



Third Sunday in Advent
December 12, 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
205 St. Paul's Church Road • Salisbury, NC 28146
StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Lauren Whisnant • Crucifer: Ryan Friel
Lector: Stan McConnell

Prelude: “I Wonder as I Wander/Still, Still”

Cherwien/ Barr

Welcome and Announcements

The Shepherd Candle

Spencer and Cindy Newsome,
Marius, Elias, and Alexandria

The first Noel the angel did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the king of Israel!

You are invited to stand.

Hymn: “Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel”

34

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

*After prayer and pastoral statement there will be
silence for reflection and self-examination, then...*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Apostolic 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.

The Kyrie



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

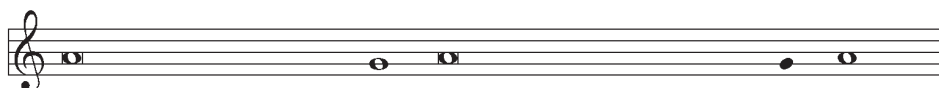
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a- bove, and for our sal- vation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



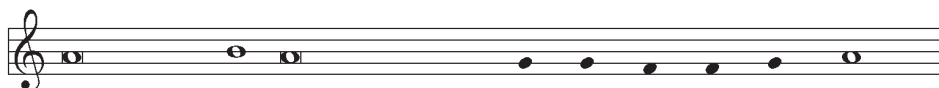
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra- cious Lord.

C A - men

Hymn of Praise



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



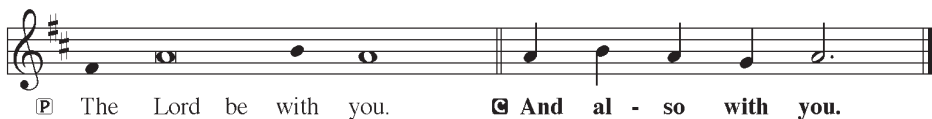
For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men



Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever one God.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Shout for joy, daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, Israel! Rejoice and triumph with all your heart, daughter of Jerusalem!

¹⁵The Lord has taken away His judgments against you, He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you will no longer fear disaster.

¹⁶On that day it will be said to Jerusalem: “Do not be afraid, Zion; do not let your hands fall limp. ¹⁷The Lord your God is in your midst, a victorious warrior. He will rejoice over you with joy, He will be quiet in His love, He will rejoice over you with shouts of joy. ¹⁸I will gather those who are worried about the appointed feasts—they came from you, Zion; the disgrace of exile is a burden on them.

¹⁹Behold, I am going to deal at that time with all your oppressors; I will save those who limp and gather the scattered, And I will turn their shame into praise and fame in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you in, even at the time when I gather you together; indeed, I will make you famous and praiseworthy Among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

Here ends the lesson.

Psalm 85

¹You have been gracious to your | land, O Lord,
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.**

³You have withdrawn | all your fury
and turned yourself from your wrathful | indignation.

⁴**Restore us then, O | God our Savior;
let your anger de- | part from us.**

⁵Will you be displeased with | us forever?
will you prolong your anger from | age to age?

⁶**Will you not give us | life again,
that your people may re- | joice in you?**

⁷Show us your mer- | cy, O Lord,
and grant us | your salvation.

⁸**I will listen to what the Lord | God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their | hearts to him.**

⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰**Mercy and truth have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.**

¹¹Truth shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

¹²**The Lord will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.**

¹³Righteousness shall | go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentle spirit be known to all people. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and pleading with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Here ends the lesson.

Please stand for the Gospel.



The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.



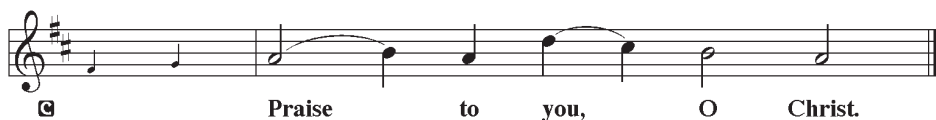
Gospel: Luke 7:18-35

¹⁸The disciples of John also reported to him about all these things. ¹⁹And after summoning two of his disciples, John sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are You the Coming One, or are we to look for another?” ²⁰When the men came to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, ‘Are You the Coming One, or are we to look for another?’” ²¹At that very time He cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many who were blind. ²²And He answered and said to them, “Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: people who were blind receive sight, people who limped walk, people with leprosy are cleansed and people who were deaf hear, dead people are raised up, and people who are poor have the gospel preached to them. ²³And blessed is anyone who does not take offense at Me.”

²⁴When the messengers of John had left, He began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵But what did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Those who are splendidly clothed and live in luxury are found in royal palaces! ²⁶But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. ²⁷This is the one about whom it is written:

‘Behold, I am sending My messenger ahead of You, who will prepare Your way before You.’ ²⁸I say to you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” ²⁹When all the people and the tax collectors heard this, they acknowledged God’s justice, having been baptized with the baptism of John. ³⁰But the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God’s purpose for themselves, not having been baptized by John. “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? ³²They are like children who sit in the marketplace and call to one another, and say, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a song of mourning, and you did not weep.’ ³³For John the Baptist has come neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon!’ ³⁴The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a heavy drinker, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ ³⁵And yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

Children’s Chat

Sermon: “An Advent Perspective”

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn: “Will You Heed the Signs of Advent?”

*Original words by Rev. Mark Ryman,
sung to the tune of “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”*

Can you tell the time of day, Friend,
When the Son of Man comes down?
When He comes to earth once again?
When He’ll come wearing a crown?

Angels do not have rejoinder
To the question of the age.
Even Jesus has to wonder
When the world will reach that stage.

Only God the Father knows when
He will have the angel cry—
When He'll have him blow the trump
and Jesus will appear on high.

He came once before in silence
On a quiet, starlit night.
People in their self-reliance,
Overlook the blessed sight.

Even in the days of Noah
They were much like we are now—
Eating, drinking, loving, though the
Truth some folks will not avow.

They encountered devastation
When, at last, it was too late.
Half of us will gain compassion;
Back then, there were only eight.

Will you heed the signs of Advent,
Watching as you sing this hymn?
This time when He makes His descent,
God will take you home with Him.

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

Please be seated.

Offering and Offertory: “Mary, Did You Know?” Lowry/Greene

Please stand as you are able.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayers of the Church

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

Following each of 4 prayers:

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

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

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray,

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

Hymn: "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

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The Benediction

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.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Postlude: "Fanfare for Christmas Season"

R. Barrett

Announcements

The **Lutheran Men and their families** will have their family night out at China Grove Family House Restaurant tomorrow, Dec. 13th, at 6:30pm (dutch treat).

Upcoming Events

Dec. 12 – Christian Education Committee, Conf. Rm., 2:00pm

Dec. 14 – Executive Committee, 7:00pm

Dec. 20 – Council meeting, 6:30pm

Dec. 22 & 23 – “A Grown-up Christmas Wish”, 7:30pm

Dec. 23 & 24 – Office closed

Dec. 24 – Children’s Christmas Service, 7:00pm

Dec. 24 – Christmas Candlelight Service, 10:30pm

Dec. 31 – Office closed

No Men’s Choir practice during December

Handbell practice – Sundays, 4:00pm

Girl Scouts – Tuesdays, 6:45pm

Adult Choir practice – Wednesdays at 6:30pm

Confirmation Class – Wednesdays, 7:30pm

Vespers at the Parsonage *each Sunday* – finger foods at 6:00pm,

Vespers at 6:30pm

2022 Preparations

The deadline for 2021 offerings will be December 29th. This allows us time to close the books for the year. Offerings received after that will be posted to your account for 2022.

For those who use numbered offering envelopes — 2022 envelopes will be available in the narthex next Sunday. Also, any updates (address, phone#) for the 2022 yearbook need to be in to the church office as soon as possible.

Stewardship

General Fund Offering (12/05).....	\$6,755
Other Offering (12/05)	\$5,119
Worship Attendance (12/05)	185
General Fund YTD Receipts as of 12/05	\$357,339
General Fund YTD Budget as of 12/05	\$369,222

You are invited to join us for a **“Celebration of Lights”** on Saturday evening, **December 18th**, at the Canup homeplace, 1708 Old Concord Road. Drive through any time between 5:00pm and 9:00pm to enjoy the light balls. If you wish, you may sit by the fire pit and enjoy hot chocolate, cider, and cookies. Or come inside and rock by the Christmas tree. Come share the season in Christian fellowship with us.

Please RSVP 336-924-4853 or 336-971-0479.

~ **SPLC Presents ~**
A Grown-Up Christmas Wish
Written by Joyce Wilhelm

Join our cast and crew of 75 bring to life the biblical nativity story.

Pastor Ryman narrates this pageant heralding the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, through Scripture and music.

Tell others about the reason for the season and invite them to our Candlelight Nativity Pageant!

Wednesday, December 22 • Thursday, December 23
7:30pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church sanctuary



As creatures of habit, we Lutherans often sit in the same pews each Sunday. Thank you sharing the pews for the next few weeks so the stages could be set up for our Nativity pageant.

Special Prayers for members of St. Paul's:

Franklin and Ashley Bowles - loss of home

Grady Earnhardt - Health concerns

Sonya Eller - Health concerns

Terry Eller - Recovering at home

Bishop Goodman - Aplastic anemia

Peyton Holland - Blood disorder

Emerson Holder - Health concerns

Shirley Hoosier - Health concerns

Alan Lyerly - Recovering at home

James Lyerly - Recovering at home

Mike Morris - Health concerns

Teresa Peeler - Health concerns

Linda Shirley - Healing, leg injury

Jane Wilhelm - Health concerns

Please let us know if any corrections to this list of concerns are needed. In an effort to keep the list current, we will try to update/remove prayer requests on a monthly basis, with the exception of known, prolonged issues.

Homebound and Long-Term Care:

Autumn Care: Walter Smith

Citadel: Mary Sherrill

Elmcroft: Helen Howe

Trinity Oaks: Barbara Whisnant

Home: Ray Beattie, Judy Bernhardt, Iverson and Gayle Brendle, John and Louise Cornelison, Barbara Deese, Ruby Heilig, Chuck and Linda Hess, Shirley Hoosier, Susan Lyerly, Carrie Reavis, Dottie Stancil, Barbara Upright, Polly Webb

Friends of St. Paul's:

Catie Critchfield - Great-granddaughter of Ed and Betty Niedens, health concerns

Ashley Fink - granddaughter of Larry and Leilani Watson, health concerns

Linda Jaramillo - Mother of Julie Jaramillo, health concerns

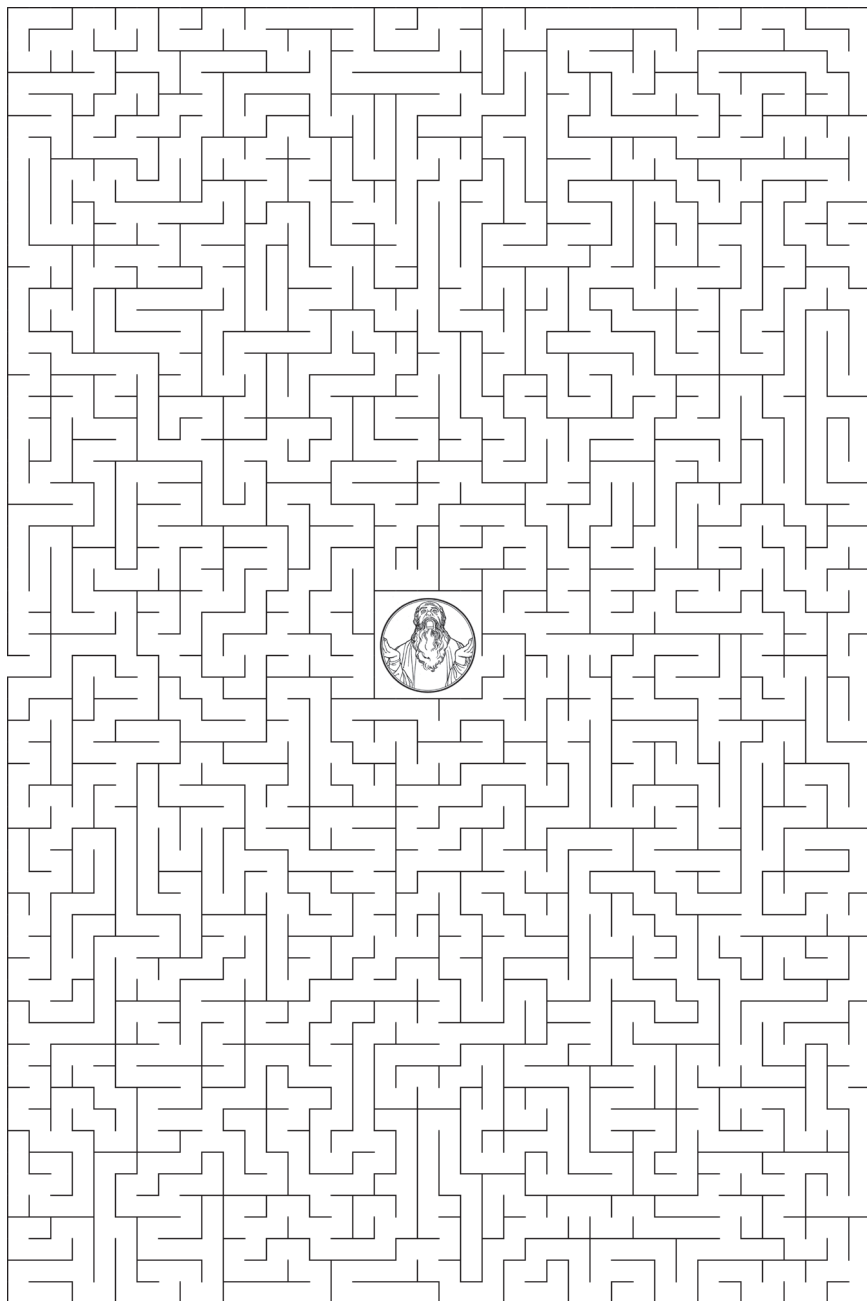
Chad, Terri, Maddy and Ella McConnell - Son, daughter-in-law, grandchildren of Stan McConnell, health concerns

Donna Petrea - cousin of Vicki Sanders, surgery/broken hip

Elizabeth Tancordo - Niece of Bill and Linda Behrendt, health concerns

Leslie Ryman - Sister of Pastor Ryman, cancer

Help the Messenger out of the maze
so he may announce the advent of the Messiah.



Blessed is the One Not Offended By Me

*Find the 41 **bold** words from Luke 7:18–23 (ESV)*

P E N B G V E R L W A L K L R
T D S R L C B B Z G A O B E O
H S P D S E L B I B O C H I O
O D I S E A S E S L Y T H S P
R Y R T L T G S A I O O O M U
M R I A P N R T E N M F F P B
G R T V I A E O A D S F R W K
C K S L C S B W P X A E V I L
B S L U S T E E S E A N D E N
C A S C I G N D D C R D P P V
C Y K H D Z H E H S E E N Y N
O I P L A G U E S L R D E A D
M N H O J L D F A S A U N O F
E G P R W L L E T R V M O U D
V L L D D T H G I S D G E H G

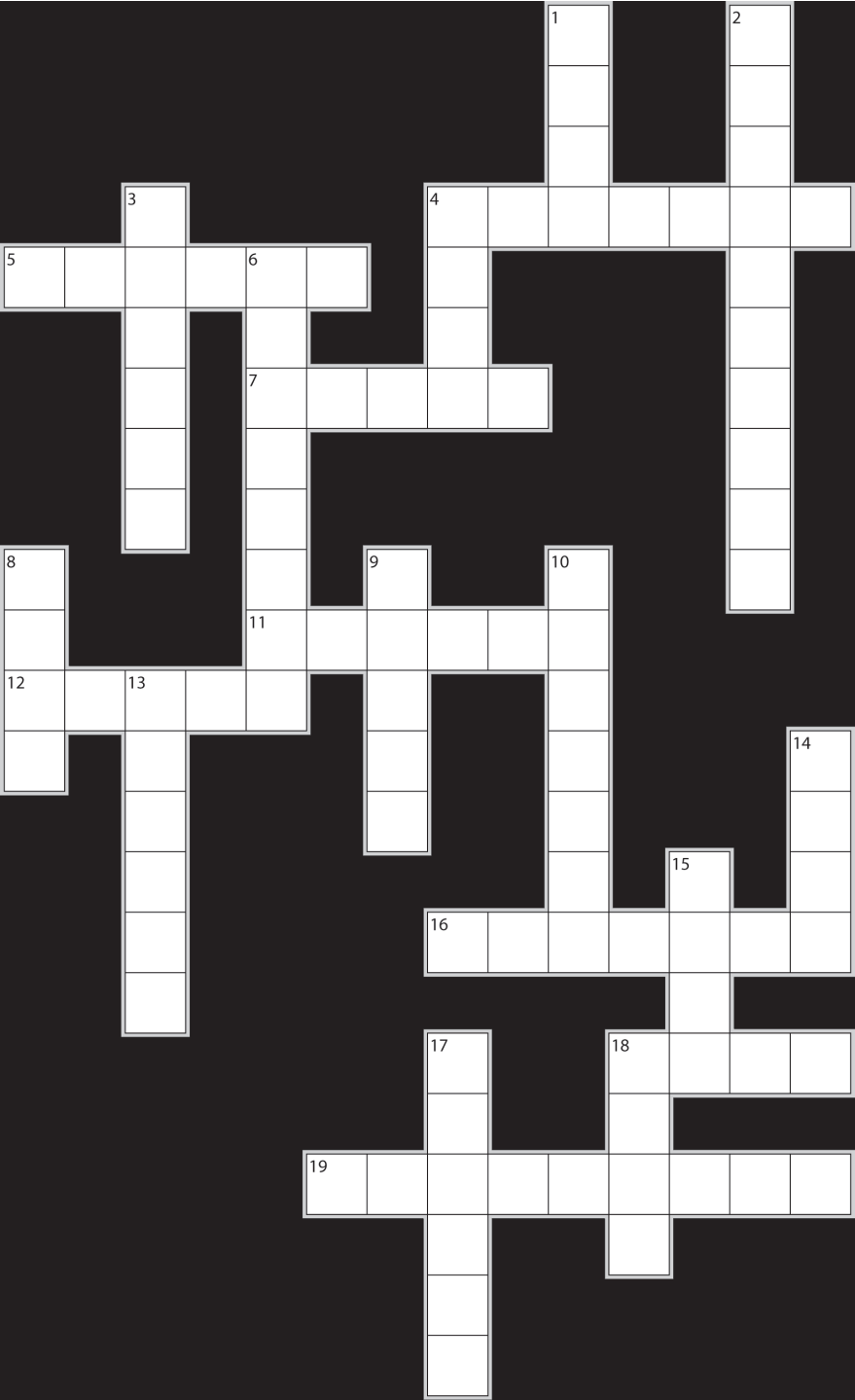
The **disciples** of **John reported** all these things to him. And John, **calling two** of his disciples to him, **sent** them to the **Lord**, saying, “Are you the **one** who is to **come**, or **shall** we **look for another?**” And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the **Baptist** has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” In that **hour** he **healed** many people of **diseases** and **plagues** and **evil spirits**, and on many who were **blind** he **bestowed sight**. 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. And **blessed** is the one who is **not offended** by me.”

His Salvation Is Near

Find the 42 **bold** words from Psalm 85:1-9 (ESV)

F K D G C M N I A G A P R D E
E O A A L L E W D N R H N V A
V L R E J O I C E O N A I G N
A L B T P R R W R L L V N N G
G A Q A U S R Y E O E B I T R
R N T U R N E D V R H R Q U Y
O G O D E O E E O P D M U E B
F E F I S I V S C J R H I A B
E R O E T T S A F D A E T S Z
A H L N O A V Z F R E C Y I W
R A L H R R V N V H H C O R W
H W Y Q E E E L P O E P A B R
O L O R D N I S A I N T S E E
U C F O R E V E R S H O W R P
V I N D I G N A T I O N E A R

LORD, you were **favorable** to your land; you **restored** the **fortunes** of **Jacob**. You **forgave** the **iniquity** of your **people**; you **covered** all their **sin**. **Selah** You **withdrew** all your **wrath**; you **turned** from your **hot anger**. **Restore** us **again**, O **God** of our **salvation**, and put away your **indignation** toward us! Will you be **angry** with us **forever**? Will you **prolong** your anger to all **generations**? Will you not **revive** us again, that your people may **rejoice** in you? **Show** us your **steadfast love**, O LORD, and **grant** us your salvation. Let me **hear** what God the **LORD** will speak, for he will **speak peace** to his people, to his **saints**; but let them not turn back to **folly**. Surely his salvation is **near** to those who **fear** him, that **glory** may **dwell** in our **land**.



Two Year Daily Lectionary

Advent 2, Year B

Sunday – Amos 9:11–15; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–3, 13–17; John 5:30–47

Monday – Zechariah 1:7–17; Revelation 3:7–13; Matthew 24:15–31

Tuesday – Zechariah 2:1–13; Revelation 3:14–22; Matthew 24:32–44

Wednesday – Zechariah 3:1–10; Revelation 4:1–8; Matthew 24:45–51

Thursday – Zechariah 4:1–14; Revelation 4:9–5:5; Matthew 25:1–13

Friday – Zechariah 7:8–8:8; Revelation 5:6–14; Matthew 25:14–30

Saturday – Zechariah 8:9–17; Revelation 6:1–17; Matthew 25:31–46

ACROSS

4. There will be gnashing of teeth and what else in hell?
(Matthew 24:45–51)
5. The Son of Man will arrive in these. (Matthew 24:15–31)
7. You must be... (Matthew 24:32–44)
11. It was written upon both of its sides. (Revelation 4:9–5:5)
12. Who accuses you? (John 5:30–47)
16. The sheep will inherit this. (Matthew 25:31–46)
18. You don't know the day or this. (Matthew 25:1–13)
19. What was the man going to measure? (Zechariah 2:1–13)

DOWN

1. God will write this on those who conquer. (Revelation 3:7–13)
2. How many wings did the four living creatures have?
(Revelation 4:1–8)
3. Who was “a brand plucked from the fire?” (Zechariah 3:1–10)
4. Why were the witnesses slain? (Revelation 6:1–17)
6. Hell is described here as... (Matthew 25:14–30)
8. He is worthy. (Revelation 5:6–14)
9. What are we to speak to one another? (Zechariah 8:9–17)
10. Who will overtake the reaper? (Amos 9:11–15)
13. If not by might nor by power, then by what? (Zechariah 4:1–14)
14. How are we to stand? (2 Thessalonians 2:1–3, 13–17)
15. Who was Zechariah's grandpa? (Zechariah 1:7–17)
17. To the one who conquers God will let him sit there.
(Revelation 3:14–22)
18. God was angry because his people would not... (Zechariah 7:8–8:8)



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

OUR MISSION

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922 ~ Fax: 704-636-1300

Email: splchurch@att.net

Website: www.stpaulslutheran.church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

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