



Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

205 St. Paul's Church Road, Salisbury, NC

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Sophie Hoffner • Crucifer: Andrew Baker

Lector: Cooper Aldridge

Communion Assistants: Nicole Amos,

Sarah Fesperman, Bonnie Hinson

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hal Hopson

The Ten Commandments *Please stand.*

The Lord is God, our God, and has brought us out of bondage to sin and death, commanding us to observe our conduct before him and our neighbor.

¹You shall have no other gods before me.

**²You shall not take the name
of the Lord your God in vain;
for the Lord will not hold guiltless
those who take his name in vain.**

**³Remember the Sabbath day
to keep it holy.**

**⁴Honor your father
and your mother,
that your days may be long
in the land which the Lord
your God is giving you.**

⁵You shall not kill.

⁶You shall not commit adultery.

⁷You shall not steal.

**⁸You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor.**

**⁹You shall not covet
your neighbor’s house.**

**¹⁰You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife,
his workers, his livestock,
or anything that is your neighbor’s.**

Confession and Absolution

Hymn: “Hark the Glad Sound”

92

Lighting the Advent Wreath

James and Mary Lee Earnhardt

Greeting and Kyrie Eleison

74

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.



Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

75

Leader:

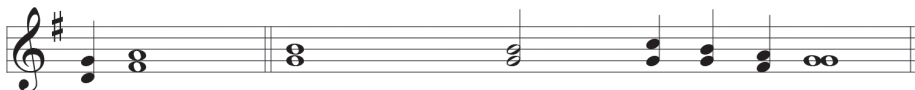


Glory be to God on high!

Congregation:



And on earth peace, good will toward all. We praise you, we bless you,



we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory,



O Lord God, heaven - ly King, God the Father Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ, O Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father: You take away the sin of the world, have mercy
on us. You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us.
For you are holy; you on - ly are the Lord; You only, O Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

77

Leader: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And with your spirit.

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, one God, now and forever.

A - men.

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it 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. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say 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." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then 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; ⁷the 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.

⁸And 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. ⁹No 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. ¹⁰And 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.

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 146

¹Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I | have my being.

**²Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,
for there is no | help in them.**

³When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,
and in that day | their thoughts perish.

**⁴Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help!
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;**

⁵Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps his prom- | ise forever;

**⁶Who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,
and food to | those who hunger.**

⁷The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the
eyes | of the blind;

the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

**⁸The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD
cares | for the stranger;**

**he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates
the way | of the wicked.**

⁹The LORD shall | reign forever,

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: James 5:7-11

⁷Be 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. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.

¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, 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.

The word of the Lord.

Offering

Anthem

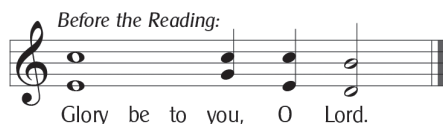
Please stand for the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

78



The Gospel is written in the eleventh chapter of Matthew.

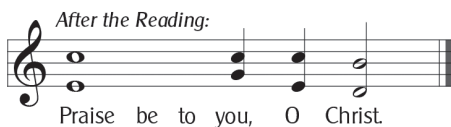


79

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples³and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?”⁴And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see:⁵the 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.⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.”

⁷As 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? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹Truly, 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. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”
The Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles Creed

81

We confess our faith with the Apostles Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father, the 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.

Children's Chat

Sermon: "The Highway of Holiness"

Hymn: "Be Thou My Vision"

230

Prayers of the Church

Following each prayer:
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

Exhortation

Preface and Sanctus

86-88

Leader *Congregation*

The Lord be with you. And with your spir - it

Leader

Lift up your hearts.

Congregation

We lift them to the Lord.

Leader

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, 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'r 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.

The Lord's Prayer

90

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,

¹hallowed be thy name,

²thy kingdom come,

³thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

⁴Give us this day our daily bread;

⁵and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

⁶and lead us not into temptation,

⁷but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: Take, and drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Agnus Dei

91



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin
of the world, have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world,
grant us peace. A - - - - - men.

Distribution of Communion

92

Remain seated after the distribution.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to everlasting life.

Nunc Dimittis

92

Lord, now let your servant de- | part in | peace,
ac- | cording to | your | word.
For my eyes have | seen your sal- | vation,
which you have prepared before the | face of | all | people:
A light to | lighten the | Gentiles
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 be- | ginning,
is now, and ever shall be, | world without | end. | A- | men

Thanksgiving

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Benedicamus

93

The musical notation for the Benedicamus section is presented in two staves. The first staff is divided into two parts: 'Leader:' and 'Congregation:'. The Leader's part consists of a single note (G4) followed by a whole rest. The Congregation's part consists of three notes (G4, A4, B4) beamed together. The second staff also has two parts: 'Leader:' and 'Congregation:'. The Leader's part consists of a single note (G4) followed by a whole rest. The Congregation's part consists of three notes (G4, A4, B4) beamed together. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Leader: Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Leader: Congregation:

Bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “People, Look East”

Jerry Westenkuehler

We remain seated, worshiping silently during the postlude, standing at the end of the postlude to face the processional cross, now at the rear of the sanctuary.

Benediction

93

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace.



The rail flower is given in honor of Jean Lilley for her birthday today from Cindy and Travis Alligood.

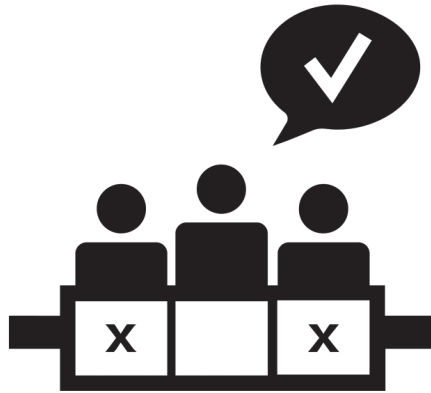
*We extend our love and sympathy to Susie Page on the death of her brother, Johnny Kluttz, who died Thursday, December 1, 2022.
Please keep Susie in your prayers.*

*We extend our love and sympathy to the family of Polly Euart Webb, who died Tuesday, December 6, 2022.
Please keep her family in your prayers.*

Special prayers for members and friends of St. Paul's:

- Teresa Peeler – Health concerns
- Lynn Proice – Health concerns
(daughter of Betty and Don Camerlin)
- George Reese – Recovering from surgery
- Dottie Stancil – Health concerns
- Amy Watson – Cancer (friend of Greg Wilhelm)
- Jane Wilhelm – Health concerns

Please see the monthly Epistle for a complete list of prayer needs for members, homebound, family, and friends.



“In One Word”

is a Christmas play that tells the story of the nativity in the fictionalized format of a first century game show, and will be performed by the children and youth of St. Paul’s Sunday School, and led by their teachers.

Sunday, December 18th
4:00PM on-stage
in the Fellowship Hall

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors.
Refreshments will be served following the play.

Stewardship

General Fund Offering (12/4).....	\$5,792
Other Offering(12/4)	\$1,410
Sunday School Attendance (12/4)	66

*This does not reflect exact attendance as not everyone signs the registers,
and not all Sunday school classes turn in attendance slips.*

Worship Attendance (12/4)	176
General Fund YTD Receipts as of 12/4..	\$382,552
General Fund YTD Budget as of 12/4	\$442,419

Sunday, December 11

- Children's play practice, 9:30am
- Youth Bible Study & music—Christmas party, snacks & games for all youth, 2:30pm
- Men's Choir practice, 5pm
- Handbell practice, 6pm
- Vespers—finger foods at 6pm; Vespers at 6:30pm are also live-streamed on our Facebook page.

Monday, December 12

- Funeral service for Polly Webb, 1pm
- Faith Academy after school program, 1-3pm
- Melissa Lura Circle, Christmas gathering, 6:30pm

Tuesday, December 13

- No Adult Confirmation classes this week
- Executive Committee, 7pm
- Girl Scouts, 7pm

Wednesday, December 14

- Bumgarner Circle, Johnson's Restaurant, 11:30am; meet at the church to carpool, 11am
- Call Committee, 6pm
- Adult choir practice, 6:30pm
- No Confirmation class this week

Thursday, December 15

- No Bible study this week

Sunday, December 18

- Children's play practice, 9:30am
- Children's Christmas Play, 4pm
- Men's Choir practice, 5pm
- Vespers—finger foods at 6pm; Vespers at 6:30pm are also live-streamed on our Facebook page.

Please **write your name in the friendship register** on your row so we will have a record of your attendance, and a record of how many people we have worshipping with us each Sunday. If you are visiting, and would like the pastor to contact you, please include your contact information.



A Christmas Eve with Martin Luther

Our children will help Pastor Luther tell the Christmas Story
through sacred Scripture, carols, and candle lighting.

Saturday, December 24

7:00PM in the sanctuary

Christmas Day

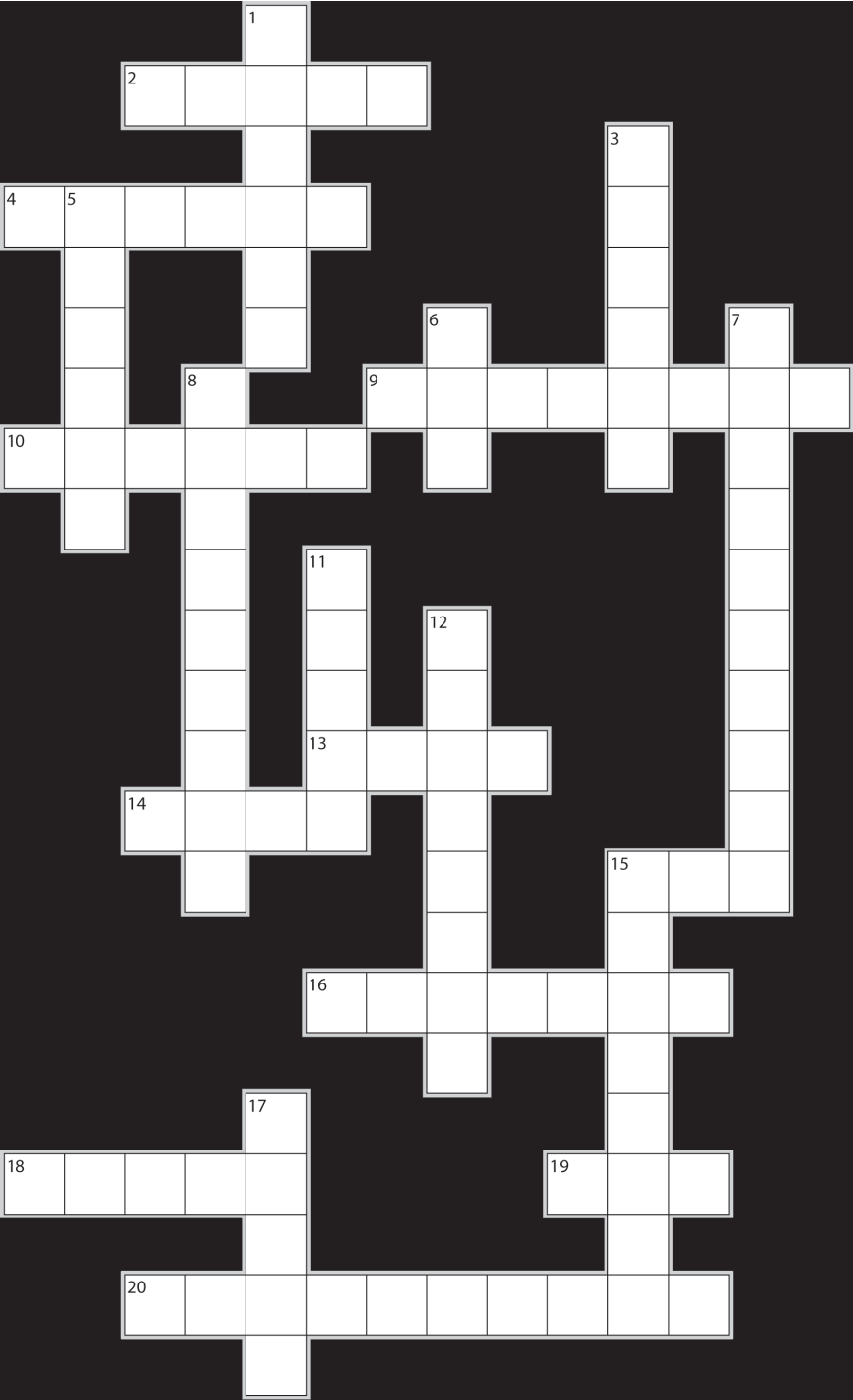
We will worship at St. Paul's on Christmas Day.

Holy Communion will be served. Please take note
that Communion will not be served at our Christmas Eve service
as it will be administered on Christmas morning.

There is no Sunday School on Christmas Day.

Sunday, December 25

10:30AM in the sanctuary



Two Year Daily Lectionary

Advent 3, Year 1

Sunday – Isaiah 13:1–13; Hebrews 12:18–29; John 3:22–30
Monday – Isaiah 8:16–9:1; 2 Peter 1:1–11; Luke 22:39–53
Tuesday – Isaiah 9:2–7; 2 Peter 1:12–21; Luke 22:54–69
Wednesday – Isaiah 9:8–17; 2 Peter 2:1–10a; Mark 1:1–8
Thursday – Isaiah 9:18–10:4; 2 Peter 2:10b–16; Matthew 3:1–12
Friday – Isaiah 10:5–19; 2 Peter 2:17–22; Matthew 11:2–15
Saturday – Isaiah 10:20–27; Jude 17–25; Luke 3:1–9

ACROSS

2. Why the Lord judged his people (Isaiah 9:8–17)
4. You can't receive a thing unless it is given from there.
(John 3:22–30)
9. Whatever overcomes a person, to that he is... (2 Peter 2:17–22)
10. A donkey spoke to him. (2 Peter 2:10b–16)
13. The remnant will lean on him. (Isaiah 10:20–27)
14. Peter knew that the putting off of this would be soon.
(2 Peter 1:12–21)
15. What will be dark at its rising? (Isaiah 13:1–13)
16. Be grateful for receiving it. (Hebrews 12:18–29)
18. Who the Lord turned and looked at (Luke 22:54–69)
19. In the latter days, God will make glorious the way of the...
(Isaiah 8:16–9:1)
20. It burns like a fire. (Isaiah 9:18–10:4)

DOWN

1. John called the Pharisees and Sadducees.... (Matthew 3:1–12)
3. Where John was baptizing (Mark 1:1–8)
5. John is this prophet who was foretold to return. (Matthew 11:2–15)
6. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no...
(Isaiah 9:2–7)
7. Pray you do not enter this. (Luke 22:39–53)
8. All flesh will see it. (Luke 3:1–9)
11. The Lord knows how to rescue them. (2 Peter 2:1–10a)
12. He will punish their speech. (Isaiah 10:5–19)
15. In the end there will be these who follow their ungodly passions.
(Jude 17–25)
17. May peace and this be multiplied to you. (2 Peter 1:1–11)



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

Email: splchurch@att.net

Website: 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

CHURCH STAFF

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Alison and Aaron Moore, Boy Scout Coordinators, 704-467-9191

Next Sunday's Lessons: Isaiah 7:10-17; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

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