St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel and University Center
Third Sunday in Advent
December 14th, 2025

Divine Service Setting Two, Lutheran Service Book, page 167
Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

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.**

Kneel/Stand

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **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 punishment. 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.**

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.**

Stand

Service of the Word

Entrance Hymn: Come, Thou long-expected Jesus – See insert

Kyrie *LSB 168*

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A 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.**
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
C **Lord, have mercy.**
A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C **Amen.**

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

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.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 35:1–10*

[1]The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus;
[2]it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
[3]Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
[4]Say to those who have an anxious heart,
"Be strong; fear not!
Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."
[5]Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
[6]then shall the lame man leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.
For waters break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
[7]the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
[8]And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Way of Holiness;
the unclean shall not pass over it.
It shall belong to those who walk on the way;
even if they are fools, they shall not go astray.
[9]No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

[10]And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *Psalm 146; antiphon: v. 5*

[1]Praise | the LORD!*
Praise the LORD, | O my soul!
[2]I will praise the LORD as long | as I live;*
I will sing praises to my God while I have my | being.

[3]Put not your trust in | princes,*
in a son of man, in whom there is no sal- | vation.
[4]When his breath departs he returns | to the earth;*
on that very day his plans | perish.

[5]Blessèd is he whose help is the God of | Jacob,*
whose hope is in the | LORD his God,
[6]who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is | in them,*
who keeps faith for- | ever;
[7]who executes justice for | the oppressed,*
who gives food to the | hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;
[8]the LORD opens the eyes | of the blind.*
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the | righteous.
[9]The LORD watches over the sojourners;
he upholds the widow and the | fatherless,*
but the way of the wicked he brings to | ruin.

[10]The LORD will reign for- | ever,*
your God, O Zion, to all generations. | Praise the LORD!

Epistle *James 5:7–11*

[7]Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. [8]You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. [9]Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. [10]As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. [11]Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Choir – King Jesus Has a Garden

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 173*

C **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel *Matthew 11:2–15*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[2]When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples [3]and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" [4]And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: [5]the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. [6]And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

[7]As they went away, 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? [8]What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. [9]What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. [10]This is he of whom it is written,

"'Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way before you.'

[11]Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. [12]From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. [13]For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, [14]and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. [15]He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–89
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon – Be patient – James 5:7-11

Stand

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church
Stand

Offertory *LSB 176*

C **What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?**
I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.
I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,
in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface *LSB 177*

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 Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus *LSB 178*

C **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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 178*

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *LSB 179*

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini *LSB 180*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei *LSB 180*

C **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.

Sit

Distribution

Concerning the Holy Communion

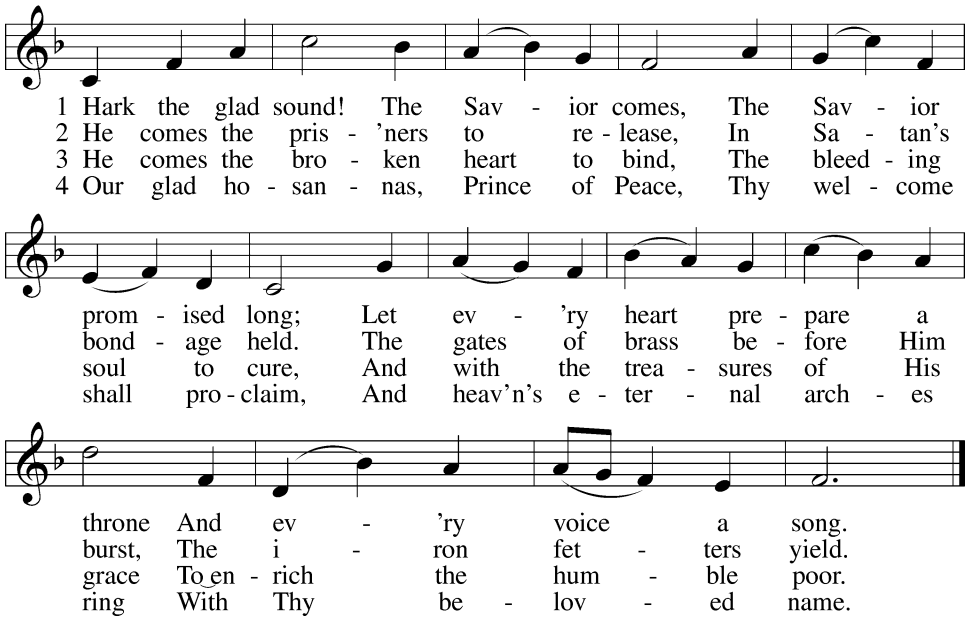
We ordinarily offer the Lord's Supper only to those who are communicant members of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or of congregations which are part of a church body which is in altar or pulpit fellowship with the LCMS. The Scriptures teach that Holy Communion is to be a confession of a common faith (1 Cor. 10:17, Acts 2:42) and that those who are unprepared may even do themselves spiritual harm (1 Cor. 11:23-32). We do not hereby presume to question another's faith in Christ, but hold this historic position out of love for God's Word and in care for souls. Inviting all Christians to Communion would imply a oneness which does not yet exist but for which we must all pray. Even as we try to respect the practices of other Christian denominations so we ask others to respect our practice. Those who would like to discuss this practice at more length may make an appointment with our pastor to do so.

If you are unable to receive Holy Communion, but wish to receive a blessing, please feel free to come forward. Please stand with your hands behind your back to indicate that you would like a blessing.

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

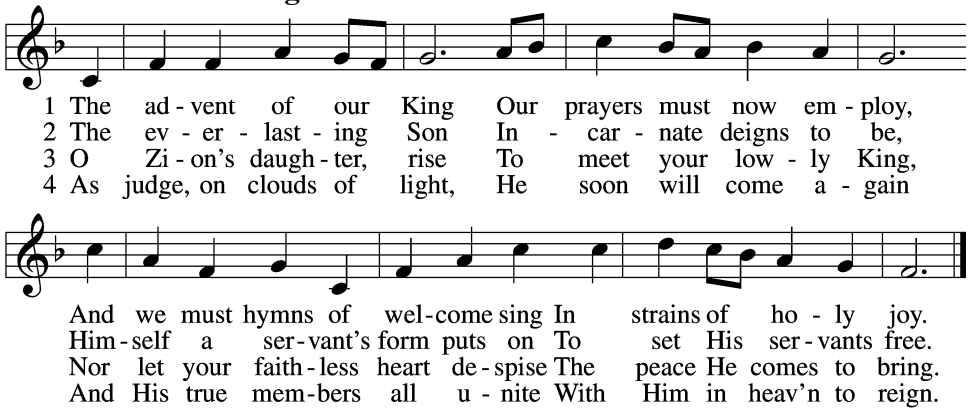
Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925, alt.
Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth
Text and tune: Public domain

349 Hark the Glad Sound



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702–51
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734–1820
Text and tune: Public domain

331 The Advent of Our King



5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.

Δ 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,

With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806–76, alt.
Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731–76
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 182*

C **Lord, now You let Your servant go in peace;**
Your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which You have prepared in the sight of ev'ry people:
A light to reveal You to the nations
and the glory of Your people Israel.
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.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Benediction *LSB 183*

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.**

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book
Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

In our prayers we pray for DP Farenthold and John Ireland who are undergoing treatments for cancer.

Upcoming Events!

Christmas Eve: Divine Service (candle light and Holy Communion) will be held at 7:00 PM

With the exception of the December 17, 21, and 24 services, Pastor Mons is on vacation. He will return to the chapel on January 2, 2026. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time please contact Rev. Hartwig of Our Redeemer at 319-338-5626.

Sunday, December 21, immediately following announcements we will put up and decorate the Chapel Christmas tree. Many hands make for light work.

General Information

Cry Room: If you are in need of a place to go with your children during the service, please feel free to use the bell tower. You will still be able to hear the service from there. Also, there is a changing station in the women's bathroom.

Bulletin Announcements: If you are in charge of an announcement for an event, please have it to the administrative assistant by 9:00 AM on the Thursday before the first Sunday you would like it to run. E-mail it to stpaulschapel.iowacity@gmail.com

Lost and Found! In the student center is a wicker storage cube which is the Chapel's Lost and Found. Any items left in the Chapel will be placed in this container. At the end of each month, the bin will be emptied and its contents will be donated to Good Will. All Chapelites are strongly encouraged to check the Lost and Found periodically so we don't donate something of yours!

Auto Debit Offering Option: If you would like to automate or update your existing auto-offering please visit https://stpaulic.com/giving/ or speak with Chapel Treasurer Samantha Zoske, treasurer.stpaul@gmail.com

Calendar

14 Today	Divine Service at 9:00 AM Happy Hour Bible class
17 Wednesday	Midweek Advent at 7:00 PM NO Bible class at 7:30 PM
21 Sunday	Divine Service at 9:00 AM Happy Hour NO Bible class

Private absolution is available by appointment.

Contact Information:

St. Paul's Lutheran Chapel, Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
404 East Jefferson, Iowa City, IA 52245, (319) 337-3652 www.stpaulic.com
Rev. W. Max Mons, S.T.M.: wmaxmons@gmail.com
Tyce Marquez, Administrative Assistant: stpaulschapel.iowacity@gmail.com