

*The Language of  
Christmas Love*



**The Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**December 22, 2024**

**9:30 a.m.**

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in Heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the Mediator of a New Covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better Word than the blood of Abel.

*Hebrews 12:18–24*

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread . . . For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My Body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This Cup is the New Covenant in My Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

*1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:23–29*

*Who receives this sacrament worthily?* Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

*Luther's Small Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar*

Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass; for the Mass is retained among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved . . . For ceremonies are needed to this end alone: that the unlearned be taught what they need to know of Christ . . . The people are accustomed to partake of the Sacrament together, if any be fit for it, and this also increases the reverence and devotion of public worship. For none are admitted except they be first examined.

*Augsburg Confession XXIV: Of the Mass*

#### A Welcome to Our Visitors

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad that you have joined us this morning to receive from our gracious God and to offer Him your prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. If this is your first visit to St. Paul, or you have never received the Lord's Supper from Pastor, we ask that you speak with him or one of the elders before receiving Holy Communion. Children and adults who are not permitted to the Sacrament of the Altar may come forward and cross their arms against their chest to indicate they would like to receive a blessing at the rail. We offer gluten free wafers, please advise Pastor Ermeling as he comes by during communion.

## As We Gather

Today we continue our series on the Five Christmas Love Languages. So far we have looked at the languages of **“quality time”**, **“words of affirmation**, and **“acts of service.”** Today’s love language to be considered is **“the language of touch”**. Long ago, studies demonstrated the importance of touch. Jesus almost always used this love language when He healed someone. Because we are God’s children, our thoughts, words and actions bear the marks of the One we call our Father. Perhaps, there is no season of the year when we more often have an opportunity to reach out in love to others with touch—a hug, a kiss, an embrace, a warm handshake. That has become a bit of a challenge in recent years as a result of Covid19 and this thing called “social distancing”. People miss that sense of touch that warms their hearts. When we do touch others, we fill their love tanks, especially those whose primary love language is touch. When appropriate, reach out and touch someone today with God’s love as you show that you care about them

*Stand*

### Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

357 sts. 2 (with intro)

- 2 O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord’rest all things mightily;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her way to go. Refrain
- Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

- P** Isaiah wrote, “Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” Jesus warned, “Stay awake, for you do not know on what day Your Lord is coming.” Let us pray. O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting:
- C** **Come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

*Sung during candle lighting*

### Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

357 sts. 1 (with intro)

- 1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.
- Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

# ✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

**P** In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the Name of the Lord,

**C** **who made Heaven and earth.**

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

**P** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** **O Most Merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His Name He gives power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C** Amen.

# ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

## Introit

*Psalm 19:1, 4–6; antiphon: Isaiah 45:8a*

Shower, O heavens, from above,  
and let the clouds rain down righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;  
let the earth cause them both to sprout.

The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

**Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words  
to the end of the world.**

**In them He has set a tent for the sun,**  
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;*

as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Shower, O heavens, from above,  
and let the clouds rain down righteousness;  
let the earth open, that salvation and righteousness may bear fruit;  
let the earth cause them both to sprout.

## Kyrie



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament

*2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” <sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalm 145:18, 21*

The LORD is near to all who call on Him,  
to all who call on Him in truth.

**My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
and let all flesh bless His Holy Name forever and ever.**

## Epistle

*Romans 16:25–27*

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia & Verse

*Psalm 40:17b*

Alleluia. You are my help and my deliverer;  
**do not delay, O my God! Alleluia.**

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 1:26–38*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven *and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man*; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose Kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is *worshiped and glorified*, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in One Holy Christian and Apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

Once He Came in Blessing

333

Sermon



## The Song of Response

1 Oh Christmas love, Oh Christmas love,  
That came to us that Christmas Eve.  
Oh Christmas love, Oh Christmas love,  
That came to us that Christmas Eve.  
Through Jesus Christ He came to earth,  
To show His love and give us worth.  
He rescued us from sin and death,  
to fill our hearts with Christmas love.

## O Christmas Love

*Sung a cappella*

2 Oh Christmas love, Oh Christmas love,  
That came to us that Christmas Eve.  
Oh Christmas love, Oh Christmas love,  
That came to us that Christmas Eve.  
He came to earth to **touch** mankind,  
To give us joy for soul and mind.  
With hearts aglow we share this gift;  
We share the gift of **holy touch**.

*Words by R&R Sonnenberg*

*Tune: O Christmas Tree*

## Offering

*Stand*

### Offertory

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

## Prayer of the Church

*At the end of each petition:*

- P** Let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.

# ✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

## Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

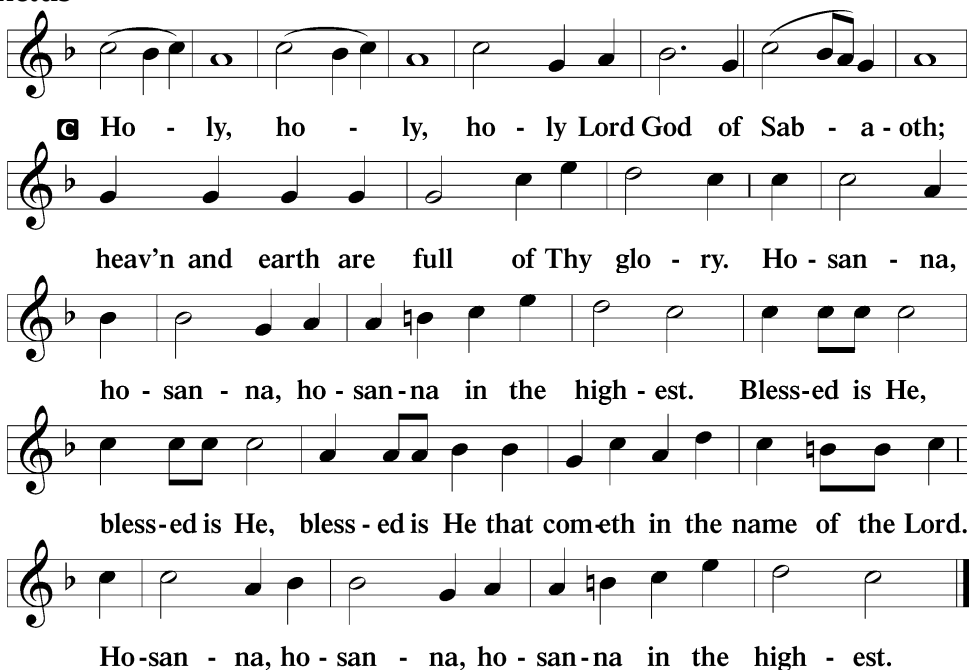


**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of Heaven we laud and magnify Your Glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,  
bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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.

## The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My ✠ Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei



**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit*

## Distribution Hymns

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming	359
O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide	355
Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord	352

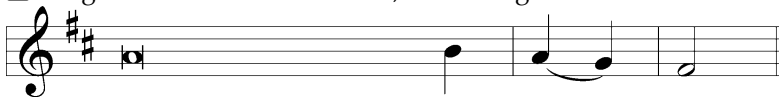
## Nunc Dimittis



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -  
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

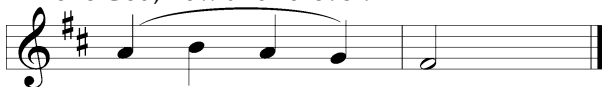
## Thanksgiving

**P** O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good.



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**P** Let us pray. We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Salutation and Benedicamus

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

## Hymn

## God Loves Me Dearly

392

### Acknowledgments

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*"To Shine Forth the Light of God's Love into Our World"*

# BULLETIN NEWS

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, December 22	9:30am	Divine Service	Sanctuary
	11:00am	Adult Bible Class	Irmer Hall
		Sunday School	Library
Tuesday, December 24	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Service <i>Church Office Closed</i>	Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 25	9:30am	Christmas Service <i>Church Office Closed</i>	Sanctuary

## BIRTHDAYS

12/23 – Janice Belleh

12/23 – Oliver Belleh

12/26 – Cymantha Ashby-Makeley

## THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24 @ 7:00 pm

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 25 @ 9:30 am

with Holy Communion

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

We are collecting canned foods for the next several months. Please place your canned foods on the Social Ministry cart in the Narthex. These donations to benefit the West Valley Community Food Pantry housed at St. John's Lutheran Church, 7205 N. 51st Ave, Glendale.

## SACRED MUSIC & TALK FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

You can listen 24/7 to sacred talk and music for the 12 days of Christmas at

[issuesetc.org](http://issuesetc.org), [lutheranpublicradio.org](http://lutheranpublicradio.org), Amazon Alexa, Google Home, TuneIn, Apple HomePod and the Lutheran Public Radio mobile app.

## LET US PRAY FOR...

Please keep this list available for your daily devotions. *For prayer requests Church office (623) 846-2228, or email at [info@stpaulslutheran-az.com](mailto:info@stpaulslutheran-az.com). Prayer requests are removed after three weeks.*

### ON-GOING CONCERNS:

**Charlie Cook** – exp. procedure to heal bladder

**Dorothy Paxton**, recovering from ankle surgery

**Nigel Proctor** – suffering from severe digestive issues

**Wayne Bartels** – ongoing health issues

**Nicholas Jimenez, Linda Rossow, Jim Rucker, Pat Haas**

**Kevin Stamm** – health issues

**Suzi Riley** – suffering from sleep apnea

**Jorge Jimenez** – fighting cancer

**Rose Tressler** – health issues

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

**Rei Irmer** (sister of Louise Ahrens) prayers for continued healing.

**David Wies** (cousin of Vickie Hulteen) diagnosed with leukemia and will be undergoing treatment.

**Bill Garber** (cousin of Jeanne Schubring) diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

**Sharon Wies** (wife of Cliff Wies, cousin of Vickie Hulteen) diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer.

**Nick Koontz** (husband of Mary Howard’s stepdaughter) diagnosed with leukemia.

### MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY ST. PAUL:

Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram and wife, Joan, serving in Japan.

PSWD Missions

### PRAY FOR ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH/THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD:

The Substitute Pastors and their families

Sunday School teachers & children

Maryvale Preparatory Academy families & staff

The Rev. Jeff Proctor and family

LCMS officers, congregations & schools

Lexington Life Academy families & staff

**OUR NATION:** For all elected and appointed public servants, and all who labor to maintain peace and order.

**FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY** (*members, friends, or relatives*): **Jackson Buffington, Lucas Butterfass, Nathanael Dyjak, Juan Garcia, Robert Gilmore, Tiffany Gilmore, Robert Majewski, Mike Nguyen, Ethan Peterman, Andy Smiley, Jacob Wilson**

**OUR SHUT-INS:** Anne Smith