



December 22, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Walk With Us As Disciples of Christ!

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Child Development Center and Pre-School

LCMC

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor
(812) 259-2530 Email: pastor@stpaultaylor.com

Glynda Vanecek, Organist
Jason Richter, Office Manager
401 West Seventh Street
Taylor, Texas 76574

Email: office@stpaultaylor.com

Office Phone: (512) 352-2327 FAX: (512) 365-1509

Office Hours: 8am-1pm Mon -Thur; Closed on Friday

Website: www.stpaultaylor.com



Online Giving Portal:



Follow us at [Facebook.com/stpaultaylor](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultaylor)

SUNDAY RADIO BROADCAST

KRXT 98.5 FM at 12:00pm

St. Paul Church does take pictures and videos which will be posted on their
Social Media and Web Page.

TWCWiFi - no password needed

St. Paul Lutheran Church

WALK WITH US AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST!

Welcome!

We welcome all who worship this Lord's Day! We are glad you are worshiping with us this morning. As we can be helpful to you, we look forward to doing so. If you would like the pastor to contact you, please mark that on the Record of Fellowship or call the church office.

We ask that the Record of Fellowship be filled out (members and visitors) so that we will have a record of your attendance. Thank you!

We Remember in Prayer

(Please call the church office to remove anyone from the prayer lists.)

Please remember the Domenech Family at the recent death of Rev. Dr. Michael Domenech.

Our Members:

Inez Sladek, Elaine Oser, Brunner Grau, John Harper, Kent Safarik.

Our Shut Ins:

Terri Abert, Dorothy Grimm, Grace Bulgerin, Mary Miller, Lorene Prinz, Geraldine Steger, Lomis Weber, Carol Lantzsch, Lisa Cox, Geraldine Cox, Carolyn Jacobson, Ella Kuhl.

Our family, friends, and loved ones:

Mackenzie Brewer, Loretta Simank, Authur Moreno, Jack Dismukes, Calvin and Rosalie Jechow, Edward Morgan, Sandra Milner, Dora Brittian, Ryan Richey, Randell Duelm, Alma Russell, Tori Harris and baby, Andrea Carrizales, Mary Perez, Iris Rangel and family, Melissa Balderas, Kelly Clines Thompson, Rob Randig, Gayla Lantzsch, Tommy Harrison, Rhonda Aikey, Walter Moldenhauer, Sandra Milburn.

**WELCOME
ANNOUNCEMENTS
INTRODUCTION**

Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATHE PRAYER - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Praise to you, O God, who lives with us, sharing our flesh and bones. As Mary waited and Joseph dreamed, so we dream and wait for you. Bless us and let your face shine upon us, more radiant than these candles, and more dear than all else we seek. Restore us when we fail to refuse the evil and choose the good, and banish all our fears. We pray in the name of Emmanuel, your promised child and our Savior.

Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

we confess that we have sinned.

We have turned away from our neighbors.

We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us.

Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through + Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

"Hark, the Glad Sound"

P 239

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

And also with you.

Kyrie



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:



Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **Christ, have mer - cy.**
Christ, have mer - cy:

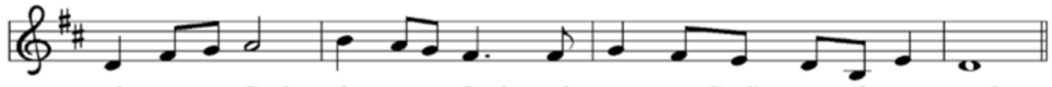


Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **Lord, have mer - cy.**
Lord, have mer - cy:

Glory to God



Refrain
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
 Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
 right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

Refrain
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly
 Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Final refrain
 Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on
 earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

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.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: Micah 5:2-5a

The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ^{5a}and he shall be the one of peace.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALMODY: Luke 1:46b-55

You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Luke 1:52)

^{46b}My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
⁴⁷my spirit rejoices in ¹ God my Savior,

⁴⁸**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly servant.**

From this day all generations will call me blessed:

⁴⁹you, the Almighty, have done great things for me
and holy is your name.

⁵⁰**You have mercy on those who fear you,
from generation to generation.**

⁵¹You have shown strength with your arm
and scattered the proud in their conceit,

⁵²**casting down the mighty from their thrones
and lifting up the lowly.**

⁵³You have filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,
to remember the promise of mercy,**

⁵⁵the promise made to our forebears,
to Abraham and his children forever.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5-10

The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -
 lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to **Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]**
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

[⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.
⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.
⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."]

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Congregation

Children's message

Sermon

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

P. 257

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

On the third day he rose again

**in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God our uniter, increase communication and cooperation in our relationships with those of other traditions and religions. Root your church in the radical message of your incarnation, and enable us to pursue your justice in the world. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our creator, we praise you for the beauty that surrounds us. Awaken in us a renewed sense of care for the wildlife in our communities. Form us into faithful stewards of what you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our sovereign, Mary proclaims a new way of life that lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things. Nurture in local governments and municipalities a desire to care for all who are overlooked and ignored. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our beacon, as the northern hemisphere begins its slow turn toward more daylight, remind us that even in the deepest nights, you are there. Comfort the lonely and bereaved. Hold closely the frightened, anxious, depressed, and ill (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our guide, shepherd the leadership of this congregation. Bless the council and staff in discerning future ministry and open their hearts to the voices of the community. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries: for Cheryl Kruckemeyer our missionary in Tanzania, for Shedd & Kris in Ecuador, serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregations at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Taylor, Texas & Evangelical Lutheran Church Of Mankato in Mankato, Kansas. Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders, our students, teachers and school administrators. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Heavenly Father, thank you for knitting your church together as one body in Christ. We thank you for being a part of our family of churches, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ. We ask that you bless and protect the work of our association staff ministers: Mike Bradley, Christian Huntley, and Julie Smith. We also celebrate and lift before you the ministry of New Hope in McDade, Texas and their pastor, Ryan Grube. Bless their work for your Kingdom's sake. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

God our life, you remember the promises you have made to your people. In gratitude for those who have died, we praise you for your faithfulness throughout history. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you. Amen

Canticle of Thanksgiving

Refrain



Sal - va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for -



ev - er and ev - er. 1 Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O



God of the u - ni - verse; just and true are your ways, O



Rul - er of all the na-tions. Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and

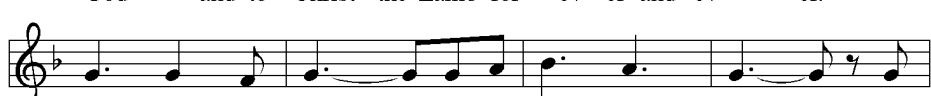
Refrain



sing the glo - ry of your name? Sal - va-tion be-longs to our



God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.




2 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, and



bless-ed is the one whose name is the Word of God. All

Refrain



praise and thanks to you, ho - ly God! Sal - va-tion be-longs to our



God and to Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love,
we give thanks to you
that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.
Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others,
and at the end bring all the world to your feast;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

THE 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.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

"Joy to the World"

P. 267

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

Reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2023 Augsburg Fortress; Procession with Palms from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright 2006. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved.
Used by permission.
Songs Used by Permission. CCLI License #11135365

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE WEEK

TODAY	Dec 22
9:00 - Handbell Choir Practice - Sanctuary	
10:00 - Worship Service - Sanctuary	
11:00 - Sunday School and Adult Education	
12:00 - Radio Broadcast – KRXT 98.5 FM	
MONDAY	Dec 23
<i>No Scheduled Activities</i>	
TUESDAY	Dec 24
5:45 - Christmas Eve Hymn Sing - Sanctuary	
6:00 - Christmas Eve Program and Communion - Sanctuary	
WEDNESDAY	Dec 25
<i>Church Office Closed Pastor's Bible Study Cancelled</i>	
THURSDAY	Dec 26
<i>Church Office Closed</i>	
FRIDAY	Dec 27
<i>No Scheduled Activities/Church Office Closed</i>	
SATURDAY	Dec 28
<i>No Scheduled Activities</i>	
NEXT SUNDAY	Dec 29
10:00 - Worship (Service of Lessons and Carols) - Sanctuary	
11:00 - Sunday School and Adult Education	
12:00 - Radio Broadcast – KRXT 98.5 FM	



From St. Paul CDC

With the Christmas season upon us, we are asking you to pray and search your heart to help 4 of our CDC Families that need our help for Christmas in order for it to be MERRY AND BRIGHT. We have 4 families that have a total of 11 children. Monetary donations are preferred so an equal number of items can be purchased for all of these children by Rita Kelm, our personal Santa Claus.

There is a BLUE lock box in the Narthex for these donations. We will be accepting donations until Sunday, Dec. 22nd.

Serving Today

Council Ushers: Terry Richter, Don Artieschoufsky
Reader: Sharon Naivar
Acolytes: Open
Altar Flowers: Open

Serving December 29

Council Ushers: Rhonda Ochoa, Loren Dittmeyer
Reader: Randall Pick
Acolytes: Amelia Cotterill
Altar Flowers: Open