

Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 18, 2022

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022*



Prelude Music

Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness

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

C Amen

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of you Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Most merciful God,

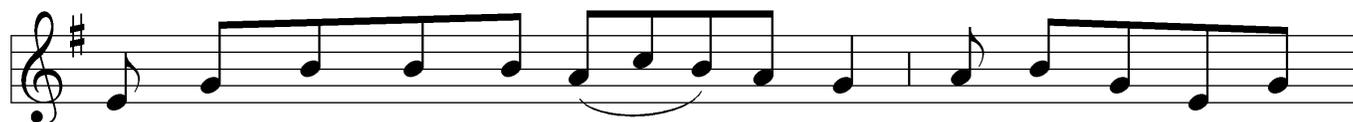
C We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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 name. Amen

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. That's the good news! So I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen!

Opening Hymn: LBW 34

Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel



1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
4 Oh, come, blest Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
Music: VENI, EMMANUEL. French processional, 15th cent.

Apostolic Greeting

P The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant



Scene 1:

- Angel Gabriel appears to Mary & Joseph
- Caesar Augustus sends out a decree
- Joseph & Mary set out to Bethlehem

Song: Oh, little town of Bethlehem - verse 1 sung by congregation

- Congregation sings:

Lyrics

Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Scene 2:

- The Savior is born
- Angels visit the Shepherds to tell them the news
- Shepherds go to worship the baby Jesus

Song: While Shepherds watched their flocks by night sung by Congregation -
Verses 1-4

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The
angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around.

‘Fear not,’ he said, for mighty dread Had seized their troubled minds. ‘Glad
tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.

‘To you in David’s town, this day Is born of David’s line The Savior who is
Christ the Lord, And this shall be the sign.

‘The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed, All meanly
wrapped in swaddling bands, And in a manger laid.’

Scene 3:

- Narration of the Wise Men who followed the star
- 3 Kings walk in during the song



Song: We 3 Kings - verse 1 sung by children

Lyrics

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star

Congregation joins in chorus:

O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy Perfect Light

- Kings lay the gifts before the babe
- Concluding words

Song: Away in the manger - sung by children

Away in a manger
No crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky
Looked down where He lay. The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay

Apostle's Creed

A Let's join to proclaim our faith in the Apostles' Creed:

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the Church

A As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope. (Please kneel or sit as you are able.)

God our shepherd, let your Spirit move with power throughout the church. Give discernment and wisdom to our bishops, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Take away our fear, so that we serve and love, confident that you are guiding us. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God our source, awaken us to the beauty of the earth and the marvelous variety of life. Unite humankind in repairing and caring for your creation. Protect creatures and habitats in peril due to rising seas and warming temperatures. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God our vision, raise up leaders in every nation who dream of freedom and justice for all people. We pray for the work of international organizations that promote peace and human rights, especially Amnesty International. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God our rescuer, deliver all who are unjustly imprisoned or persecuted. Reconcile nations and peoples in conflict. Rescue all who are overwhelmed with stories of war between nations, mass shootings, racial and gender hatred. Turn the tides Lord. Bless all those who are in the middle of these tragic

events and use us to dismantle this hatred and evil and replace these stories with examples of justice, grace, and unity. Help us pray for our enemies. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God our helper, come to the aid of all who cry out to you. Shelter migrants, refugees, and those fleeing war and famine. Bring relief to individuals and families experiencing hunger, homelessness, or impoverishment. Comfort any who are isolated or lonely. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God our Emmanuel, you are with us in our life together. We give you thanks for gathering us in worship and fellowship, and we remember those who cannot be present. Watch over those who travel. Heal the sick and speed their recovery, especially the people on our Prayer List and those we name before you either silently or aloud. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God our hope, you bring life out of death, and you promise to be our God forever. Shine upon the faithful who now rest in the fulfillment of your promise and bring us also into your blessed reign of peace. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

Offering Music and Prayer

Ways to Give to St. Paul's

With our return to in-person worship, we thought we would let you know about a couple of options you can use to continue tithing to St. Paul's:

- **In-Person Worship:** Continue to put your envelopes and cash in the plate
- **Giving by Mail:** If you are not able to attend worship in person, please mail your donations payable to St. Paul's - 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, NY 14226
- **Online:** On the St. Paul's website is a link to Online Giving which will allow you to donate either via PayPal or credit card. Click the Online Giving button and you will be taken to the site to set up an account, where to direct your donation, and the amount you want to donate. The website is: <https://stpaulseggertsville.com/online-giving/>

P Let us pray.

C God of grace, we give you thanks for all the blessings you have poured into our lives. Thank you for the opportunities to share those blessings through and beyond St. Paul's. Use the gifts we offer here today and in our planned giving to bless the world with your hope, your presence, and your love. Amen

Dialogue and 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 God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and proper that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and speak their unending hymn:

Sanctus (spoken)

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- 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



Holy Communion at St. Paul's: celebrated every time we gather, and is open to all.

Please approach by the center aisle, receive the bread and the wine, and return to your seat via the side aisle. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Simply request it from the assisting minister holding the wine. Children are welcome! Those who receive elsewhere may receive here. Children who do not yet receive may come for a blessing. If you have difficulty walking, communion will be brought to you at your seat.

Communion Blessing

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

Prayer After Communion

- P Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

Benediction

P And now as you go on your way, may the Lord go with you. May he go before you to show you the way, behind you to encourage you, beside you to be your friend, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace. Go today celebrating in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, and all God's children said...

C Amen

Closing Hymn: LBW 33

The King Shall Come



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.



when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

Text: John Brownlie, 1859–1925

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

Sharing the Peace and Sending

P Let us go in peace to serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 18-25, 2022

- TODAY:** 10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: In-Person Worship, Sunday School Christmas Pageant, and Communion
11:00 am: New Missionary Meeting
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
- Monday:** 10:00 am: Transition Meeting
4:30-5:30 pm: Daily Bread Meal Share
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study
5:30 pm: Burrito Project
- Wednesday:** 8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** 6:00 pm: Alanon
- Saturday:** **Christmas Eve**
9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church Worship
11:00 am: In-Person Worship and Communion
5:00 pm: Amherst Lutheran Church Service
7:00 pm: In-Person Worship and Communion
- Sunday:** **Christmas Day**
No Church Unleashed Broadcast Today
10:00 am: In-Person Worship "Lessons and Carols" and Communion
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

The Altar Flowers: given for the glory of God.

Prayer List: In our congregational family: (* indicates new names or changes added this week)

Lee Abel: 71 Windsor Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209

Neal DeLeo: Bristol village, 8455 Clarence Center Road, #105, Clarence Center, NY 14032

Richard Elliott: 34 Pino Alto Court, Williamsville, NY 14221

Marilyn Emerson: 364 Burroughs Drive, Amherst, NY 14226

Chad Israel and Hayley Israel

David Lampe: 73 Crescent Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214

Dorothy Menth: 2330 Maple Road, Apt. 383, Williamsville, NY 14221

Alison Silsby: 4360 Peet Street, Middleport, NY 14105

Barbara Walter: 37 Laurel Lane, Williamsville, NY 14221

David Wolf: P.O. Box 198, Clarence Center, NY 14032

***Prayer List: In our and extended family: Robert Lannon (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic);
Thomas Maier; Ira Striejewske***

We share our prayers and sympathy with the family of Bertha Efstation, and the family of Mary Lou Herschlag.

Congratulations to John and Elyse Maley on the birth of their son Colin John Maley.

Deacon Schedule: 12/18: Sara Gallagher; 12/24: Barbara Walter; 12/25: John Schunak

Usher Schedule: 12/18: Gerri Horton & Helen Gibson; 12/24:

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship: 10:00 am. Please be respectful of people around you regarding distancing and their comfort levels. The Sunday 10:00 am worship service is also being livestreamed on St. Paul's YouTube page.

WNY Church Unleashed: If you cannot join us for in-person worship, please continue to worship with us as WNY Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook.

Amherst Lutheran Church: If you cannot make St. Paul's Sunday worship service at 10:00 am, please join Amherst Lutheran's worship service on Saturday at 5:00 pm.

Tigers Den Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226 or by referral. The remaining pantry hours for December are: Thursday 12/29 from 3:00-6:30 pm. The pantry **will not be open** on Saturday 12/24. Donations for December: sugar, cooking oil, and mayonnaise.

Daily Bread Food Truck: The Daily Bread Food Truck has started its third season of Monday Meal Share. They will be serving meals between 4:30-5:30 pm in front of St. Paul's to those individuals experiencing food insecurity. We thank all of our volunteers who will make this a most successful mission. For more information, please contact the office at 716-835-0407 or email dailybread4007@gmail.com.

Lutheran World Relief for Ukraine: If you would like to donate, you can go to donate.lwr.org for additional information and the donation form, or mail your donation to P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. You can also call 1-800-597-5972 to make a secure credit card donation.

Resettlement Mission: If you would like to help support the Resettlement Mission, donations of Visa gift cards would help provide for gaps in some of the material needs. Gift cards can be dropped off at the Church Office, or put in the offering plates on Sunday.

Daily Bread Food Truck: Volunteers in the Spotlight!!

On Monday night we served 140 meals and 90 servings of soup & bread. This is made possible because of a dedicated and enthusiastic team of volunteers. Some volunteers are visible in their contribution and others are not so visible but just as important to our success.

Our Shoppers - Each Thursday, Sara Hannon and Betty Pilato receive their shopping list from our chef and plan their shopping schedule at Restaurant Depot, Tops, etc. to ensure the supplies are delivered to the kitchen by noon on Saturday.

Our Food Gatherers - Each Sunday morning between 8:30 -9:00 am, Shari & Bob Rembold arrive at Wegman's on Maple Road to receive their contribution of bread, rolls and pastries. Often this includes food contributions from BJ's. Shari coordinates this food gathering with The Food Shuttle of WNY.

Our Cleaners - Each Monday evening at 5:00 pm, Seth Golf arrives to assist in the cleanup including proper storage of food, dishwashing, etc. Recently a new missionary at St. Paul's, Robert Miller, stopped by to help. Not a glamorous job but so very important to the safety of our mission.

Please join me in thanking the "behind the scenes" volunteers. For more information, please contact the office at 716-835-0407 or email dailybread4007@gmail.com



Save the Date:

The Adult Winter Retreat at LCLC will take place Friday, January 13 through Sunday, January 15, 2023. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the notice in the Foyer.



+ St. Paul's Mission +

To empower others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

*We do that by: Seeking Connections, Enriching Faith, Nourishing Lives,
and Demonstrating Love in God's Name.*

St. Paul's Congregation Council

President: Kathryn Francis

Vice-President: David Schunak

Treasurer: William Niblock

Secretary: Gerri Horton

*Bob Brown Susan Epstein Sara Hannon
Vanessa Solomon Robert Simpson Scott Vahue*

Pastor Rev. Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell)

E-mail: steve@stpaulseggertsville.org

Director of Music: Paul H. Storfér

Christian Ed Coordinator: June Piette

Youth Ministry: Adam Weber

Church Office Staff: Heidi Ginal and Adrienne Leary

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