

Welcome!

to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Clay Center, KS

Thank you
for joining us for worship!

Advent
Midweek 2

December 10, 2025

Worship Folder



St. Paul Lutheran Communion Statement:

COMMUNION WELCOME-God calls upon His people to exercise care in the use of His Supper because harm results when Communion is received without repentance or a right understanding (1 Corinthians 11:23-30) and when fellowship is practiced without agreement in God's Word (Galatians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:14). In Communion Jesus gives us His true Body and Blood, in with and under the bread and wine, to forgive our sins (Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 10:16-21). We also profess agreement in the teachings of the church at whose altar we commune. Thus, we cannot offer this Supper to those who have not received instruction per the mysteries of this meal. We do invite fellow members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to join our members as we receive the Sacrament today. Others are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who desire to come forward for a blessing are invited to do so, indicating their intent to receive a blessing by crossing their arms in front.

Distribution of the bread is to the hand of the communicant. "Gluten Free" wafers are available. Please let the ushers know PRIOR to service if you are needing this substitution.

Distribution of the wine is by choice of individual cup or common chalice. If you receive with the individual cup, please keep the small cup visible to the minister with the common cup. Individual cups of unfermented grape juice will be provided at the center of each of the trays for those who prefer grape juice over wine. Both are "fruit of the vine" and in the sacrament become means by which Christ grants us his blood to assure us of forgiveness, life and salvation. The unfermented grape juice is light in color.

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

All About Mary: She Was Betrothed to a Man

AS WE GATHER

During Advent, we wait *for* Jesus, *with* Jesus. The darkest part of the year is brightened by the hope that the Savior who came for the world once is coming again. And we do not wait alone. Together, the whole Christian Church is accompanied in this waiting by the Christ who promises to be with His people always. Jesus' mother, the virgin Mary, knows a lot about waiting. With pregnant anticipation, Mary waited *for* Jesus, the promised Messiah who would reign from David's throne forever. But Mary was always waiting *with* Jesus, the Son of the Most High nestled within her womb. Throughout this Advent, we will listen with Mary, sing with Mary, and wait with Mary. Because, on darkest days, the Christ comes as near to you as He did to Mary to wait *with* you for the glorious sunrise that's coming.

Today we shall learn more about our Savior, Jesus, by learning about Mary's husband, Joseph. Jesus, true man, was raised and taught by a human father, Joseph, a faithful husband for Mary.

OPENING SENTENCES

- P** The Lord Himself will give you a sign.
C **Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.**
- P** In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell securely.
C **And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."**

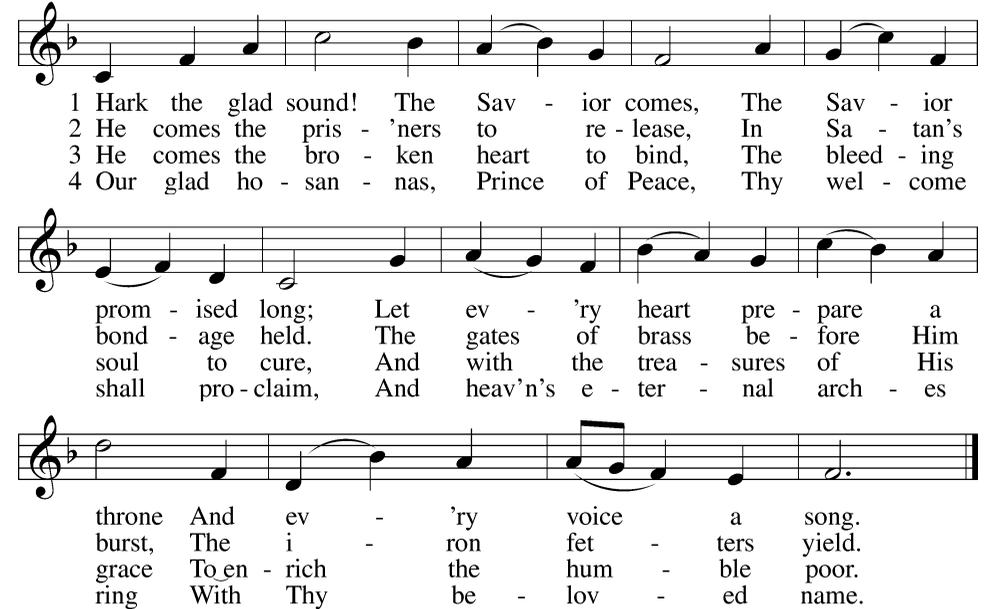
INVOCATION

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

During the hymn, the Advent candles may be lit.

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349



1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come

prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a
bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es

throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.
burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51
Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820
Text and tune: Public domain

PSALM

Psalms 61

- P** From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint.
C **Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.**
- P** Hear my cry, O God,
C **listen to my prayer.**
- P** For You have been my refuge,
C **a strong tower against the enemy.**
- P** Let me dwell in Your tent forever!
C **Let me take refuge under the shelter of Your wings!**
- P** For You, O God, have heard my vows;
C **You have given me the heritage of those who fear Your name.**
- P** Prolong the life of the king;
C **may his years endure to all generations!**

P May he be enthroned forever before God;
C **appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!**

P So will I ever sing praises to Your name,
C **as I perform my vows day after day.**

**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.**

P From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint.
C **Lead me to the rock that is higher than I.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
O light in our darkness, by Your Word, You brighten our path. When days are dark and our direction unclear, send Your guiding Spirit that we might be assured of Your nearness and cling to Your promises; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Hosea 2:18–23

¹⁸And I will make for them a covenant on that day with the beasts of the field, the birds of the heavens, and the creeping things of the ground. And I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land, and I will make you lie down in safety. ¹⁹And I will betroth you to me forever. I will betroth you to me in righteousness and in justice, in steadfast love and in mercy. ²⁰I will betroth you to me in faithfulness. And you shall know the LORD.

²¹“And in that day I will answer, declares the LORD,
I will answer the heavens,
and they shall answer the earth,

²²and the earth shall answer the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and they shall answer Jezreel,

²³and I will sow her for myself in the land.

And I will have mercy on No Mercy,
and I will say to Not My People, ‘You are my people’;
and he shall say, ‘You are my God.’”

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

SECOND READING

Matthew 1:18–25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

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

SERMON

OFFERING

My Soul Rejoices

LSB 933



1 My soul re - joic - es, My spir - it voic - es— Sing the
2 His arm now bar - ing, His strength de - clar - ing— Sing the



great - ness of the Lord! For God my Sav - ior Has shown me
great - ness of the Lord! The proud He scat - ters, Their rule He



fa - vor— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! With praise and
shat - ters— Sing the great - ness of the Lord! Op - pres - sion



bles - sing, Join in con - fess - ing God, who is sole - ly Might - y and
halt - ed; The meek ex - alt - ed. Full are the hun - gry; Emp - ty, the



ho - ly— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! His mer - cy
wealth - y— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord! Here is the



sure - ly Shall rest se - cure - ly On all who fear Him,
to - ken All that was spo - ken To A - br'ham's off - spring



Love and re - vere Him— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!
God is ful - fill - ing— O sing the great - ness of God the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955
Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556–c. 1622
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Tune: Public domain

PRAYERS

- P** Son of David and Son of Joseph, Your arrival fulfills every promise ever made by the Lord, our God. Teach us to know You as the joy of every longing heart, that we might kneel before You, just as Your earthly guardian Joseph knelt beside Your manger, in trust that You hear our

prayers and will bring us deliverance.

O holy Child of Nazareth, You learned and grew in the house of a carpenter. Build every father within Your great family into an honorable man, sacrificing for the sake of their household and leading them in holiness for the sake of Your name. Particularly bless fathers who have a troubled relationship with their children; heal their hurts and bind them in kindness and love. Son of Joseph,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Incarnate Son of God, You dwelt among sawdust and splinters. Bless all those whose work is difficult and dangerous and take under Your protection all who put their hands to any useful task. Sustain the commerce and industry of this nation. Give all who work the just rewards for their labor and the knowledge that their work is a blessing in Your sight. Son of sweat and toil,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Son of heaven's splendor, You came into our world yet had no place to lay Your head. Mercifully care for the homeless, the hungry, the poor, the unemployed, the lonely, the sick, and the troubled of mind and heart. Relieve their want, provide for their livelihood, and make their needs known that Your servants might bring to them the blessings of Your hand. Son of suffering,

C **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

12:05 PM – NOON PRAYER

C Blessed Lord Jesus Christ, at this hour You hung upon the cross, stretching out Your loving arms to embrace the world in Your death. Grant that all people of the earth may look to You and see their salvation; for Your mercy’s sake we pray. Amen.

7:00 PM - LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER

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.

BENEDICAMUS

P Let us bless the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

CLOSING SENTENCES

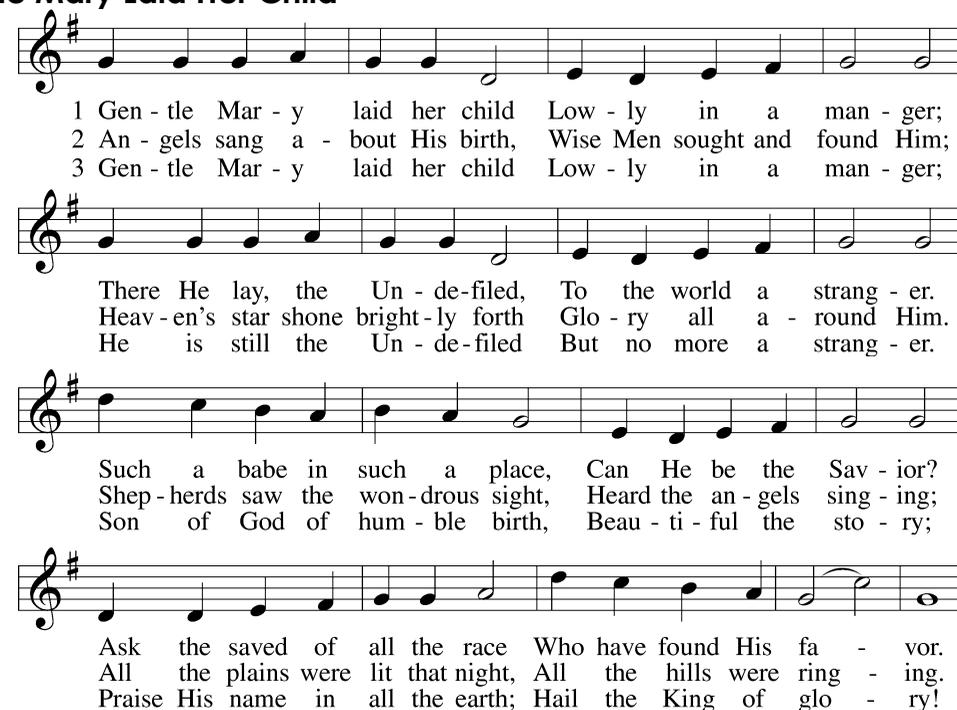
P He who is mighty has done great things for me.
C Holy is His name.
P To God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—be all honor and glory in His holy church, forever and ever.
C Amen. Christ died! Christ is risen! Christ shall come again!

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C Amen.

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

LSB 374



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;
2 An - gels sang a - bout His birth, Wise Men sought and found Him;
3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child Low - ly in a man - ger;

There He lay, the Un - de - filed, To the world a strang - er.
Heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth Glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the Un - de - filed But no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, Heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, Beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night, All the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth; Hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1859–1933
Tune: Piae Cantiones Ecclesiasticae, 1582, Griefswald
Text and tune: Public domain

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For those who wish, the Sacrament will be served.....

Confession and Absolution

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P 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."

DISTRIBUTION

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C Amen.