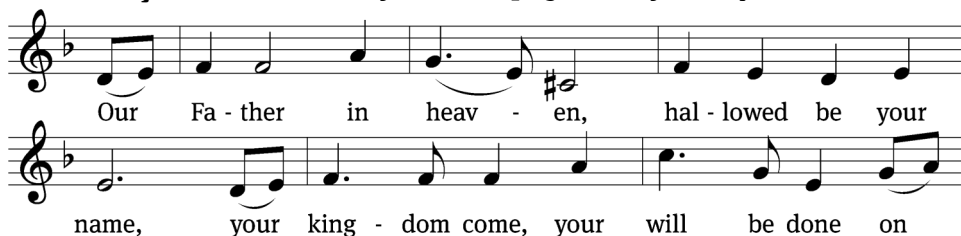
Hear my prayer, O Lord;
lis - ten to my cry.
Keep me as the ap - ple of your eye;
hide me in the shad - ow of your wings.
In right - eous - ness I shall see you;
when I a - wake, your pres - ence will give me joy.

Prayer

O God our Father, by your mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our sure defender; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *music can be found on page 230 of the hymnal*



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on



earth as in heav - en. Give us to-day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de -
liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the
pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Song of Simeon *music can be found starting on page 231 of the hymnal*

Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,
and guard us sleep - ing
that a - wake we may watch with Christ
and a - sleep we may rest in peace.

In peace, Lord, in peace you let your ser - vant
now de - part ac - cord - ing to your word. For my
eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which
you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry peo - ple, a
light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Guide us wak - ing, O Lord,
and guard us sleep - ing
that a - wake we may watch with Christ
and a - sleep we may rest in peace,
in peace, in peace.

Blessing

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen

Hymn 323

Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's
2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse should doom to
3 When earth drew on to dark - est night, you came, but
4 At your great name, ma - jes - tic now, all knees must
5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the



ev - er - last - ing light, O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
death a u - ni - verse, you came to save a ru - ined race
not in splen - dor bright, not as a king, but as the child
bend, all hearts must bow; all things on earth with one ac - cord
Spir - it, Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you, hear us when we call.
with heal - ing gifts of heav'n - ly grace.
of Mar - y, vir - gin moth - er mild.
join those in heav'n to call you Lord.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

A - men.







The Bethlehem Candle

The second candle we light in the Advent wreath is the Bethlehem Candle. This violet candle is also referred to as the Peace Candle. This candle reminds us that in Bethlehem, the Prince of Peace was born to the Virgin Mary.