

St. Paul Lutheran Church

A Congregation of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

November 29, 2026 | First Week of Advent

You are not lacking in any spiritual gift,
as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will sustain you to the end,
guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
God is faithful,
by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Welcome!

On this Lord's Day, you will be blessed because God is present with us here with His Word and His love. Today you will hear about Jesus, His death, resurrection, and reign over the world. You will be encouraged to trust in His Word, the Bible, as your source of life and light.

If you are new

Today might be your first time coming to St. Paul. If so, we are so glad you are here! If you have been to church many times but are new to the Missouri Synod, some things will be very familiar and some things will be new. The way we worship is not new, but actually very old. Our Scripture readings, although modified, were decided 1,200 years ago and are based on the Christian calendar, which points us to the story of Jesus and His Church each year.

If you have children

Thank you for bringing your kids to St. Paul today! We know that it is not easy to get out the door on a Sunday morning and bring your kids to church, but this is the very best place to bring them. If they make some noise or move around, please don't worry. Our pastor has six kids and was a middle school teacher. He won't even notice. But God gladly notices and is pleased you are here. Where else would He want them on a Sunday morning?

Hymnal

Melodies are printed in the maroon Lutheran Service Book. The Creeds and the Lord's Prayer are in the back cover. Prayers for worship are in the front cover.

Membership and Communion

The Lord's Supper, which we celebrate each Sunday, is a sharing in the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Because of its seriousness and reality, we serve Holy Communion only to members of St. Paul or members in good standing of other Missouri Synod congregations who are in fellowship with our congregation and our pastors. This is our practice because it is the Lord's Supper, not our supper. The Lord instructs pastors to exercise pastoral *care* of souls, *commands* theological unity, *cautions* against false teaching, instructs us that His Supper is a *confession* of our fellowship in doctrine. We are accountable to one another, and our pastors are accountable to God for this church (Hebrews 13:17). If this is your first visit with us and you are not a member of an LCMS congregation, please refrain from Holy Communion. Our pastors greatly desire to serve the Eucharist to you when we are assured that we share the same confession, and will be in contact with you about joining our fellowship in Christian faith and life.

Cover: Photo of Al Weber at the Living Nativity.

Pre-Service Prayer, Advent Wreath Prayer

O Lord Jesus Christ, the true light who comes into the world to enlighten all people, bless us as we light the candles of this wreath in preparation for Your coming, and enkindle in our hearts the fire of Your love that we may receive You with joy and gladness and evermore remain steadfast in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Words of Welcome

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1 Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

2 Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Confession & Absolution

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
But with you there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.
Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and

confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying:

Jesus Christ, Son of God,
Have mercy on me, The sinner.

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die and to rise for you, and for His sake God forgives you all our sins. In the stead and by the command of Christ, I announce the grace of God to all of you: on the basis of your repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Go and walk in newness of life. **Amen!**

348 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

1 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light triumphant breaks,
When beauty gilds the eastern hills
And life to joy awakes.

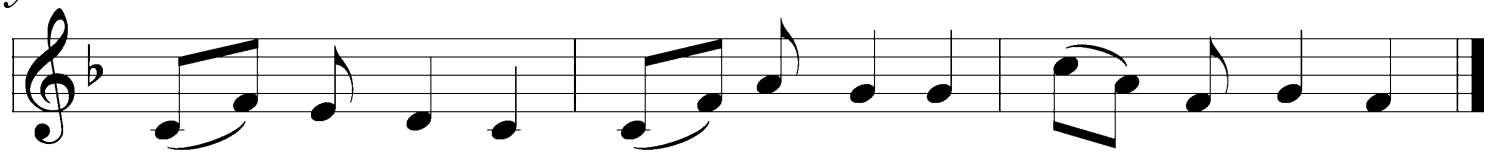
2 Not as of old a little child,
To bear and fight and die,
But crowned with glory like the sun
That lights the morning sky.

3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn
When Christ, victorious, rose
And left the lonesome place of death
Despite the rage of foes.

4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
Shall dawn upon our race
The day when Christ in splendor comes
And we shall see His face.

5 The King shall come when morning dawns
And light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings!

Kyrie LSB 204



Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And With Your Spirit.**

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 64:1–9

[1]Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence—
[2] as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
and that the nations might tremble at your presence!
[3]When you did awesome things that we did not look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
[4]From of old no one has heard
or perceived by the ear,
no eye has seen a God besides you,
who acts for those who wait for him.
[5]You meet him who joyfully works righteousness,
those who remember you in your ways.
Behold, you were angry, and we sinned;
in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved?
[6]We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

7 There is no one who calls upon your name,
who rouses himself to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities.
8 But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7; Seedbed Metrical Psalter translation

1 **Hear us, O King of Is-ra-el, who shepherds Joseph very well;**
And like a flock You care for him, enthroned between the cherubim.
2 **Shine forth before Your people in Manasseh, Ephra'm, Benjamin;**
Awaken in Your righteous might, and come to save us in Your light.

3 **Restore us, God, and make Your face to shine upon us by Your grace.**
Restore us, God, that we may be forever saved eternally.

4 **O Lord, the God of Hosts, how long will You be angry and prolong**
5 **Your wrath against Your people's prayers, whom You have fed with bread of tears?**
5/6 **For You have made us drink our tears and with our neighbors strive with fears.**
6 **Now all our enemies around mock us with scorn, our lives confound.**

7 **Restore us, God, and make Your face to shine upon us by Your grace.**
Restore, Almighty God, that we may now be saved eternally.

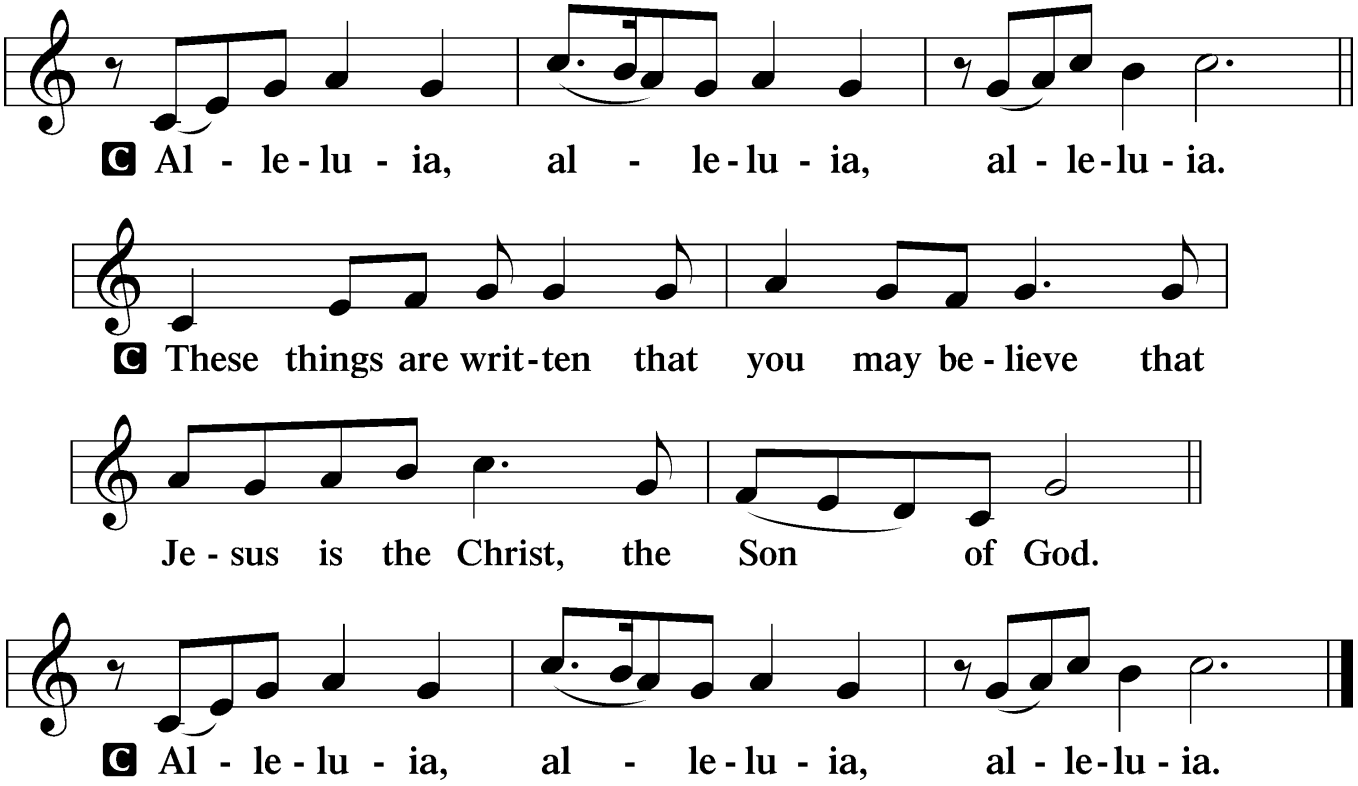
Epistle 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

[3]Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

[4]I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, [5]that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—[6]even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—[7]so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, [8]who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. [9]God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

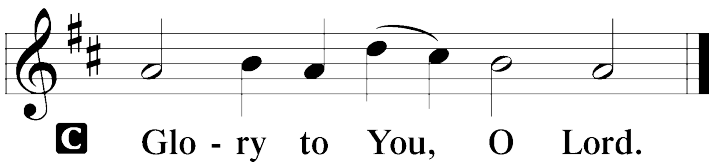
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse



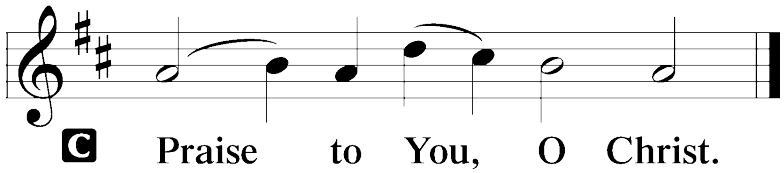
Holy Gospel *Mark 13:24–37*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.



[24] [Jesus said:] “In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be
darkened, and the moon will not give its light, [25] and the stars will be
falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
[26] And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great
power and glory. [27] And then he will send out the angels and gather his
elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of
heaven.
[28] “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes
tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. [29] So also,
when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the
very gates. [30] Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away
until all these things take place. [31] Heaven and earth will pass away, but
my words will not pass away.
[32] “But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the
angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [33] Be on guard, keep
awake. For you do not know when the time will come. [34] It is like a man
going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in
charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay
awake. [35] Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master
of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock
crows, or in the morning— [36] lest he come suddenly and find you
asleep. [37] And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



332 Savior of the Nations, Come sts. 1–4, 8

1 Savior of the nations, come,
Virgin’s Son, make here Your home!
Marvel now, O heav’n and earth,
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 Not by human flesh and blood,
By the Spirit of our God,
Was the Word of God made flesh—
Woman’s offspring, pure and fresh.

3 Here a maid was found with child,
Yet remained a virgin mild.
In her womb this truth was shown:
God was there upon His throne.

4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all
From His pure and kingly hall;
God of God, yet fully man,
His heroic course began.

8 Glory to the Father sing,
Glory to the Son, our king,
Glory to the Spirit be
Now and through eternity.

Sermon: You are not lacking in any spiritual gift; I Corinthians 1
Pastor Zech

Apostles' Creed **I believe in God, the Father Almighty...**
Prayer of the Church
Sharing of the Peace of Christ

Offertory *LSB 192*
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

The Lord's Supper, Sacrament of the Altar

Thank you for reading the "Membership and Communion" statement in the front inside cover of the worship bulletin. Thank you for respecting our practice of closed communion. Those who are not yet members of an LCMS church, you are warmly invited to come to the altar rail for a blessing, and to indicate this by folding your arms over your chest.

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 Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary...

Sanctus LSB 208

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven...
(printed in the back cover of the hymnal)

The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.
Even so, Come, Lord Jesus.

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

Agnus Dei LSB 210

1 **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,**
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

2 **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,**
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Distribution Hymns, printed in the Lutheran Service Book hymnal:
343 Prepare the Royal Highway
331 The Advent of Our King
336 Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Post-Communion Collect

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

349 Hark the Glad Sound

1 Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne
And ev'ry voice a song.

2 He comes the pris'ners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

3 He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
To_enrich the humble poor.

4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim,
And heav'n's eternal arches ring
With Thy belovèd name.

Prayers for the Living Nativity:

Almighty and gracious God, You want all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Magnify the power of the Gospel in the hearts of Your faithful people that Your Church may spread the good news of salvation. Protect, encourage, and bless all servants at the Living Nativity who proclaim the saving joy of Your Son, who, being lifted up, may draw all people to Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

God of majesty, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven, be with Your servants who make art and music for Your people that with joy we on earth may glimpse Your beauty. Bring us to the fulfillment of that hope of perfection that will be ours as we stand before Your unveiled glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.