

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Advent Services at 7:00 pm.: (no dinner)
December 16.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: 10:00 am & 5:00 pm.
Limited seating. Be watching for the Sign-up Genius.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4475 Atlanta Highway
Montgomery, Alabama 36109
www.stpaulmontgomery.org

PREPARE YE

A SERIES OF SPECIAL
SERVICES FOR *Advent*



WEEK 1: *Ponder*



WEEK 2: *Pray*



WEEK 3: *Praise*



WEEK 4: *Proclaim*

SAINT PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



10:30 AM Service
December 13, 2020

Meditation
Prelude
Welcome

Psalm 69:13

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising LSB # 375 vv. 1-4, 6



1 Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the
2 Christ, from heav'n to us descending And in
3 Jacob's star in all its splendor Beams with
4 From the bondage that oppressed us, From sin's



Lord with gladness praising; Loudly sing His love a -
love our race befriending; In our need His help ex -
comfort sweet and tender, Forcing Satan to sur -
fretters that possessed us, From the grief that sore dis -



mazing, Wor thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.
tending, Saved us from the wily foe.
render, Breaking all the powers of hell.
tressed us, We, the captives, now are free.

6 Gracious Child, we pray, O hear us,
From Your lowly manger cheer us,
Gently lead us and be near us
Till we join Your choir above.

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB # 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Be - hold, the
2 A righteous Help - er comes to thee; His char - iot
3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the
4 Flung wide the portals of your heart; Make it a
5 Re - deem - er, come and o - pen wide My heart to



King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is draw - ing
is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is ho - li -
rul - er is con - fessed! O peace - ful hearts and hap - py
tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for heav'n's em -
Thee; here, Lord, a - bide! O en - ter with Thy grace di -



near; The Sav - ior of the world is here. Life and sal -
ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis - tress. The end of
homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes! The cloud - less
ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your
vine; Thy face of mer - cy on me shine. Thy Ho - ly



va - tion He doth bring; There - fore re - joice and glad - ly sing.
all our woe He brings; There - fore the earth is glad and sings.
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His peo - ple free.
Sov - 'reign en - ter in And new and no - bler life be - gin.
Spir - it guide us on Un - til our glo - rious goal is won.



To God the Fa - ther raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
To Christ the Sav - ior raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
To God the Spir - it raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
To God a - lone be praise For word and deed and grace!
E - ter - nal praise and fame We of - fer to Thy name.

Tune and text: Public domain

Postlude

Invocation, Confession and Absolution

- P. In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Amen.**
- P. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- C. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Confession

- 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.**

Absolution

- 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.**

Service of the Word

Introit

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
**for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but
let them not turn back to folly.**

Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Yes, the Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him
and make his footsteps a way.

**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.**

Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

Kyrie

LSB 152

P. In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray
to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the
Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the
Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. For this holy house and for all who offer here their
worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

P. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C. Amen.

Distribution

(Post-Communion Blessing)

Post-Communion Collect

Pg. 166

Thank the Lord

**C. Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what
He has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and
proudly bear His name. He recalls His promises and
leads His people forth in joy with shouts of
thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Post-Communion Collect

Pg. 166

A. Let us pray.

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 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.

C. Amen.

Benediction

Pg. 166

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.

P. O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

Pg. 162

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.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Passing of the Peace (No personal contact please)

Agnus Dei

Pg. 163

C Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 15:1-3

1 Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord, saying, "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. 2 The Lord is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. 3 The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name.

P. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:4-8

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

P. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia & Verse

C. **Alleluia Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 Φ 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 Φ blood, which I shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

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.**

Sermon

Pastor Carey P. Elam

“Long Dark Hallways”
Luke 1:39-45

Prayer of the Church

Offering (Plates are at the entrance of the sanctuary doors)

Preface LSB 160

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 that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus LSB 161

**C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39-45

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, starting at the first chapter.

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

P. This is the Word of the Lord.

C. Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

Children's Message

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.

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