

ADVENT MIDWEEK 1  
DECEMBER 1, 2021

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***SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

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Pastor John Moeller

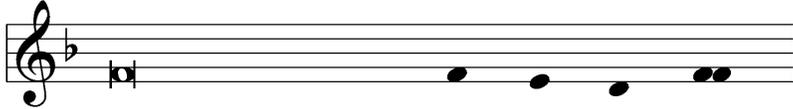
[www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org)  
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

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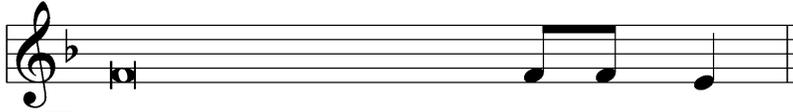
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# ✠ Evening Prayer ✠

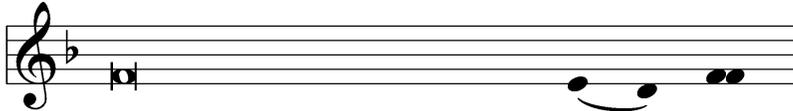
## Service of Light



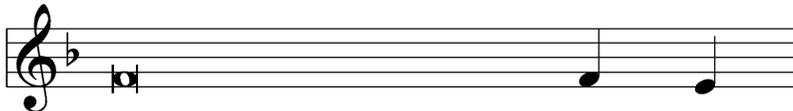
**L** Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,



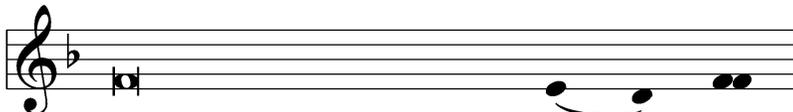
**C** the light no darkness can o - ver - come.



**L** Stay with us, Lord, for it is eve - ning,



**C** and the day is almost o - ver.



**L** Let Your light scatter the dark - ness



**C** and il - lu - mine Your Church.

## Phos Hilaron



**L** Joy - ous light of glo - ry:



**C** of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther; heav - en - ly, ho - ly,



bles - ed Je - sus Christ. We have come to the



set - ting of the sun, and we look to the eve - ning light.



We sing to God, the Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Spir-it:



You are wor-thy of be-ing praised with pure voic-es for-



ev-er. O Son of God, O Giv-er of life:



the u-ni-verse pro-claims Your glo-ry.

### Thanksgiving for Light

**L** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading

✠ The Lord Promises Peace ✠

Jeremiah 33:2-3, 14-16

**P** The Lord revealed through the prophet Jeremiah a peace that would last. “Thus says the LORD who made the earth,

**C** the LORD who formed it to establish it—the Lord is His name:

**P** Call to Me and I will answer you,

**C** and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.”

**P** “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David,

**C** and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

**P** In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called:

**C** ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’”

### Psalm 141



**C** Let my prayer rise be-fore You as in-cense,

the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

**I** O Lord, I call to You; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice

when I cry to You. **C** Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,

the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

**II** Set a watch be - fore my mouth, O Lord, and guard the door of my lips.

**I** Let not my heart in - cline to an - y e - vil thing;

let me not be oc - cu - pied in wick - ed - ness with e - vil - do - ers.

**II** But my eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take ref - uge.

Strip me not of my life. **C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and

to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it; as it was in

the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



Let my prayer rise be - fore You as in - cense,  
the lift-ing up of my hands as the eve-ning sac-ri-fice.

**L** Let us pray.

Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

**C** Amen.

**Office Hymn**

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

st. 1

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits.  
The King of kings is drawing near;  
The Savior of the world is here.

Life and salvation He doth bring;  
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.  
To God the Father raise  
Your joyful songs of praise.

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**Gospel Reading**

✠ Birth of Jesus Foretold ✠

Luke 1:26–38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” <sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**L** In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

**Creedal Response**

**P** The season of Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at His second coming. It is a time of reflection on redemption.

Luther's Small Catechism, useful for individual and household learning through questions and answers based on God's unchanging Word, reminds us of Jesus' incarnation into this world, the totality of Christ's complete work, and the redemption He achieved for us. We confess together:

**C** **And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**P** What does this mean?

**C** **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

### Office Hymn

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

st. 1

A righteous Helper comes to thee;  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.

The end of all our woe He brings;  
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.  
To Christ the Savior raise  
Your grateful hymns of praise.

*Text: Public domain*

### Sermon

### Hymn

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

st. 3

How blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!  
O peaceful hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!

The cloudless sun of joy is He  
Who comes to set His people free.  
To God the Spirit raise  
Your happy shouts of praise.

*Text: Public domain*

**Offering**—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at [www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org). For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

### Prayer of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Heavenly Father, in this season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate again the coming of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and await His promised return. As questions enter our minds, such as "How can You take on human flesh, and why?," we thank You for Your Word of truth, which gives the answers of Your love for this world in sending Your only-begotten Son. By Your Spirit's work through Your Word, enliven our hearts and minds, nourish our faith, and be with us as we wait and watch this season and each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Heavenly Father, through the incarnation of Your Son, heaven met earth, and through Him You would bring life and immortality to light. Be with those who face this season with doubts and despair, depression and difficulties. Give Your comfort to those who seek our prayers, especially those we name now in our hearts... Grant healing according to Your will, along with peaceful minds and hopeful hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Collect for Peace**

**P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

**C** **Our Father who art in heaven...**

### **Luther's Evening Prayer**

**P** We pray together,

**C** **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

### **Closing Sentences**

**P** Call to Me and I will answer you,

**C** **and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.**

**P** Lift up your heads, O gates!

**C** **And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.**

**P** Who is this King of glory?

**C** **The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! Lift up your heads, O gates!**

**P** And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Who is this King of glory?

**C** **The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory!**

### **Benedicamus and Benediction**

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

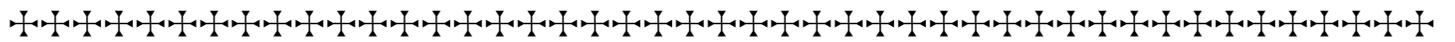
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.  
**C** Amen.

**Closing Hymn** “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night” sts. 1–2, 5–6

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1 All praise to Thee, my God, this night<br/>         For all the blessings of the light.<br/>         Keep me, O keep me, King of kings,<br/>         Beneath Thine own almighty wings.</p> | <p>5 When in the night I sleepless lie,<br/>         My soul with heav’nly thoughts supply;<br/>         Let no ill dreams disturb my rest,<br/>         No pow’rs of darkness me molest.</p>            |
| <p>2 Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son,<br/>         The ill that I this day have done,<br/>         That with the world, myself, and Thee,<br/>         I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.</p>  | <p>△6 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;<br/>         Praise Him, all creatures here below;<br/>         Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host:<br/>         Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.</p> |

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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS**

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**Announcements & Notes:**

*There’s a complete listing of our special holiday worship services on the back page of your bulletin. This year’s theme is “Await God’s Gifts.”*

*AFTER tonight’s service we invite you to spend a little extra time to help put up some of the Christmas decorations in our sanctuary—garland and wreathes. If you would also like to help with the outside lights, please talk with George Oberg.*

*St. Paul’s “Faith in Action” group is continuing to help collect new (unwrapped) toys and outerwear for the Worth Township Toy & Coat drive for children infants through age 14. The last day to drop off is December 7<sup>th</sup>.*

*Please pick up your offering envelopes for 2022 in the narthex under the “Holy Trinity” mural. Please also be sure to take Advent devotional books for yourself and your friends. Both large and regular print versions are available.*

***Please invite family and friends to join you anytime at St. Paul,  
 but especially for our special holiday services!***