

Welcome to the house of the living Lord!

If you are visiting with us today, we extend a warm welcome and invite you to return often. One of our core values at St. Paul's is to help people find a place where they belong. We have been doing it for 120 years and we pray that one of these worship services will bless you on your journey.

St. Paul's has chosen as its theme verse to guide us in 2020 – Matthew 5:16

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

It is the prayer of our congregation that we will connect people to the love of Jesus through our teaching, serving, caring, and telling.

Please record your attendance, submit prayer requests, and give online at www.StPaulsDec.com

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

Entrance Hymn **Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates** **LSB 340**

- 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits.
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here.
Life and salvation He doth bring;
Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
To God the Father raise
Your joyful songs of praise.
- 2 A righteous Helper comes to thee;
His chariot is humility,
His kingly crown is holiness,
His scepter, pity in distress.
The end of all our woe He brings;
Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
To Christ the Savior raise
Your grateful hymns of praise.
- 3 How blest the land, the city blest,
Where Christ the ruler is confessed!
O peaceful hearts and happy homes
To whom this King in triumph comes!
The cloudless sun of joy is He
Who comes to set His people free.
To God the Spirit raise
Your happy shouts of praise.
- 4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Sov'reign enter in
And new and nobler life begin.
To God alone be praise
For word and deed and grace!

5 Redeemer, come and open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
O enter with Thy grace divine;
Thy face of mercy on me shine.
Thy Holy Spirit guide us on
Until our glorious goal is won.
Eternal praise and fame
We offer to Thy name.

Invocation

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

C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution *1 John 1:8; John 3:16; Matthew 5:16*

P As we begin a new Church Year, let us put behind
us everything in the past that would disqualify us
from a new life, and remembering our Baptism, we
boldly petition our Savior Jesus Christ, seeking for
our entry into His presence and His plan and future
for us, saying, stir up Your power, O Lord, and
come,

C **that by Your protection we may be rescued
from the threatening perils of our sins and
saved by Your mighty deliverance.**

P What are those threatening perils? I now ask you
before God, who searches the heart, do you
sincerely confess that you have sinned against
God and deserved His wrath and punishment?

C **I do confess.**

P So you should confess as Holy Scripture says, "If
we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and
the truth is not in us."

Do you also repent of all your sins committed in
thought, word, and deed?

C **I do repent.**

P So you should repent as did King David, who
prayed for a contrite heart; Peter, who wept
bitterly; the sinful woman; the prodigal son; and
others.

Do you sincerely believe that God, by grace, for
Jesus' sake, will forgive you all your sins?

C **I do believe.**

P So you should believe as Holy Scripture declares,
"God so loved the world, that He gave His only
Son, that whoever believes in Him should not
perish but have eternal life."

Do you promise that with the aid of the Holy Spirit
you will amend your sinful life?

C **I do promise.**

P So you should promise for Christ the Lord says,
"Let your light shine before others, so that they
may see your good works and give glory to your
Father who is in heaven."

Finally, do you believe that through me, a called
servant of God, you will receive the forgiveness of
all your sins?

C **I do believe.**

P As you believe, even so may it be to you. Upon
this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a
called and ordained servant of the Word,
announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the
stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus
Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the
Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come,
C **that by Your protection we may be rescued
from the threatening perils of our sins and
saved by Your mighty deliverance. Amen.**

Lighting the Advent Candle

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,
C **the light no darkness can overcome.**
P Let Your light scatter the darkness
C **and illumine Your Church.**

Introit *Psalm 25:1–3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.*

Behold, your king is coming to you;
righteous and having salvation.
To you, O LORD,
I lift up my soul.
O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to
shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.
Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to
shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly
treacherous.

**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.

Kyrie

(sung to the hymn "O, God Our Help in Ages Past")

**Have mercy on your people Lord. Have mercy,
Christ, our King.
Renew us by your mercy, Lord; Accept the prayers
we bring.**

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
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.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 64:1–9*

¹Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your
presence—

²as 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!

³When you did awesome things that we did not
look for,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your
presence.

⁴From 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.

⁵You 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?

⁶We 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.
⁷There 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.
⁸But now, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Be not so terribly angry, O LORD,
and remember not iniquity forever.
Behold, please look, we are all your people.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm *Psalm 80:1–7; antiphon: v. 7*

¹Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock!
You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine
forth.
²Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,
stir up your might and come to save us!
³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!
⁴O LORD God of hosts,
how long will you be angry with your people's
prayers?
⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears
and given them tears to drink in full measure.
⁶You make us an object of contention for our
neighbors,
and our enemies laugh among themselves.
⁷Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that
we may be saved!

Epistle *1 Corinthians 1:3–9*

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.
⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because
of the grace of God that was given you in Christ
Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him
in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the
testimony about Christ was confirmed among
you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual
gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus
Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in
the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful,
by whom you were called into the fellowship of his
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse for Advent 1

A Alleluia. Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted
up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may
come in.
C **Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel *Mark 11:1–10*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the
eleventh chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹When they drew near to Jerusalem, to Bethphage
and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent
two of his disciples ²and said to them, "Go into the
village in front of you, and immediately as you
enter it you will find a colt tied, on which no one
has ever sat. Untie it and bring it. ³If anyone says
to you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord
has need of it and will send it back here
immediately.'" ⁴And they went away and found a
colt tied at a door outside in the street, and they
untied it. ⁵And some of those standing there said to

them, "What are you doing, untying the colt?" ⁶And they told them what Jesus had said, and they let them go. ⁷And they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it, and he sat on it. ⁸And many spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹And those who went before and those who followed were shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest!"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn **Savior of the Nations, Come LSB 332**

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.

5 God the Father was His source,
Back to God He ran His course.
Into hell His road went down,
Back then to His throne and crown.

6 For You are the Father's Son
Who in flesh the vict'ry won.
By Your mighty pow'r make whole
All our ills of flesh and soul.

7 From the manger newborn light
Shines in glory through the night.
Darkness there no more resides;
In this light faith now abides.

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

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

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. 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.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

Please record your attendance, submit prayer requests, and give online at www.StPaulsDec.com

Lord's Prayer

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.

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.**

Hymn The Advent of Our King LSB 331

- 1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.
- 2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.
- 3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.
- 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.
- 5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.
- 6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

Sending

P Our worship has ended.
C **Our service now begins.**
P We now depart, renewed by the Word of God,
C **to joyfully serve our risen Lord. Amen**

Acknowledgments

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WELCOME to St. Paul's Lutheran Church! We are honored to have you in worship today. We come together in the name of Jesus Christ, who brings the promise of salvation and everlasting life to all who believe in Him as Savior and Lord. **May He richly bless your life as we worship in Spirit and Truth!**

(John 4:24)

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US TODAY, we want to warmly welcome you in the name of Jesus. If you have no church home, we would be honored to have you join us at St. Paul's. For more information about what Lutheran Christians believe and about St. Paul's, please visit us on our website at www.StPaulsDec.com.

OUR MISSION at St. Paul's is to glorify God by connecting people to Jesus through teaching, serving, caring, and telling.

OUR VISION FOR MINISTRY

By the power and grace of Jesus Christ we will work to build a diverse community of spiritually maturing Christians who are... living out their faith in daily life; inviting, welcoming and including new people; and involved in meaningful ministry to others!

OUR CORE VALUES

Generosity (Acts 20:35)
 Children (Mark 10:14)
 A Place to Belong (Isaiah 56:7)
 Respectfulness (Mark 12:31)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 2:00pm

ONLINE (Ctrl+Click to follow link)
www.StPaulsDec.com

www.facebook.com/StPaulsDec
www.facebook.com/StPaulsDec.Preschool
www.facebook.com/groups/StPaulsDecatur.ChildrensGroup.Parents
www.facebook.com/groups/StPaulsDecaturYouthGroup.Parents
www.facebook.com/groups/StPaulsDecatur.WomensGroup

TODAY	8:15am	In-Church Traditional Worship
November 29	8:15am	Facebook Live Worship
Advent Begins	9:00am	Children's Bible Time FB posting
<i>Giving Tree in Narthex</i>	9:30am	Adult Study - Galatians by Zoom
	9:30am	Worship on Radio 98.5 FM
	11:00am	Drive-In Worship
MONDAY	7:00am	Preschool Ext Care (M-F)
	8:45am	Preschool (M-Th)
	8:45am	KTT Afterschool (M-F)
TUESDAY	9:30am	Staff meeting
WEDNESDAY	12:00pm	Advent Worship
	12:00pm	Facebook Live Advent Worship
	4:00pm	God's Place Chapel
	6:00pm	Confirmation In person
	6:00pm	HS Youth Giving Tree preparation
	6:00pm	Adult Study – Romans in-person in the Fellowship Room
	7:00pm	Praise Band practice
	7:15pm	Choir practice
	8:00pm	Adult Confirmation Class by Zoom
THURSDAY	10:00am	Preschool Chapel
	11:00am	Prayer Shawl Workshop
	4:00pm	KTT Swamp John's Fundraiser
SUNDAY	8:15am	In-Church Traditional Worship
December 6	8:15am	Facebook Live Worship
	9:00am	Children's Bible Time FB posting
<i>Giving Tree in Narthex</i>	9:30am	Adult Study - Galatians by Zoom
	9:30am	Worship on Radio 98.5 FM
	11:00am	Drive-In Worship
	1:00pm	Ladies Christmas Party
	6:00pm	MS Youth Meet-up by Zoom

LOOKING AHEAD:

Thursday, December 17
 Preschool Christmas Program by Facebook Live

Thursday, December 24
 Christmas Eve Worship
 3:00pm Drive-in
 6:00pm in the Sanctuary & Facebook Live
 11:00pm in the Sanctuary w/ Choir & Brass & Facebook Live

Friday, December 25
 Christmas Worship
 10:00am in the Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Ways to Serve
Blessing Box Donations
Van Driver for KTT Afterschool
 one afternoon/week 2:15-3:45pm
Homework Helper for KTT
 Mon, Tues, or Thurs for 1 hour