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St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Wilton, WI

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2019

**Inviting People to  
Journey with Christ's Family  
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

\*The Sunday Assembly, Lorraine S. Brugh, Gordon W. Lathrop, Augsburg Fortress, 2008  
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**Gathering**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God\**

*Prel-*

*ude.....A time for silent reflection*

*Advent Candle Lighting*

*"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" v. 1 ELW #240*

*Welcome and Announcements*

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☐ one God,  
who does great things in every generation,  
who lifts up the lowly,  
who keeps promises forever.

**Amen.**

Let us come to the river of life, confessing our sin.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Righteous and merciful God,

**We confess that we have strayed from your ways  
and walked our own paths.**

**We fall asleep to the needs around us,  
yet our anxieties jar us awake.**

**We are bound up in systems  
of unrighteousness and injustice.**

**Restore your people, O god;  
renew your creation;  
and have mercy on us,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

Listen to what god is saying  
speaking peace to those who turn their hearts:

The night is far gone, the day is near.

All who have a fearful hearts,  
be strong, do not be afraid!

God comes in ☐ Jesus Christ and forgives your sin.

The Spirit of holiness fill you with wisdom and might,

That you may delight in God's ways.

**Amen.**

\*Gathering Hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" **ELW #254**

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.

The W-ELCA "Thankoffering" envelopes are found in today's bulletin. Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us. Please return your "Thankoffering" by December 15. Thank you.

Bishop Arends is retiring at the end of his current term. The process of electing a successor has begun, and is detailed in the information placed on the table in the narthex. The involvement and feedback from members of the Synod congregations is encouraged. Please feel free to take a copy of this information with you as you familiarize yourself with the election process.

You may now contact Pastor Cathleen on a landline, #608-435-0097. This telephone itself is a "Caption Call". This means a written display of what you are saying is displayed for Pastor to read, and continue the conversation. Be patient, it takes a few seconds for your side of the conversation to be displayed. You may also leave a voice mail message.

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever,

To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311)

Office Hours: Wednesday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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## THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris, Organist: Nalani Bever, Greeters: Louise and Bob Buchholz, Reader: Lori Arndt  
Altar: Lori and Joel Arndt, Communion Server: Joel Arndt,  
Ushers: Tim Deichler, Bart Arndt, Justin Arndt, George Dougherty

## CALENDAR FOR December 1—December 8

Wed., Dec. 4	Confirmation	6:30 PM—8:00 PM
Sun., Dec. 8	Christmas Program Practice	8:00 AM
	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

As a part of a recent Sunday school lesson, the children are designating a special offering toward the ELCA Good Gifts. This money, combined with the noisy offering collections, will be used to purchase animals, mosquito nets, along with a variety of other possibilities. We would also like to acknowledge and thank the W-ELCA ladies for donating \$250.00 to

the cause. Their gift is in honor of the Sunday school teachers: Joel and Lori Arndt, Justin Arndt, as well as Greg and Nalani Bever. Thank you for supporting this cause through your noisy offering donations.

You may also get in on the purchase of items from the Good Gifts and place an ornament on the tree. You will find envelopes and a form to complete with regard to which item you wish to purchase. Your check should be made to St. Paul's (we'll send in one order along with our check). Then find your ornament and place it on the tree. Please see Nalani Bever if you have any questions.

**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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## **FIRST READING**

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future

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

day  
when  
God  
estab-  
lishes

a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

**A reading from Isaiah 2:1-5**

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>In days to come  
the mountain of the LORD's house  
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,  
and shall be raised above the hills;  
all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say,  
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,  
to the house of the God of Jacob;  
that he may teach us his ways  
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,  
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations,  
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,  
and their spears into pruning hooks;  
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,  
neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob,  
come, let us walk  
in the light of the LORD!

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

**Psalm 122**

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."

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

"Lamb of God"

ELW p. 154

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**In this meal of goodness and mercy, O God,  
our mouths have been filled with laughter  
and our tongues with shouts of joy.  
Now send us to gather the harvest of righteousness,  
that all those who sow in tears  
may come again to you in joy;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

Benediction

Sending Hymn "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

**ELW #244**

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Katie Wallace, Shirley Meranti, Linda Bauer, Helen Summerfield, Lois

**Sending**

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

Schultz, Linda Finnigan, Stuart Thayer, Becky Smith, Florence Krause,  
Judy Bever, Tammy Roscovious, Darlene and Paul Babbitt, Pam  
Eaton, Jeff Sullivan, Dakota Holiday, Carla Von Haden,

**IN THE MILITARY**

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Robert Cale,  
Seth Tormoen

and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast  
you prepare for all who hunger.  
Amen.

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

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 our Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW p.153

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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: God fills the hungry with good things.  
Come with joy to the feast..

Distribution

<sup>2</sup>**Now our feet are standing  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built as a city  
that is at unity with itself;

<sup>4</sup>**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>For there are the thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the house of David.

<sup>6</sup>**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:  
“May they prosper who love you.**

<sup>7</sup>Peace be within your walls  
and quietness within your towers.

<sup>8</sup>**For the sake of my kindred and companions,  
I pray for your prosperity.**

<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the LORD our God,  
I will seek to do you good.”

### **SECOND READING**

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our  
lives today in light of Christ’s coming in the future.*

#### **A reading from Romans 13:11-14**

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for  
you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we  
became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay  
aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live  
honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in de-  
bauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead,

put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to grat-  
ify its desires.

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

\*Gospel Acclamation

ELW p.151

## GOSPEL READING

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

### The gospel according to Matthew 24:36-44

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. <sup>42</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup>But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup>Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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

Sermon

\*Hymn “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn” **ELW #242**

#### 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.**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great..)

##### \*PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us show signs of Christ’s peace.

**OF-**

**Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ\*

**FERING**

\*Offertory  
Hymn

“We Are An Offering”

**ELW #692**

\*Offertory Prayer

**Giver of every good thing,  
we set before you the gifts that you have already given  
to sustain our lives and to share with others.  
Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it,**