



FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
NOVEMBER 28, 2021

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

Advent is a season for us to grow in hope. We live in a world that in many ways seems hopeless. Extremists on both ends of the political spectrum seem to do little more than fuel the flames of division and resentment over race, politics, and economics. How can the Church possibly make a difference in all of this? Today's Scripture readings acknowledge our distress and fear that the world's foundations are being shaken, but right in the middle of it all, there is hope. Jesus says, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away" (Luke 21:33). The prophet Jeremiah declares God's promise to restore His people and all creation. If we were left to ourselves, there would be little room for such hope, but God does not leave us alone. By His Word and Sacraments, He establishes our hearts and prepares us for Jesus' final coming. Until that day, we wait, we pray, and we hope.

Prelude

"The Advent of Our King"

H. Willan

Opening Hymn

"The Advent of Our King"

#331 sts. 1-4 & 6

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| 1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy. | Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring. |
| 2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free. | 4 As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign. |
| 3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King, | △6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity. |

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Invocation

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

Opening Sentences

Jeremiah 33:14–15; Luke 21:27, 33, adapt.

- P** Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!
C He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!
P God came to Adam and Eve after they had sinned.
C He clothed them, hiding their shame.
P God came to Israel when they were enslaved in Egypt.
C He delivered them out of the house of slavery.
P Christ was born into our world.
C He cast out demons, healed our diseases, and preached good news to the poor.
P Christ came into Jerusalem on a donkey.
C And He died and rose again for us and for our salvation.

- P** Christ promised He will come again.
- C** **We wait for His return and the resurrection of the dead.**
- P** Alleluia! Christ is coming soon!
- C** **He is coming soon indeed! Alleluia!**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One Advent candle is lit.

- P** Let us pray.
O Lord, let the lighting of this candle remind us that You are the light that shines in all the darkness of our lives. As we wait, watch, hope, and pray, guide us all to reflect Your light and let it shine; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 25:6–7

- P** In the season of Advent, we prepare for Jesus' coming. We remember His arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday even as we await the celebration of His birth at Christmas and long for His glorious return on the last day. As we wait, let us consider how unworthy we are to have Jesus in our presence.

We pause in silence to reflect on our sinful hearts and lives...

- P** Heavenly Father,
- C** **we confess that our faith has been lacking. We have not abounded in love for one another or for You. Our hearts are filled with blame and shame, with corruption and conceit. Forgive us, strengthen our faith, and purify our hearts.**
- P** Jesus not only came as an infant at Christmas and will certainly come again in glory when He returns, but He also comes to you in words of forgiveness and life. Hear His words of forgiveness: As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen. "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"**

✠ WORD ✠

Introit

Psalm 89:6, 14–16, 18; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.

- P** Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.
- C** **Who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD?**
- P** Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before You.
- C** **Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of Your face,**
- P** who exult in Your name all the day and in Your righteousness are exalted.
- C** **For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of 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.
Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

³²Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all has taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁴“But watch yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. ³⁵For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Confession of Faith

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.
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.**

The Apostles' Creed

**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.
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.**

Sermon Hymn

“Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come”

#350

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| <p>1 Come, Thou precious Ransom, come,
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world!
Open are to Thee all portals.
Come, Thy beauty let us see;
Anxiously we wait for Thee.</p> <p>2 Enter now my waiting heart,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Dwell in me and ne'er depart,
Though I am but poor and lowly.
Ah, what riches will be mine
When Thou art my guest divine!</p> | <p>3 My hosannas and my palms
Graciously receive, I pray Thee;
Evermore, as best I can,
Savior, I will homage pay Thee,
And in faith I will embrace,
Lord, Thy merit through Thy grace.</p> <p>4 Hail! Hosanna, David's Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Let Thy kingdom, scepter, crown,
Bring us blessing and salvation,
That forever we may sing:
Hail! Hosanna to our King.</p> |
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Sermon

Prayer of the Church

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. For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

✠ SERVICE of the SACRAMENT ✠

Preface

- 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.**

Proper Preface

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Our Lord

Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
C **Our Father, who art in Heaven...**

Pax Domini

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

✠ DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT ✠

Hymn

"I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table"

#618

1 I come, O Savior, to Thy table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
Thou, Bread of Life, alone art able
To satisfy and make me whole:

Refrain

Refrain Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

2 Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning
That sinners may salvation see
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning;
So I, a sinner, come to Thee.

Refrain

3 Unworthy though I am, O Savior,
Because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou Thy lamb wilt banish never,
For Thou my faithful shepherd art:

Refrain

4 Weary am I and heavy laden;
With sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden
My heart, for I am now Thy guest.

Refrain

- 5 What higher gift can we inherit?
It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit,
The covenant of hope and grace.

Refrain

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Hymn

“Thine Forever, God of Love”

#687

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|--|---|
| <p>1 Thine forever, God of love!
Hear us from Thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be
Here and in eternity!</p> <p>2 Thine forever! Oh, how blest
They who find in Thee their rest!
Savior, guardian, heav'nly friend,
O defend us to the end!</p> <p>3 Thine forever, Lord of Life!
Shield us through our earthly strife.</p> | <p>Thou, the life, the truth, the way,
Guide us to the realms of day.</p> <p>4 Thine forever! Shepherd, keep
These Thy frail and trembling sheep;
Safe alone beneath Thy care,
Let us all Thy goodness share.</p> <p>5 Thine forever! Thou our guide,
All our wants by Thee supplied,
All our sins by Thee forgiv'n;
Lead us, Lord, from earth to heav'n.</p> |
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Communion Blessing

- P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Closing Prayer

Benediction

1 Thessalonians 3:12–13; Numbers 6:24–26

Closing Hymn

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

#807 sts, 1, 2, 4 & 5

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| <p>1 When morning gilds the skies,
My heart, awaking, cries,
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”
When evening shadows fall,
This rings my curfew call:
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”</p> <p>2 When mirth for music longs,
This is my song of songs:
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”
God's holy house of prayer
Hath none that can compare
With “Jesus Christ be praised!”</p> | <p>4 Ye nations of mankind,
In this your concord find:
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”
Let all the earth around
Ring joyous with the sound:
“May Jesus Christ be praised!”</p> <p>5 Sing, suns and stars of space,
Sing, ye that see His face,
Sing, “Jesus Christ be praised!”
God's whole creation o'er,
Both now and evermore
Shall Jesus Christ be praised!</p> |
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Postlude

“Allegro from Suite Gothique”

L. Boellmann



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Vocalist: Julia Volk

Lector: David Witkosky

Altar Care: Sandy Barry

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Announcements & Notes:

Today is the last day that the Ladies' Guild Christmas Card sale will be available in the narthex after this service. We appreciate your support of the work of our Ladies Guild and their service to the church. Wednesday evening our midweek Advent services begin at 7:00 PM. 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 this Wednesday'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. The tree will come soon after... 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 7th.

Please pick up your offering envelopes for 2022 in the narthex under the "Holy Trinity" mural. Next to them you'll find a table with lots of "Thrivent 'Live Generously'" tee-shirts. Please help yourselves! Please also take copies of this year's Advent Daily Devotion books for yourself or friends.

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

Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family:

Ruth Diver	Cathy Gleason
Julie & Larry Gurga	Helen Bonder
Janice Przybycien	Kevin Hickey
Mary Ann Colander	Art Hornburg
Melva Smith	Laverne Abraham
Carol Small	Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski	Beverly Sellers
Lenore Curran	Betty Beegle
Delphine Cherry	Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank	Deb Skopec
Herta Iversen	Loretta Frank
Jane & Freddie Giacobbe	Marge Rochlitz
Ron Hickey	Shirley Smulkis
Ingrid Lesko	Katherine Hice
Gloria Meyer	Jan Briede
Delores Stegemann	Connie Braun
Kurt Seehofer	The Polezoes Family
Lincoln & Parker Alex	Patricia Murdoch
Gloria Crook	Lois Kaminske
Patty Sellers	Janet Varnagis
Dawn McNicholas	Barb & Emily Feehan

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

For Brian Barry celebrating a birthday on 12/4;

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Heather & Josh Turro	Carolyn Moeller
Eugene Marcinkowski	Roberta & Carlos Owens
Denise DeLaurentis	Dorothy Kroll
Anthony Krcelic, Jr.	Eric Kessling
Bob Hessert	Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta	Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow	Janet Trierweiler
Alan Hecke	Kim Lamberth
Matt Favero	Sandra Wilson
Rev. Bob Mitchell	Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi	Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher	The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross	Brenda Gurgel
Gloria Folsom	Autumn Kessling
Elizabeth Hoefler	Alan Iversen
Ron Lunt	Christopher Kosary
Sandy Plath	Iris McCoy
Shirley Demyres	Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo	Henry Bonder
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.	Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter	Fred Raddatz
Selma & John Carmichael	Allyson Seehofer
Bernadette & Rich Trusk	Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson	Carl Hoppe
Paul Noffke	Sue Sortino
Pam Brown	Lisa Sanders
Shawn Harland	Ann Herold
Barb Potter	Wayne Volk
Charley Heitz	Sharon Bryant
Doris Potts	Brad Benfield
Doreen Holford	Janice Hernandez
Donna Santi	Judy Collins
Paul Sowa	Maryann Krieg (Wilke)
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.	Knox Christensen
Cathy Becker	Lois Kiefer
George Lilja	Al Zirbel
Donna Patri	Skip Sorensen
Joe Thomas	Patrick Pasqua Sr.
Logan Bliss	Debbie Guarascio
Phyllis Hicks	Carol Duncan
Jerry Koenig	Justin & Ashley Fasel
Nora Maculitis	The Mitchell Family
Beckham Klintworth	Sophia Salus
Kimberly Rooney	Barb & Emily Feehan

Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over (708) 423-1040.



Holiday Worship and Fellowship

Every Sunday Worship is at 9:00 AM.

Advent Midweek Services: December 1st, 8th, and 15th
at 7:00 PM.

- During Advent, a supper will be served each Wednesday evening in our gym / Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30.
- At about 6:40 we'll move into the church sanctuary to sing a few favorite hymns.
- Our Advent worship services will all begin at 7:00 PM.
 - You're welcome to join us at any of these times!
- Following the first Advent service, you're invited to stay a few extra minutes to help with the hanging of the wreathes and garland in the church sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: Dec. 24th, 7:00 PM.

Christmas Morning: Dec. 25th, 9:00 AM.

New Year's Eve: 7:00 PM.

Special Notes:

- *There will be no services on Wednesday, December 22nd or 29th.*
- *Our regular 6:00 PM Wednesday evening services will resume on January 5th.*