

# *St. Paul Lutheran Church*

777 South Summit Street; Smithville, Ohio 44677; 330-669-2111

Rev. Kristy Buyok, Pastor; 803-673-1727

[www.stplcsmithville.org](http://www.stplcsmithville.org); [stpsmithville@gmail.com](mailto:stpsmithville@gmail.com)



*Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."*

***Second Sunday of Advent  
In-Person Worship Service  
December 8, 2024***

Please stand, as able, where marked with an asterisk\*. Congregational responses are in bold.

---

---

## *Prelude*

## *Welcome and Announcements*

## *Lighting of the Advent Wreath*

### *Advent Hymn: # 240* “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.  
2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
Music: TIP IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***\*Confession and Forgiveness***

P: God of mercy,

**C: we confess that we have not lived the life you intended for us and have broken our covenant with you.**

**We put our trust in things of this world while failing to trust you.**

**We act in fear and cling to false comforts.**

**Forgive us for not loving you with the fullness of our hearts and for not loving others as we love ourselves.**

**Help us to know that you are a God of strength and mercy, powerful enough to lead us and loving enough to forgive.**

P: The world waited for redemption before the birth of Jesus and now we wait for the full promises of God to be revealed when he comes again.

Rest in the forgiveness of God's mercy. Use this moment as a chance to start a new day, free from fear and restored to life in Christ whose day draws near.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn:** "Come, O Long Expected Jesus"

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

From our fears and sins re-lease us; Christ, in whom our rest shall be.  
born to reign in us for-ev-er, born your grac-ious realm to bring,

You, our strength and con-so-la-tion, come sal-va-tion to im-part;  
By your own e-ter-nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a-lone;

dear de-sire of man-y a na-tion, joy of man-y a long-ing heart.  
by your all-suf-fi-cient mer-it raise us to your glo-rious throne.

***\*Greeting & Call to Worship:***

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

A: A humble and merciful king sits on the throne of God.

**C: We come to worship the king of the world.**

A: To him is given all authority and power.

**C: To judge both the living and the dead, in this world and the next.**

A: Make a joyful noise before the King of Kings!

**C: All worship and praise to the king of justice and peace!**

***\*Prayer of the Day:***

A: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God,

**C: to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

***First Reading:*** Malachi 3: 1-4

<sup>1</sup> See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

<sup>2</sup> But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup> he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Responsive Reading:* Luke 1:68-79

R: Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,  
you have come to your people and set them free.

**C: You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,  
born of the house of your servant David.**

R: Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us  
from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us,

**C: to show mercy to our forebears,  
and to remember you holy covenant.**

R: This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

**C: free to worship you without fear,  
holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

R: And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

**C: to give God's people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.**

R: In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

**C: to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the  
shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

*Second Reading:* Philippians 1:3-11

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

R: The word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God.**

R: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel.

***\*Gospel Acclamation:***

**Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to the book of Luke the third chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

***\*Gospel Reading:*** Luke 3:1-6

<sup>1</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

**P:** The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**



## Children's Sermon

*Sermon:* Pastor Kristy Buyok

### *Hymn of the Day:* # 264 "Prepare the Royal Highway"



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!  
2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!  
3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!  
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!  
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!  
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.  
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:  
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!  
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:  
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

#### *Refrain*



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
Music: BEREDEN VÅG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## *The Apostle's Creed*

A: Together, let us confess our shared faith.

**C: 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 (*universal*) church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## *The Prayers*

A: As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

A: Refining God, move through your church. Root out practices that harm your people, and kindle a fire for sharing the gospel among bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Renewing God, transform your creation. Steer us from habits that harm what you have made, and guide us in practices that preserve and restore creatures and habitats. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Ruling God, teach the nations your ways. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Rescuing God, restore your people who are in any need. Heal all who are suffering. Especially we pray for: the Family of Don, Jim, Bob, Dave, Lorinda, Pat, Rochelle, Marilyn, Ron, Eileen, Harold, Matthew, Nolan, Karen, and Barb. We also pray for the St. Paul families of the week: Deb, Larry, Sandy, and Pat. Provide comfort and strength, and nurture sustained wholeness for the future. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Reforming God, fill this congregation with your presence. Enrich our seasonal preparations, and bless the efforts by worship committees, music ensembles, staff, clergy, and lay leaders as they work in the weeks ahead. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

A: Reassuring God, we remember those who have died and rest in you. Guide us in deep gratitude for their life, and allow us to learn from their faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

P: Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

### *Sharing of the Peace*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Offering:* Thank you to everyone who shares in the work of God. You may place your offering in the plates as they pass. You may also sign up for automatic giving or make an offering by clicking the donate button on our website: [www.stplcsmithville.org](http://www.stplcsmithville.org)

*Offertory:*                      “O Come to Us, Emmanuel”                      Choir

Words and Music by Joseph M. Martin  
© 2014 Hope Publishg Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188

### *\*Offertory Prayer*

P: Let us pray. Creator God,

**C: you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us.**

**We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.**

**Strengthen us with this food  
that we may live in expectation**

**for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*\*The Great Thanksgiving:*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: it is right, our duty and joy that we should always praise you.

You comforted your people with the promise of a redeemer:  
a promise you kept.

Here, you promise to meet us in this meal  
and have offered your very self for our good.

Still yet you promise to come again,  
in glory to judge the living and the dead in righteous glory.

Let us join the angels in praise for promises made, promises kept  
and for promises yet to be fulfilled:

**C: Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*\*Words of Institution*

### *\*The Lord's Prayer*

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

**C: 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*

P: Our Savior Comes to feed us with mercy.  
Come to the table.

### *Holy Communion*

*(All baptized Christians are welcomed at God's holy meal.)*

P: This is the body of Christ given for you.

*(You may eat your wafer)*

P: This is the blood of Christ shed for you.

*(You may drink the wine from your cup)*

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Communion Hymn: # 266* “All Earth Is Hopeful”

- 1. All earth is hopeful, the Savior comes at last!  
Furrows lie open for God’s creative task:  
this, the labor of people who struggle to see  
how God’s truth and justice set ev’ry body free.**
- 2. People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:  
“A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel”;  
she conceived him, “God with us,” our brother,  
whose birth restores hope and courage to children of this earth.**
- 3. Mountains and valleys will have to be prepared;  
new highways opened, new protocols declared.  
Almost here! God is nearing, in beauty and grace!  
All clear ev’ry gateway, in haste, come out in haste!**
- 4. We first saw Jesus a baby in a crib.  
This same Lord Jesus today has come to live in our world;  
he is present, in neighbors we see our Jesus is with us,  
and ever sets us free.**

# Communion Hymn: # 474 "Bread of Life from Heaven"

*Refrain*



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1 Break now the bread of Christ's sac - ri - fice; giv - ing  
 2 Seek not the food that will pass a - way; set your  
 3 Love as the one who, in love for you, gave him -  
 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you; make your  
 5 Drink of this cup and de - clare his death; eat this



thanks, hun - gry ones, gath - er round. Eat, all of you, and be  
 hearts on the food that en - dures. Come, learn the true and the  
 self for the life of the world. Come to the one who is  
 home in the life - giv - ing Word. Know on - ly Christ, Ho - ly  
 bread and be - lieve Eas - ter morn; trust his re - turn and, with

*Refrain*



sat - is - fied; in Christ's pres - ence the loaves will a - bound.  
 liv - ing way, that the full - ness of life may be yours.  
 food for you, that your hun - ger and thirst be no more.  
 One of God, and be - lieve in the truth you have heard.  
 ev - 'ry breath, praise the one in whom you are re - born.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952  
 Music: ARGENTINE SANTO, BREAK NOW THE BREAD; Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas  
 Text and music © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com  
 800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.



## \*Post Communion Blessing

### \*Benediction

### \*Sending Hymn: # 249 "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

*\*Dismissal (with enthusiasm)*

**A:** Go in Peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

## *Postlude*

Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual Lenten License #SAS103649. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. CCLI Annual License # 2896986.

***Your Prayers Are Requested For:***

***The Family of Don, Jim, Dave, Lorinda, Eileen, Harold, Bob, Karen Fisher,  
Matthew, Nolan, Marilyn, Rochelle, and Ron***

***St. Paul Families of the week:***

***Deb Zimmerman, Larry & Sandy Allen, and Pat Badger***

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God  
by Chad & Adrienne Karlen in honor of Brooke's birthday!*

***Thank you to those serving this morning***

Pastor: Kristy Buyok  
Cantor: Lesley Mast  
Assisting Minister: Adrienne Karlen  
Lector: Lyn Miller  
Pianist: Joe Hennell  
Communion Assistant: Duane Eggeman  
Altar Care: Kathy & Jerry Meitzler  
Ushers/Greeters: Rex Raff and David Svegel  
Bread Baker: Lyn Miller



---

Worship Services are streamed each Sunday at:  
[www.stplsmithville.org/services](http://www.stplsmithville.org/services)  
If you are unable to access via the internet,  
DVD copies are available for delivery to your home.  
Please contact Pastor Kristy: (803) 673-1727.

---

**This Week**

<b>Sunday:</b>	Sanctuary Worship Sunday School	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
<b>Monday:</b>	<i>Pastor's Day Off</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Church Council	6:30 p.m.
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Wednesday Meal	5:30 p.m.
<b>Thursday:</b>	Euchre	11:30 a.m.
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Sanctuary Worship Sunday School	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

## Upcoming & Announcements

**Bell Choir Openings:** Celebration Handbell Choir has 2 openings - one immediately and one starting on January 8. Anyone aged 10 to 90 is welcome. Jane will teach you everything you need to know about playing handbells. Although helpful, music experience is not required. Playing bells is teamwork but we don't keep score. You do need to commit to weekly rehearsals and playing in church about once per month. Your rewards will be praising God through music and your "good vibes" from learning something new. No need to let me know ahead of time, but if you wish, you can call/text Jane at 330-730-5822 or email me at ross.jane612@gmail.com, or just show up in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, December 4, from 6:45 to 7:30 pm. Be careful - you just might enjoy yourself - we laugh a lot!

Jane Ross, Director

**People to People:** Needs for the pantry in are: peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti pasta, canned tuna, canned chicken, ravioli, spaghetti, canned fruit.

The toy department could use Cavs, Cleveland Browns, or Guardian's t-shirts in sizes 12-18), teen body wash (boys and girls), liquid Mr. Clean, and paper towels. Thank you!



Scan the QR code to view our website or to donate thru Paypal.

### Wednesday Night Meals – December Menu

December 11 – Sloppy Joes, fries, coleslaw and dessert

December 18 – Chicken casserole, green beans and dessert

December 25 – No meal. Merry Christmas!

<b>Serving in December In-Person</b>	<b>12/1</b>	<b>12/8</b>	<b>12/15</b>	<b>12/22</b>	<b>12/24 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>12/29</b>
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Aleena Mast	Lyn Miller	Pam Root	Hans Kwee	Kailyn Brown	Tim Preston
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	Hans Kwee	Adrienne Karlen	Kailyn Brown	Lynn Moomaw	Karen Marks	Pam Root
<b>Greeters/ Ushers</b>	Steve & Nancy Carr	Rex Raff David Svegel	Nancy Percy Tim Preston	Bob Race Pat Badger	Jerry & Kathy Meitzler	Hans Kwee Ernie Buyok
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	Aleena Mast	Duane Eggeman	Nancy Carr	Lynn Moomaw	Tim Preston	Lyn Miller
<b>Altar Care</b>	Larry & Sandy Allen	Kathy & Jerry Meitzler	Duane Eggeman	Tim Preston	Steve & Nancy Carr	Rex & Beth Raff
<b>Bread Baker</b>	Lyn Miller	Lyn Miller	Lyn Miller	Lyn Miller	Lyn Miller	Lyn Miller