

# First Sunday of Advent



**First Sunday of Advent**  
**Holy Communion Setting Ten**  
**St. Paul Lutheran Church – November 28, 2021 – 10:00 A.M.**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

**PRELUDE**

*Sleepers, Wake!*  
*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Alec Wyton  
David Smart

**WELCOME**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the God of manna,  
the God of miracles,  
the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance, let us confess our sin.

God, our provider,  
**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**  
**We question your ways when they differ from the ways**  
**of the world in which we live.**  
**We turn to our own understanding**  
**rather than trusting in you.**  
**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**  
**Turn us again to you.**  
**Where else can we turn?**  
**Share with us the words of eternal life**  
**and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God:  
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,  
you are fed and nourished.  
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,  
there is always more than enough.  
Through Jesus, † the bread of life,  
you are shown God’s mercy:  
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## \*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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, **Lord Christ, and come.** By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, **one God, now and forever. Amen**

## FIRST READING

## Jeremiah 33:14-16

*In the Old Testament, "righteousness" often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today's reading, Jerusalem's future name – "The LORD is our righteousness" – proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.*

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

## PSALM

### Psalm 25:1-10



Psalm 25:1  
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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- <sup>1</sup>To | you, O LORD,  
I lift | up my soul.
- <sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**
- <sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.
- <sup>4</sup>**Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths. R**
- <sup>5</sup>Lead me in your | truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.
- <sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting. R**
- <sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- | ness, O LORD.
- <sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**
- <sup>9</sup>You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.
- <sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies. R**

## SECOND READING

### 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

- <sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?
- <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.
- <sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**\*GOSPEL**

**Luke 21:25-36**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>25</sup>“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup>Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you; this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup>“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**THE SERMON**

The Rev. Jamie Green Klopotoski

## Creator of the Stars of Night



1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er -  
 2 When this old world drew on toward night, you came; but not in  
 3 At your great name, O Je - sus, now all knees must bend, all  
 4 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e -  
 5 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it,



last - ing light, O Christ, re - deem - er of us all,  
 splen - dor bright, not as a mon - arch, but the child  
 hearts must bow: all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
 ter - nal day; de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
 Three in One, praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



we pray you hear us when we call.  
 of Mar - y, bless - ed moth - er mild.  
 like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.  
 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly. A - men.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. *Hymnal* 1940, alt.  
 Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, plainsong mode IV  
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## \*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 INTERCESSION**

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind, and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to all leaders in our communities. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept, and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Thank you for services such as the Open Door, Action, Inc., The Grace Center, and Family Promise. May those they service find comfort this holiday season. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

## **\*THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am**

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;". The second system also has a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "set your seal up - on my heart and live in me." The music is in a minor key with a 3/4 time signature.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

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**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Jesus, Bread of life,  
**you have set this table with your very self,  
 and called us to the feast of plenty.  
 Gather what has been sown among us,  
 and strengthen us in this meal.  
 Make us to be what we receive here,  
 your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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.**

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.  
 You reveal your glory  
 as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:

equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God,  
ever to be adored in your eternal glory.

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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

#### \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.  
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.  
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.  
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### \*THE 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.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



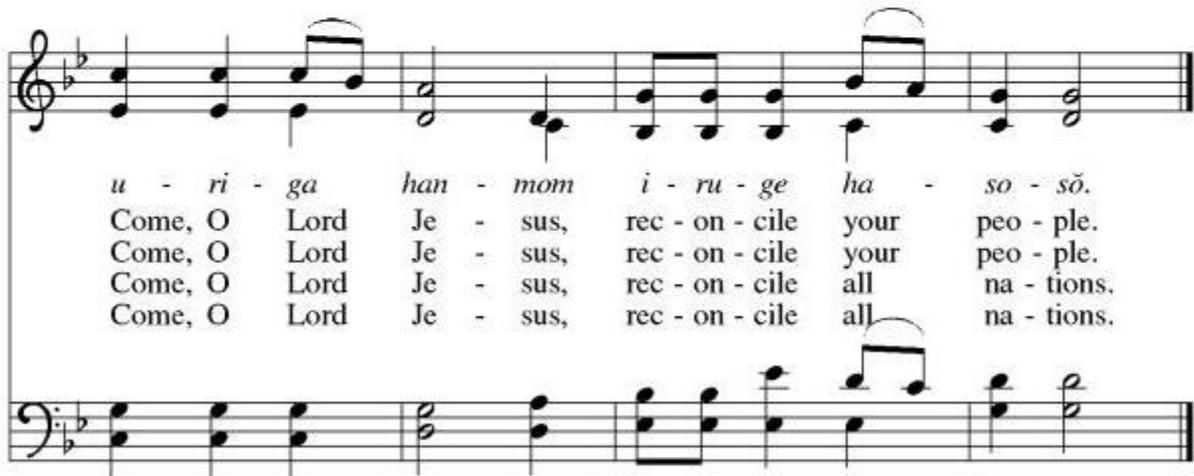
you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

# Come Now, O Prince of Peace

*Ososǒ, ososǒ*



*O - so - sǒ o - so - sǒ, pyong - hwa - ūi - im - gŭm*  
1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.  
2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.  
3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.  
4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



*u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sǒ.*  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.  
Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope  
Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947  
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## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

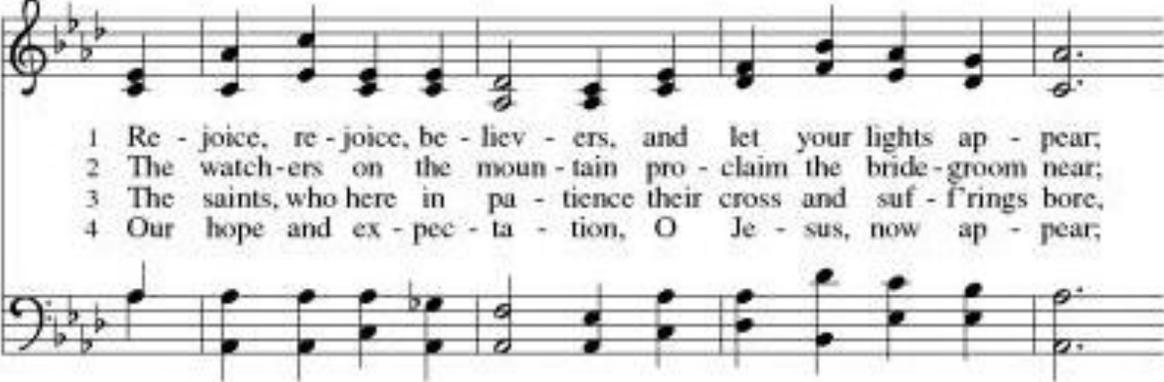
Jesus, Bread of life,  
we have received from your table  
more than we could ever ask.  
As you have nourished us in this meal,  
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.  
In your name we pray. Amen.

## \*BLESSING

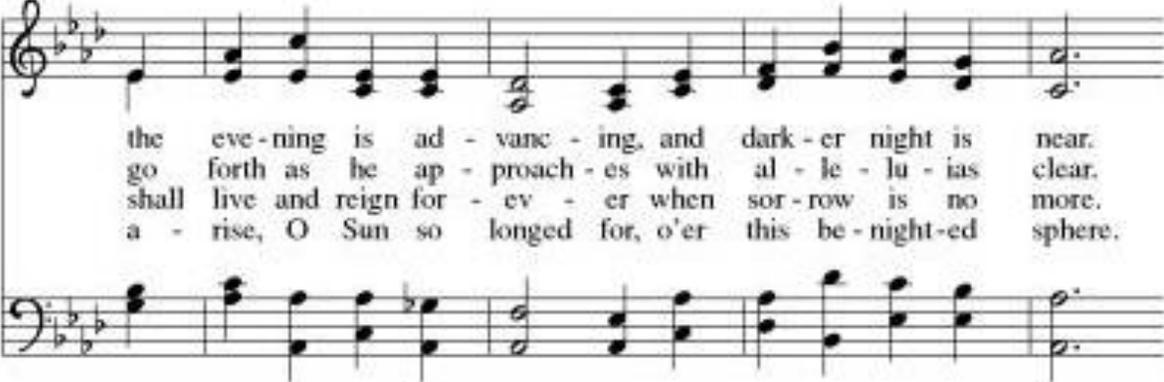
The blessing of God,  
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  
✠ be upon you now and forever. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

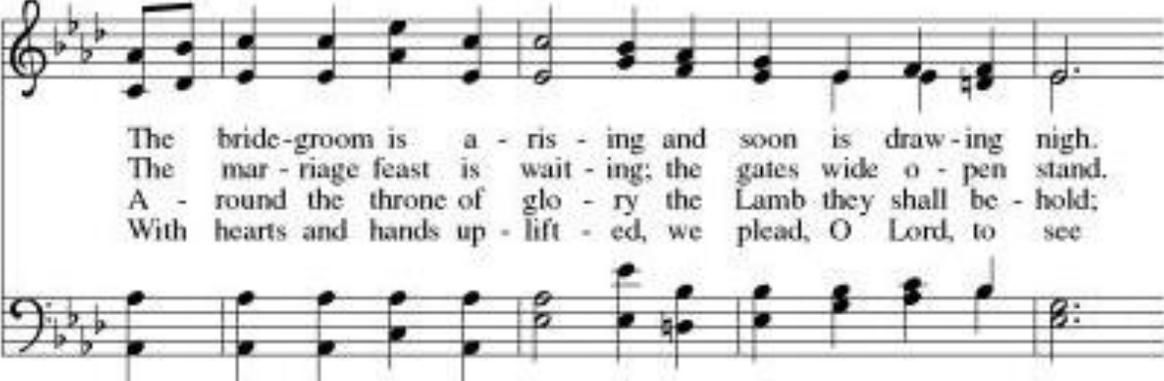
## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



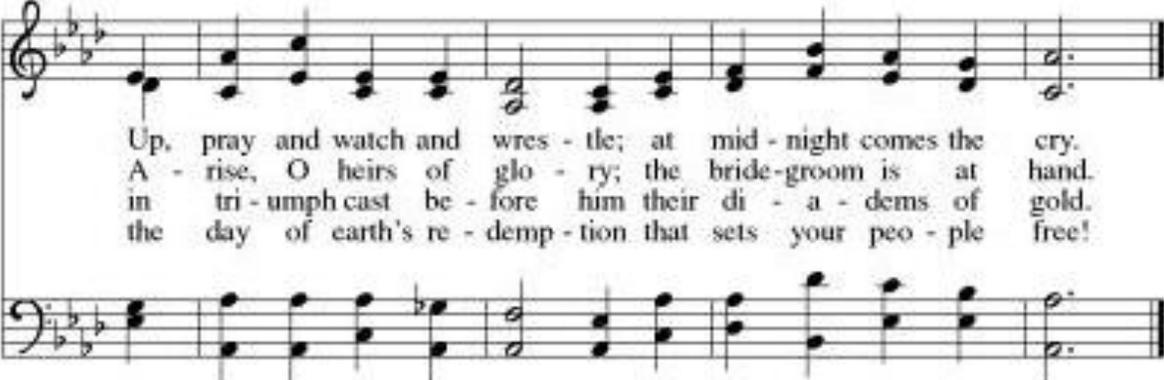
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

Andreas Nikolaus Vetter

## WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

**Preaching and Presiding:** Rev. Jamie Green Klopotoski

**Eucharistic Minister:** Anne Wheeler

**Reader:** Andy Broe

**A/V:** Anne Wheeler

**Music Director:** Ted Stoddard

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## NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### STEWARDSHIP 2022

If you have not done so already, please submit your pledge form or contact the office with your pledge details. Blank pledge forms are also available at the back of the church.

### ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS FAIR IS SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 4, 2021

Suzanne Maki and Carol Gray are co-chairs of this year's Christmas Fair. Kathy Eckles will be managing the wreath making, Mary Jane will be asking for assistance with Nisü making, and Dave will be making his fish chowder. See sign-up sheets in the Undercroft to see how you can help.

Remember to bring in these items if you have them:

- New or regifted items to sell, auction, or raffle.
- Gift cards – especially from local vendors and restaurants – or other Silent Auction items
- Jewelry – to restock or jewelry table, especially Christmas items
- Baked goods – cakes, pies, brownies, cookies, jams, jellies, preserves, candies, or other goodies from your kitchen for our Baked Goods table
- Gift baskets or basket items to raffle – create a theme such as Movie Night, Brunch, Sports, Arts, Kitchen, Baking or a Kids basket which are very popular.
- Cash donations toward a gift basket or raffle item are also welcomes.

Please contact Suzanne or Carol to arrange drop off or pick up of items before December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The final craft workshops will be held on December 1, 2021; 2 – 4 PM and 6 – 8 PM.

### WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

Kathy invites you to join her and others on Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm to make/decorate wreaths. The goal is to make thirty of them. Please bring your artistic flare, fancy greens from you yard, or neighborhood, gardening gloves, greens clippers, scissors, wire cutters and your mask. Questions? contact [kathy@kathyeckles.com](mailto:kathy@kathyeckles.com) or on her cell at 978-943-1491.

### NEW ENGLAND SEAFARER'S MISSION

Last Sunday, November 21, Rev. Stephen Cushing, Executive Director of New England Seafarers Mission, lead our Worship Service leaving people asking how they could help and learn more about them.

- How can I support them? Knitted Hats, Ditty Bags, Cash Donations and Prayers.
- To learn more about this organization, go to their website [www.neseafarers.org](http://www.neseafarers.org)

### **ADVENT GROCERY GIFT CARDS**

To help those around us experiencing food insecurities, we will be collecting grocery gift cards (in amounts of \$10 -\$20) each Sunday to distribute equally among our four local missions, Open Door, Grace Center, Brown Bag and Family Promise. Cards will be distributed on Monday, December 20. Please place cards in an envelope with your name on the outside and indicate the \$ amount enclosed so the donation can be listed on your giving statement for 2021. It is suggested that cards be placed in the offertory plate at the back of the church or dropped into the mail slot of the door to the pre-school.

### **PRAYER LISTS**

**Please keep these people in your prayers for healing throughout the week:** Daneen R., Sonny M., Tasha R., Willy G., Brian D., Judith O., Ron F., for a Family in need of prayers, Miles, Kathryn, Bill P., Bob S., Liana W., Bruce G., Jim S., Judy M., John B., Judy R., Roger K., Ellen R., Barbara U., Doug G., Judy K., Dan W., Josh M., Dan W., and John M.

**Armed services:** Josh Coakley, Stephanie Norberg, Brian Misuraca, Christian DiGregorio, John Korpi III, Danny Hill, Rachel Misuraca Lewin, Zach Hafey, and Tony Favalora