



Third Sunday in Advent

Children's Program

December 15, 2024

"In Nomine Iesu"

Welcome to
SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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***WELCOME** – to all who are worshiping in God’s house this morning. We especially welcome all our guests. May your Advent worship strengthen your faith in Christ, our Lord, and may it enhance your celebration of our Lord’s birth. We pray you know Christ’s love through us and will return again soon.*

Welcome, and Merry Christmas from the St. Paul's Lutheran Children's Choir! We are so glad you have joined us today for our adaptation of *The Christmas Story: Through the Eyes of the Friendly Beasts*, written by Sue and Mike Gay. We hope it will transport you back to that holy night when (We) *Three Kings* sought a babe far *Away in a Manger*, angels sang *The First Noel*, and God gave his gift of *Joy to the World*. Thank you to those who were involved in preparing the children for this day, and God's blessings to you all during this most special season!

All are asked to fill out the ***registration card*** found in your pew rack. The ushers will gather the cards from both members and guests following worship.

Come and join us this Wednesday evening for our final **Advent Midweek Worship** at 6:30.

Prelude
Welcome and Announcements
Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bells

The Order of Worship
Lutheran Service Book – Divine Service Setting One

Opening Hymn

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

LSB #338

Invocation *(please stand)*

P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the
truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful
and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from
all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word
and for self-examination.*

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

All **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by
nature sinful and unclean. 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. We
justly deserve Your present and eternal punish-
ment. 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.**

Absolution

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for
you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a
called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His
authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the
name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy
Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Ps. 146:5-8; antiphon: Phil 4:4

P Rejoice in the Lord always;

C **again I will say, Rejoice.**

P Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

C **whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

P who made heaven and earth, the sea,
and all that is in them,

C **who keeps faith forever;**

P who executes justice for the oppressed,

C **who gives food to the hungry.**

P The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

C **The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

All **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and
will be forever. Amen.**

P Rejoice in the Lord always;

C **again I will say, Rejoice.**

Kyrie

P In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us
pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of
the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to
the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P For this holy house and for all who offer here their
worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent.)

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers
and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your
gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

(be seated)

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice
and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has
cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in
your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶ On that day it
shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your
hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The Lord your God is in your midst, a
mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with
gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you
with loud singing. ¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for
the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹
Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I
will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change

their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰ At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Common Alleluia and Verse (*please stand*)

Al-le-lu-ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e-ter-nal life. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 7:18-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 7th chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁸ The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹ calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰ And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹ In that hour he

healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²² And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³ And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

²⁴ When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is he of whom it is written,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.’

²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” ²⁹ (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, ³⁰ but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

³¹ “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another,

“We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’

³³ For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴ The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ³⁵ Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

All 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)

Hymn of the Day *“O Come Little Children”*
Sung by the children as they process to the front.

Children’s Program

*“The Christmas Story:
Through the Eyes of the Friendly Beasts”*
by Sue and Mike Gay

Presentation of the Offering

Prayers of the Church

(After each portion of the prayers)

P Lord, in your mercy, **C** **hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:
All 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 *(please stand)*

P 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.

C Amen.

Sending Hymn *“Hark the Glad Sound”* LSB #349

Silent Prayer

(be seated)

Postlude

“Soli Deo Gloria”

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