

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSITION COMMITTEE SURVEY

Additional copies of the survey are located in the narthex. The drop box for completed surveys will be available next week.

PARSONAGE

With the parsonage being empty, we have the opportunity to offer the use of the parsonage for an overnight stay to a supply pastor. The council has approved this. We are in need of the following:

1. Dishes—dinner plate, bowls (set of 2 or 4)
2. Silverware
3. Glasses
4. Coffee cups
5. Frying pan

Please let Nalani know if you are able to lend these items for our use. We won't be having anyone stay until January 7th. Thank you.

POINSETTIAS

If you wish to make a donation in honor of memory of a loved one, to assist in the cost of the poinsettia plants, please complete the form on the table in the narthex, place it in the envelope provided and either give the envelope to Nalani, or place it in the offering plate. Thank you.

PASTORAL SUPPLY

Rev. Dione Stepanek, Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop, will lead us in worship next Sunday, December 18.

Rev. Mark Jolivet has graciously agreed to lead worship on Christmas Eve. **The service time is 4:00 pm.**



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Third Sunday in Advent
December 11, 2022
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

**(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)*

Announcements

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

P: On this third Sunday of Advent,
as we think about the coming of Jesus Christ,

C: **we light the candle of joy.**

P: When Christ comes into our lives,
He brings the fullness of joy.

C: **He anoints our hearts with the oil of gladness.**

P: When Jesus was born,
The angels said that His coming was

C: **Good news of great joy for all people.**

P Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People; Pastor: Chris Hallemeier; Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Leonard Arndt

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Gloria Meltesen, Florence Dougherty, Darlene Babbitt, John Acker, Lois Reineke, Judy Bever, Craig King, Wynn Liersch, Mary Leis, Tracie Herman, Don Schreier, Debra Welch, Sterling Schwartz, Patrick Reardon

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen, Danelle Dougherty, Robert Cale, Matthew Dutton.

CALENDAR

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Dec. 18 | Christmas Program Practice | 8:00 am |
| | Sunday School | 9:00 am |
| | Worship | 10:15 am |
| Dec. 21 | Confirmation | 6:30pm-8:00 pm |
| Dec. 23 | Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal | 5:00 pm |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Worship | 4:00 pm |

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

"Lamb of God"

ELW p.154

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Benediction

Hymn

"Joy to the World!"

ELW #267

P: Because Christ has come to us,
We can live every day in the joy of the Lord.

C: Praise to His name!

ADVENT HYMN: (sung to Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)

Candles glowing, promise showing, joy that fills our very soul.
Grace abounding, hymns resounding, Christ restores and make us whole.
Mercies gleaming, wonders beaming, justice steaming, Christ redeeming--
Christ restores and makes us whole! Christ restores and makes us whole!

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's name forever.

Amen.

Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep.
Let us confront our sins,
and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

God of new beginnings,

we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign.

We have strayed from your paths.

We prepare for war instead of peace.

We dishonor one another and your creation.

Purify us with your refining fire

and set us again on your way of love,

that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance,

and welcome your coming among us.

Amen.

People of God,

a new thing is growing in our midst,

a tender branch,

a living sign.

By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder.

You have put on + Christ,

and your sins have been washed away.

Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

Amen.

Hymn **“People, Look East”**

ELW#248

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**

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.

***Canticle of Praise** **“This Is the Feast”**

ELW p.149

***Prayer of the Day**

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (God in your mercy, hear our prayer)

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Offering plates are located in the Narthex as you enter and exit the church.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Eternal God,
**you make the desert bloom
and send springs of water to thirsty ground.
Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money,
and make us messengers of your mercy and love
for all in need of your healing and justice.
We ask this through Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 152

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

ELW p. 153

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Reverend James Arends

Hymn

“Hark the Glad Sound!”

ELW #238

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God’s coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 146:5-10

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
who keeps promises forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to
those who hunger.

The LORD sets the captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those
who are bowed down;
the LORD loves the righteous.**

⁹The LORD cares for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of
the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

Romans 5:7-10

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**

"Alleluia"

ELW p. 151

GOSPEL READING

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

The holy gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11

Glory to you, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."