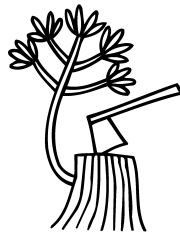


Second Sunday of Advent



December 4, 2022

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 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!

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'rings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw-ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Children's Time

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious

A This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (read responsively)

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

A Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

C that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;

- A that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- C **Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
- A May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- C **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**
- A In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- C **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**
- A And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen.
- A This is the Word of the Lord
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Alleluia



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
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- P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the Third Chapter.
- C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ ” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon: Pastor Steve Biegner

Hymn of the Day: LBW 26 (on the following page)

Prepare the Royal Highway



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:

Refrain



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A You 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. God, in your mercy,

- C **hear our prayer.**
- A You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- A You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones. We especially pray for the people on our Prayer List, and those we name before you now either silently or aloud. God, in your mercy,
- C **hear our prayer.**
- A You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. 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.

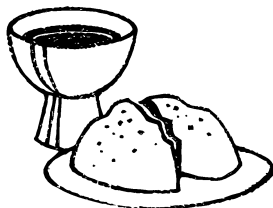
Words of Institution

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: WOV 629 (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

P Let us go in peace to serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

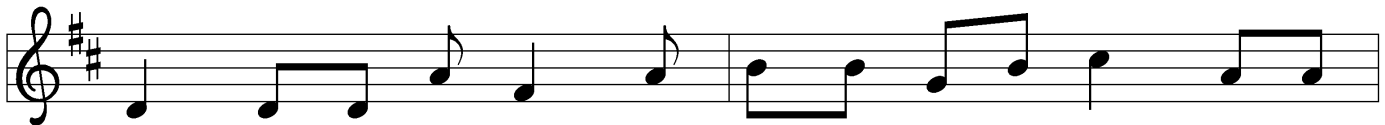


All Earth Is Hopeful

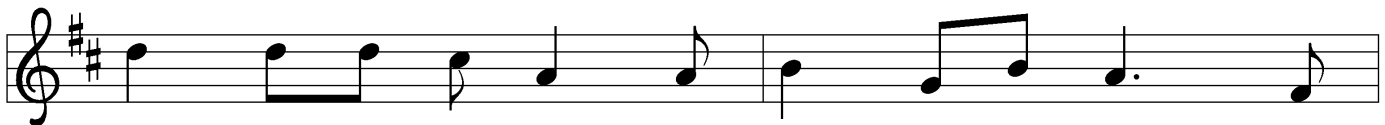
Toda la tierra



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
 1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
 2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
 4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
 Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
 "A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
 new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
 This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
 la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
 ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
 here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
 world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
 God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
 stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
 clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
 Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 4-11, 2022

- TODAY:** 10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: In-Person Worship and Communion
10:00 am: Sunday School
10:45 am: Following Sunday Service: Annual Congregational Meeting
11:00 am-1:00 pm: Holiday Needs Drive in St. Paul's parking lot
10:30 am-12:45 pm: Confirmation Class at St. Paul's
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
- Monday:** 12:00 pm: Staff Meeting
4:30-5:30 pm: Daily Bread Meal Share
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study
7:00 pm: God on Tap—"What Are You Pointing To?"
- Wednesday:** 1:00 pm: Pinochle Group
8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** 6:00 pm: Alanon
- Saturday:** 8:30-9:30 am: Men's Breakfast
9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church Worship
9:00 am-12:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry open
5:00 pm: Amherst Lutheran Church Service followed by New Missionary Meeting
6:00-9:00 pm: Youth Group Christmas Party
- Sunday:** 10:00 am: WNY Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: In-Person Worship and Communion
10:00 am: Sunday School
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope

The Altar Flowers: given for the glory of God, and in honor of Sharon Ries' birthday from
Helen Gibson

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

Tim Stanley: The Stanley Family thanks everyone for their prayers: Tim is now cancer-free

Barbara Walter: 37 Laurel Lane, Williamsville, NY 14221

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

We share our prayers and condolences with the family of James Keptner.

Prayer List: *In our and extended family: Pastor Alan Anderson; Thomas Maier; Ira Striejewske*

Deacon Schedule: 12/4: John Schunak; 12/11: Barbara Walter

Usher Schedule: 12/4: Robin Miano & Sharon Adimey; 12/11: Ellen Herdman & Jim Tanevich

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 pantry hours for December are: Thursday 12/15 and 12/29 from 3:00-6:30 pm, and Saturday 12/10 and 12/17 from 9:00 am-12:30 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 (please note change in serving time) 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.

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.



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. Additional details will be provided next week.



WBBZ - Your Hometown MeTV Station, FeedMore WNY & WNY Church Unleashed bring you:

**Holiday Needs Drive: Dec 4
11am-1pm**

Bring your non-perishable food items, grocery gifts cards or cash donations to St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 4007 Main St, Amherst, 14226 for a contact-free drop off in the parking lot. Meet some of our church and TV personalities while you're here. All proceeds and food goes to Tiger's Den/Parkside Food Pantries, Daily Bread Meal Shares and FeedMore of WNY. The first \$5000 in cash donations will be matched by someone who worships with WNY Church Unleashed!

 Delta Sonic is donating Super Kiss car washes to the first 100 people who make a \$50 donation!

Please no expired food

Mark Your Calendar:

New Missionary Meetings

Are you interested in joining St. Paul's?

There will be an introductory New Missionary Meeting on Saturday, December 10 at Amherst Lutheran following the 5:00 pm worship service.

There will also be an introductory New Missionary Meeting at St. Paul's on Sunday, December 18 following the 10:00 am worship service.

Come to either introductory meeting and meet with Pastor Steve and members of the Church Council, and bring any questions you may have about what it means to be a "missionary" at St. Paul's.

If you are planning on attending either meeting, please call the Church Office (716-835-0407) and let us know you will be coming.

New Missionary Receptions will take place in January 2023.



Christmas Eve Schedule

11:00 am: Worship Service and Communion at St. Paul's

5:00 pm: Worship Service and Communion at Amherst Lutheran

7:00 pm: Worship Service and Communion at St. Paul's



Christmas Day Service

10:00 am: Lessons and Carols at St. Paul's



+ 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. Storfer

Christian Ed Coordinator: June Piette

Youth Ministry: Adam Weber

Church Office Staff: Heidi Ginal and Adrienne Leary

E-mail: office@stpaulseggertsville.org

Telephone: (716) 835-0407

Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.org