

Worship Book for November 30th, 2025
St. Paul's Lutheran Family
First Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus by Charles Wesley

WELCOME

LIGHTING ADVENT WREATH

We Are Waiting
St. Paul's Lutheran Family Choir

The Assembly Stands

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only
you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to
release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while
waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and
teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in
God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may
abound in the hope you have promised.**

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

✝ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the
Savior.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN *ELW#260*

The King Shall Come

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,

when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

- 2 Not as of old a little child,
to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes,
and we shall see his face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925

The Assembly is Seated

GREETING

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.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah,

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshiping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 122

Psalm 122

Larry J. Long



I was glad when they said to
me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary*
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I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of
the LORD." (Ps. 122:1)

¹ I was glad when they¹ said to me,
"Let us go to the house¹ of the LORD."

² **Now our¹ feet are standing
within your gates,¹ O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built¹ as a city
that is at unity¹ with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes¹ of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name¹ of the LORD. R**

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- 5 For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.
- 6 **Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:**
"May they pros- | per who love you.
- 7 Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.
- 8 **For the sake of my kindred | and companions,**
I pray for | your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the | LORD our God,
I will seek to | do you good." **R**

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SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

A reading from Romans.

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM

Come Now, O God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

The Assembly Stands

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

Jesus said to the disciples, ³⁶ "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in

what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Assembly is Seated

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE Traci Angel

SERMON Rev. Paul M. Larson

The Assembly stands

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW# 241 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,
your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

- 2 I lay in fetters, groaning;
you came to set me free.
I stood, my shame bemoaning;
you came to honor me.
A glorious crown you give me,
a treasure safe on high
that will not fail or leave me
as earthly riches fly.

- 3 Love caused your incarnation;
love brought you down to me.
Your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
Oh, love beyond all telling,

that led you to embrace
in love, all love excelling,
our lost and fallen race.

- 4 Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed
and tremble at your doom.
All hail the Lord's appearing!
O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering
and guide us safely home.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-1676; tr. composite

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.

The Assembly is Seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

A brief silence.

God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation.
Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing *especially those affected by HIV and AIDS as we remember World AIDS Day*. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please Share a Sign of Peace with one another

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING HYMN

ELW# 253 He Came Down

- 1 He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;

he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.

2 He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.

3 He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.

4 He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.

Text: Cameroon traditional

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.**

The Assembly Stands

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also 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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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.

The Assembly is Seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW#736 God the Sculptor of the Mountains

- 1 *God the sculptor of the mountains,
God the miller of the sand,
God the jeweler of the heavens,
God the potter of the land:
you are womb of all creation,
we are formless; shape us now.*

- 2 *God the nuisance to the Pharaoh,
God the cleaver of the sea,
God the pillar in the darkness,
God the beacon of the free:
you are fount of all deliv'rance,
we are sightless; lead us now.*

- 3 *God the dresser of the vineyard,
God the planter of the wheat,
God the reaper of the harvest,
God the source of all we eat:
you are host at ev'ry table,
we are hungry; feed us now.*

- 4 *God the unexpected infant,*

*God the calm, determined youth,
God the table-turning prophet,
God the resurrected truth:
you are present ev'ry moment,
we are searching; meet us now.*

Text: John Thornburg, b. 1954

Text © 1993 John Thornburg, admin. Augsburg Fortress

ELW#259 Fling Wide the Door

- 1 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate;
the King of glory comes in state;
the Lord of lords and King of kings,
the Savior of the world who brings
his great salvation to the earth.
So raise a shout of holy mirth
and praise our God and Lord,
Creator, Spirit, Word.

- 2 He is the rock of our belief,
the heart of mercy's gentle self.
His kingly crown is holiness;
his scepter is his loveliness;
he brings our sorrows to an end.
Now gladly praise our king and friend,
and worship him with song
for saving us from wrong.

- 3 Oh, happy towns and blessed lands
that live by their true king's commands.
And blessed be the hearts he rules,
the humble places where he dwells.
He is the rightful Son of bliss
who fills our lives and makes us his,
creator of the world,
our only strength for good.

- 4 Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ;
our hearts are open wide in trust.
Oh, show us now your lovely grace,
upon our sorrows shine your face,
and let your Holy Spirit guide
our journey in your grace so wide.
We praise your holy name,
from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
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ELW# 436 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

- 1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!"
Alleluia!
Rise and prepare the feast to share;
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.
- 2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and all her heart with joy is springing.
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious,
the strong in grace, in truth victorious:
her star is ris'n; her light is come.
Now come, O Blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.
Sing hosanna!
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
and follow to the banquet hall.

3 Gloria! Let heav'n adore you!
Let saints and angels sing before you,
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,
with angel choirs around your throne.
No eye has caught the light,
no ear the thund'ring might
of such glory.
There we will go: what joy we'll know!
There sweet delight will ever flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

The Assembly Stands

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *ELW #207 Thankful Hearts and Voices*
Raise

Thankful hearts and voices raise;
tell ev'ryone what God has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice
and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises
and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen
you and keep you in his peace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

**God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and
bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.
Amen.**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

The Assembly Seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

The Assembly Stands

SENDING HYMN

ELW# 244 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

- 1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.
- 2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.

3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and suff'rings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ELW# 250 Blessed Be the God of Isreal