

*The Language of  
Christmas Love*



**The Third Sunday in Advent**

**December 15, 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 Ermeling, 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.

## 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”** and **“words of affirmation.”** During this season of Advent/Christmas we are reminded of the many self-serving people who missed the coming of Christ and its meaning because He was born in a stable and not in a palace. Many were religious people, good people of our day, who were just too busy *“doing their own thing”* to take the time to go to the stable where the Christ Child was born. This morning, through Word and song, He comes to us. Let our prayer be that we not be blind or deaf to His coming because of our inward focus on self. And as He comes to us, may our hearts be open experience His love and find ways we can share that love with others. Not just through our words but, through the love language of **acts of service**. May God bless your worship.

*Stand*

### Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

357 sts. 5 (with intro)

5 O come, Thou Key of David, come,  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. 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 85:1–2, 6, 8; antiphon: Philippians 4:4–5*

Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I will say, Rejoice.  
Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.  
The Lord is at hand.

**LORD, You were favorable to Your land;**

**You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

You forgave the iniquity of Your people;  
You covered all their sin.

**Will You not revive us again,  
that Your people may rejoice in You?**

Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;  
but let them not turn back to folly.

*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.**

Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.  
The Lord is at hand.

## 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. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament

*Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11*

<sup>1</sup>The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
<sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
<sup>3</sup>to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.  
<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations. . . .

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice;  
I hate robbery and wrong;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their offspring shall be known among the nations,  
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge them,  
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;  
my soul shall exult in my God,  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to sprout up before all the nations.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalm 80:1–2*

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.  
Stir up Your might and come to save us!

**Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
You who lead Joseph like a flock!**

## Epistle

*1 Thessalonians 5:16–24*

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

## Alleluia & Verse

John 6:68

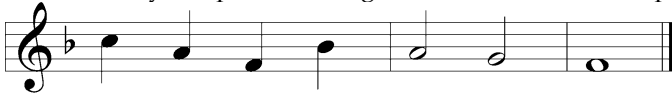
Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## Holy Gospel

John 1:6–8, 19–28

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



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

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

<sup>19</sup>This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup>He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." <sup>21</sup>And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." <sup>22</sup>So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup>He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

<sup>24</sup>(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) <sup>25</sup>They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" <sup>26</sup>John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, <sup>27</sup>even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." <sup>28</sup>These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

**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  $\text{✝}$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day**

Hark the Glad Sound

349

## Sermon

### The Song of Response

O Christmas Love

*Words by R&R Sonnenberg*

*Sung a cappella*

*Tune: O Christmas Tree*

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.

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 **serve**, to live, to die,  
And through His love we'll live on high,  
Equipped to **serve** we share His love  
That came to us at Christmas.

## Offering

Stand

## Offertory



**C** 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



**C** 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

Musical notation for Agnus Dei, consisting of four staves in G major (one flat) with a treble clef. The melody is a simple line of notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4-G4 (beamed eighth notes), and a final G4 (half note).

**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

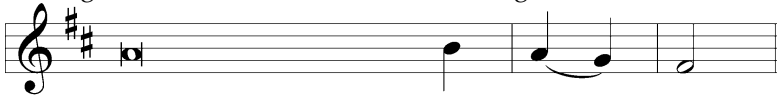
|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| When All the World Was Cursed  | 346 |
| Comfort, Comfort Ye My People  | 347 |
| Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus | 338 |

### 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.

# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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 15    | 9:30am      | Divine Service         | Sanctuary       |
|                        | 11:00am     | Christmas Luncheon     | Irmer Hall      |
| Wednesday, December 18 | 7:00pm      | Midweek Advent Service | Sanctuary       |

### BIRTHDAYS

12/17 – Dennis Stonecypher

12/20 – Pauline Belleh

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON IN IRMER HALL- TODAY, DECEMBER 15

The congregational Christmas party will be held on Today, December 15, 2024 following the Divine Service. There will be a white elephant gift exchange and more. The church will provide ham and drinks. No Adult Bible Class or Sunday School that day.

### DEADLINE TODAY FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The deadline for poinsettia orders is Today, **December 15, 2022**. The plants will be placed in the chancel and sanctuary area around the altar on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. The cost is \$10.00 per plant. Please place payment in the white pew envelope and indicate if the plants are "in honor" or "in memory" of a loved one.

### 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.

### 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

## 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@stpaul Lutheran-az.com](mailto:info@stpaul Lutheran-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

#### Acknowledgments

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