

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



November 28, 2021

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## WELCOME TO ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy you have joined us for worship today. Wherever you are on your journey with or toward God, you are welcome here—you are a blessing to this assembly.

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Lutherans believe, teach, and confess that in, with, and under the bread and wine in Holy Communion we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. All who are drawn in faith are welcome to join in this confession and receive the Sacrament.

We invite and encourage your full participation in our worship this morning. With this service bulletin you can follow and participate in this morning's liturgy.

**New to St. Paul?** Ready to make it your own? Questions about St. Paul, including transferring membership from another Lutheran church, or for beginning the process for baptism, confirmation, reception, or transferring from one of the other Christian traditions, may be directed to the Church Office at 781-646-7773 or parishadmin@stpaularlington.org.

## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The following guidelines are in place to keep all of us safe and healthy. Thank you for your cooperation in showing love to our neighbors. Adjustments will be made as needed moving forward.

**Masks:** Everyone (except children age 2 and under) are required to wear a face covering.

**Physical Distancing:** Maintain physical distancing (six feet or more) between households while inside the building. Do not congest or linger in hallways. Offerings may be left in the Narthex. At the end of the service, you will be dismissed row by row, from both the front and the back. Please remain seated during the postlude and follow the directions of the clergy and ushers.

**Ventilation:** Windows will remain open while the building is in use. As colder weather approaches, please remember to dress warmly. Coffee Hour will be held outdoors after the 10:30am service.

**Singing:** Masked, fully vaccinated attendees are welcome to sing at the 10:30am service only. The 8:15am service will be a spoken service with no singing.

*More details about our Covid-19 Protocols can be found on our website.*

*Cover: "Slow But Sure" by Trey Everett*

*As we prepare for God's presence in worship, please be aware that some prefer to be quiet at this time.  
When the instruction for standing \* appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable.  
At the ✝, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism.  
The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

## GATHERING

*The Chancel Flowers are given by Shem Krey and Alice Kern  
in memory of Rev. Rudolf and Gertrude Krey, and Dr. Genevieve Marie Baker.*

### PRELUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685–1750)

### WELCOME

### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly,  
who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that  
your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of  
self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your  
children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of  
your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy  
Spirit, ✝ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal  
promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of  
peace.

**Amen.**

### \* GATHERING HYMN

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

ELW 244

### \* 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.**

\* LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

\* HYMN DURING THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (*stanzas 1 & 2 only*)

ELW 257

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

**T**he days are surely coming, says 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; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25:1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.**

Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

**You are gracious and upright, O Lord; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

SECOND READING *at 10:30am*

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

**H**ow can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *at 10:30am*

ELW 169



Music: Bob Moore, b. 1962  
Music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

\* GOSPEL

Luke 21:25-36

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**[J**esus said:] "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power

and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S TIME *at 10:30am*

Vicar W. Roger Randolph III

SERMON

Vicar W. Roger Randolph III

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

ELW 245

\* APOSTLES’ CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

**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 into hell. 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 church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Make your love known in this congregation, the Cambridge Korean Presbyterian Church, and the Sichem Temple. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities: Josph, our president, Charles, our governor, and Adam, our town manager. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind especially Anne-Louise, Beverly, Dan, Ed, Elna, Heikki, Janna, Jeff, Jeffrey, John, Lois, Lorraine, Lynn, Meredith, and Paul. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

\* PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

# MEAL

## TEMPLE TALK

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM *at 10:30am*

Matin Responsory

G. P. da Palestrina

(c. 1525–1594)

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another, go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep, tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

### \* OFFERING PRAYER

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

**Amen.**

### \* GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power 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.**

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.

When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again in righteousness and peace.

Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine we share: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\* LORD'S PRAYER**

*Feel free to say this prayer in the language in which you first learned it, or in one of these translations:*

**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.**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION *(said by online attendees)*

**Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray that you come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, soul, and mind. Let nothing separate me from you until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom of unending peace. Amen.**

COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive the bread and wine as the choir sings the Agnus Dei. An usher will collect your cups.*

\* TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

\* BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\* SENDING HYMN

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

ELW 250

\* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please remain seated for the Postlude. An usher will dismiss you row by row.*

## POSTLUDE

Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BuxWV 211

Dieterich Buxtehude  
(1637–1707)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Below are highlights from our announcements this week. For more information, please see our Weekly Update email. You can subscribe from our website ([stpaularlinton.org](http://stpaularlinton.org)—click SUBSCRIBE in the navigation menu at the top of the page) or like us on Facebook! Please send announcements via email to [parishadmin@stpaularlinton.org](mailto:parishadmin@stpaularlinton.org) by noon on Wednesday for inclusion in the coming Sunday's bulletin. Announcements received after that will be published the following week.*

**Pledge Drive** | The annual appeal began last week. Please turn in your pledges this week.

**Adult Forum** | Sundays at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall

Today: No forum.

December 5: Advent Preparation–Daily Inventory with Pastor Liz Senft

December 12: Advent Apocalypse with Pastor Liz Senft

December 19: Magnificat Bible Study (Luke 1:39–55) with Pastor Ross Goodman

December 29 and January 2: No forum.

**Ascentria Giving Tree** | This season, St. Paul will support the Unaccompanied Refugee Minors Program. Email Kim Fechtel ([kfechtel@comcast.net](mailto:kfechtel@comcast.net)) sign up for certain gifts and drop them off at church by December 12!



# SAINT PAUL

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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## ST. PAUL STAFF

The Reverend Ross Goodman, *Pastor*  
The Reverend Liz Senft, *Pastoral Associate*  
W. Roger Randolph III, *Vicar*  
Ryan Patten, *Director of Music & Organist*  
Kourtni Patten, *Director of Children, Youth, & Families*  
Toni Sacco, *Interim Parish Administrator*  
Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*  
Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

## OFFICE HOURS

*Monday through Friday, 9am–3pm*



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.



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