



THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 7, 2025 | 8:00 AND 10:30 AM

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

Throughout the Gospel of Matthew, we hear of the “kingdom of heaven” (the phrase appears over thirty times in the book). The season of Advent anticipates the coming of this kingdom on the Last Day even as we see that kingdom coming among us today in and through Christ’s Church. What is this kingdom? How do we recognize it? How is it different from earthly powers and nations? *This is Part 1 of a year-long series, “A Year in Matthew.”*

P Pastor

C Congregation/All

✠ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.



Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather for worship.
We are prepared for worship through Confession and Absolution.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 347 “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS *Matthew 3:2 (alt.); Revelation 22:20*

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

C Amen.

P The time of Christ’s coming is at hand; the day is drawing near.

C A voice cries in the wilderness, “Prepare the way of the Lord!”

P So that day does not surprise us unprepared, 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 He who is coming has come! Jesus’ birth among us brings us light; His death for our transgressions brings us life. 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. Come, Lord Jesus!

INTROIT | Entrance *Psalm 105:4–8; antiphon: Isaiah 40:3b*

- P** In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
C **make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**
P Seek the LORD and his strength;
C **seek his presence continually!**
P Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
C **his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,**
P O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
C **children of Jacob, his chosen ones!**
P He is the LORD our God;
C **his judgments are in all the earth.**
P He remembers his covenant forever,
C **the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations.**
C **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 In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
C **make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
P Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C **Amen.**

VERSE OF THE MONTH *Luke 2:14 KJV*

- C** **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**



We hear God's Word read and proclaimed,
and we respond with our prayers and praise, tithes and offerings.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 11:1–10*

Isaiah foretells a future ruler from the family of Jesse (King David's father). This Spirit-filled ruler will bring unity where there was once division and discord.

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. ²And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit

of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what

his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. ⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear

shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 15:4–13*

Saint Paul prays that the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

⁸For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,

⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

¹⁰And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

¹²And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 3:1–12*

John the Baptist says to prepare the way for the Lord Jesus.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord. ►

¹In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” ³For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers!

Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. ⁹And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED *See the inside back cover of the hymnal.*

SERMON HYMN 344 *“On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”*

SERMON *The Kingdom of Heaven: “Prepare the Way”*

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

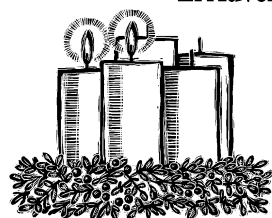
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

**Second Sunday
in Advent**



*The 10:30 am service concludes with the
Lord’s Prayer, Benediction, and Closing Hymn 345,
“Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding.”*



We receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation
as we share the Sacrament of the Altar.

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS | Holy, Holy, Holy *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

Tune: PUER NOBIS ("On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry")

C (sung) O holy, holy, holy One

All pow'r and might are Yours alone.

With loud hosannas now we sing

Our praises to our coming King.

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26*

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

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

PAX DOMINI | Peace of the Lord *John 20:19*

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

AGNUS DEI | Lamb of God John 1:29

Tune: PUER NOBIS ("On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry")

G (sung) **O Lamb of God, upon the cross**
You bore the weight of sin for us.
In Your great mercy and Your love
Give us Your peace from heav'n above.

We believe that in the Lord's Supper our Lord gives to us His true body and blood with the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We recognize the charge that St. Paul offers in 1 Corinthians 11:27–28 that those who come to receive the Lord's Supper ought to examine themselves so that they do not eat and drink in an unworthy manner. Therefore, out of concern for those who have not been instructed in the faith or who hold to a different confession, we ask that only members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations receive the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more about what our congregation teaches, to inquire about becoming a member or have questions about our practice, please speak to one of the pastors. Adults and children who have not yet been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith are invited to come forward and receive a spoken blessing at the altar rail; please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

For those who require it, diluted wine is found in the purple glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups; gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Music during distribution:

HYMN 509 "Christ Is Surely Coming"

HYMN 343 "Prepare the Royal Highway"

HYMN 346 "When All the World Was Cursed"



Even as this time of worship ends, we go out of the church into the worship of our everyday lives, ready to be God's witnesses and do His will.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER & BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN 345 "Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding"

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

This week's takeaway: "Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight" (Matthew 3:3.) Now is the time for preparation before God's kingdom comes in power and glory on the Last Day. What does this preparation look like? Repent, live daily in God's grace given you in Baptism, and bear the fruit of a God-pleasing life.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*

John Jacobsen, *Organist*

Lane Brackman, Liam Clayton, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*

Elaina Martens, Quinn Marsh, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*

Eddie & Linda Kammeyer, *Greeters (8:00 am)*

Roger & Carolyn Flandermeyer, *Greeters (10:30 am)*

Pat McKeage, Jim Beerman, Rod McCaslin, Darren Starbuck, *Elders on Duty*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please contact the church office to keep our prayer list up-to-date.

Our pastor "on call" number in case of emergency is (660) 580-5483.

New: Bridget Kageman, Addison Wehrle, Beth Lange, Alan Luebbert, Barb White, Libby Kallenberger, Diane Stumpfenhaus, Bobbie Poesse, Lisa Arnett, Ricky Flandermeyer, Ron Roepe, Joyce Kroll, Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos, Susan Reeves, Les Bruns

Ongoing: Diane Heimsoth, Barbie Cowherd, Baby Felix, Gene Virus, Robert Pottschmidt, Harry Rehkop, Nolan Kirby, Jon Spells, Hudson Kloos, Joe Connell, Roger Kammeyer, Ledrue Brandt, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Alice Hildebrand, Donnie Fiene, Rev. Perry Copus, Darla Wolters, Vickie Greene, Amy Gerds, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Dannie Griffit, Lari Huntze, Johnny Cowherd, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Nation and World: the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Partners in Mission: Faith Lutheran Church; Knob Noster, MO and Rev. Jon-Michael Schweigert; Lutheran Church Charities

Birthdays: (12/7) Jeff Bushman, Laura Eckhoff, Joshalynn Vassar, Ella Virus; (12/8) Chris Dittmer, Amaya Shafer; (12/9) Kahlan Haase, Katlyn Maggert, Ali Schnakenberg, Mary Beth Self; (12/10) Kerrie Armbruster, Amelia Evans, Tim Heimsoth, Josiah Krause, Gunnar Vassar; (12/11) Joe Blackburn, Grayson Hess; (12/12) Jacob Beerman, Rick Foster, Larry Laubenstein, Clayton Wiskur; (12/13) Patty Harrington, Charlie Inman, Wyatt Inman, Lynette Northen

FAMILY FOOTNOTES

Gina Martens, Family Life Director

I recently had a conversation with a pleasant little gal as I was traveling the steps up to my classroom. I had commented on how I liked her boots. She proceeded to tell me how her boots were old and had some scuffs and tears, but that they were comfortable and they were her favorite pair. I asked her if I could take a picture of them because I knew a Family Footnotes would somehow come out of this exchange. As I looked at the picture of her boots, the bible verse from Ephesians 6:15 came to mind, which says, "...and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace". This is part of the apostle Paul's description of the Armor of God. It talks about preparing for battle and what we need to prepare ourselves to withstand the attacks that are sure to come our way in this sinful world. Not only do our shoes (boots in this case) provide a firm foundation upon which to stand, but they also provide us with the mobility to go and share this good news, the Gospel, with everyone around us! And these shoes (boots) also allow us to walk the walk of faith as we journey through our life here on this earth. As we prepare our hearts during this Advent season for the coming of our King, may we be reminded to stand firm in the faith, may we proclaim that Gospel message to all who will listen, and may we be ready to walk down the path where God leads us. The King is coming!

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Isaiah 35:1–10; James 5:7–11; Matthew 11:2–15

Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 352, 349, 337, 342, 398, 849



"Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity."

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

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