

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5322 PALMS ROAD, CASCO TWP., MI 48064

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE

NOVEMBER 28, 2021 9:30 A.M.

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PRELUDE

Ringing of the Bell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lighting of Advent Wreath: Light the Candle

Light the can-dle, as a sym-bol, of the Light-that-leads . . . the way . . .
For each can-dle, is a symbol, of the hope-that's-ours to - day . . .
As we strike the match . . . and light the wick, come Spir-it shine bright . . .
Grant that all-may-see, from the dark-ness . . . Your Gift . . . Your truth Your Light.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God for whom we wait,

C: in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you.

We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. .

We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

P: God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, † your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace. **C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus Old Red Hymnal #5

1) Come, thou long-ex-pec-ted Je-sus, born to set thy peo-ple free . . .
From our fears and sins re-lease us, let us find our rest in thee . . .
Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art . . .
Dear de-sire of ev-ery na-tion, joy of ev-ery long-ing heart.

2) Born thy peo-ple to de-liv-er, born a child, and yet a king . . .
Born to reign in us for-ev-er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring . . .
By thine own e-ter-nal Spir-it, rule in all our hearts a-lone . . .
By thine all-suf-fi-cient mer-it, raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you **C: and also with you.**

P: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 21st chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

1

Jesus said: ²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of our Lord **C: Praise to you, O Christ**

Children's Message

Song: Away in a Manger ELW#277

- 1) A -way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed . . the lit - tle Lord Je-sus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je-sus a-sleep on the hay.

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SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: My Lord What A Morning ELW#438

**REFRAIN: My Lord . . what a morn-ing . . . my Lord . . what a morn-ing . .
Oh, my Lord . . what a morn-ing . . when the stars be-gin to fall.**

1) You-will-hear . . the trum-pet sound . . . to-wake-the na-tions un-der-ground,
Look-ing-to-my-God's right hand . . . when the stars be-gin to fall. **REFRAIN**

2) You-will-hear . . the sin-ner cry. . . to-wake-the na-tions un-der-ground,
Look-ing-to-my-God's right hand . . . when the stars be-gin to fall. **REFRAIN**

3) You-will-hear . . the Chris-tian shout. . . to-wake-the na-tions un-der-ground,
Look-ing-to-my-God's right hand . . . when the stars be-gin to fall. **REFRAIN**

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THE CREED

P: Let us confess our faith in the Triune God.

C: 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

THE PRAYERS

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

A brief silence.

God of presence and peace, strengthen your church around the globe to proclaim the message of your love coming to the world. Open our hearts to recognize your face in all people and in all of creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of mighty redwoods and microscopic plants, fields and city parks, the wind and the waves, be a healing balm to our wounded planet. May we nurture what you have lovingly created.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of equity and compassion, bring righteousness and goodness to all peoples of the earth. Give a heart of discernment and integrity to leaders in our communities.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of comfort and care, be present with those who watch and wait. Come to all who await births, deaths, divorces, new unions, new jobs, retirements, healing, and life transitions of every kind *especially.....*

*And those we name now out loud, in our hearts,
or add in the comment section at this time*
(pause for names to be added)

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promises kept and new dreams awakened, shelter your people from destructive storms. We pray for those whose lives have been upended by natural disasters, for the work of Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, and other relief organizations.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of companionship and community, we give you thanks for the saints who journeyed with us and now abide in you. Even in distress and uncertainty, make us confident that your promises endure forever. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: I invite you, at this time, to make a gesture of peace to your siblings in Christ.

THE THANK OFFERING *For those who desire to make a financial offering you may drop them off at the offering station before or after service. You may also go to www.stpaulscasco.com and click on the donate icon at any time or mail them to the church during the week.*

THE OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: 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 the Lord our God.

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

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples. He also took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink. With these words he made us this promise. At this time, I invite you to lift the bread and cup. Please repeat after me the promise that our Lord gave us.

P: Take and eat; **C: take and eat.**

P: This is my body, given for you. **C: This is my body given for you.**

P: This cup is the new covenant in my blood. **C: This cup is the new covenant in my blood.**

P: Shed for all people for the forgiveness of sin. **C: Shed for all people for the forgiveness of sin.**

P: Do this for the remembrance of me. **C: Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C: Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER P: Let us pray in the words our Savior taught us:

C: 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 MEAL

P: All those who believe in the promise, "Given and shed for you" are invited to partake in God's amazing grace at this time

COMMUNION SONG: O Come O Come Emmanuel ELW#257

1) O come, O come, Em-man - u-el, and ran-som cap-tive Is - ra-el,
That mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here . . . un-til the Son of God ap-pear.
Re-joice! . . . Re-joice! . . . Em-man - u - el . . . shall come to you, O Is - ra-el.

2) O come, O Wis-dom from . . . on high, em-brac-ing all things far . . . and nigh:
In strength and beau-ty come . . . and stay . . . Teach us your will and guide . . . our way.
Re-joice! . . . Re-joice! . . . Em-man - u - el . . . shall come to you, O Is - ra-el.

Translated by John Mason Neale; Words and Music: Veni Emmanuel. Public Domain

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and give you peace.

C: Amen

DOXOLOGY - Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Public Domain

POST COMMUNION PRAYER - - - BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN: Joy to the World ELW267

1--Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re-ceive her king
Let ev - 'ry heart . . pre - pare him room . . and heav'n and na-ture sing,
And heav'n and na-ture sing . . . and heav'n . . . and heav'n . . and nature sing.

4--He rules the world, with truth and grace; and makes, the na-tions prove
The glo - ries of, his righ - teous-ness, and won-ders of his love,
And won-ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders, of his love.

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DISMISSAL P: Go in peace. Christ is near.

C: Thanks be to God.

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Meditation for the week -- - Read Psalm 25:1-10

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Pastor's Midweek Advent Devotional will start on Wed., Dec. 1, 2021

Facebook at 7:00 p.m. Facebook.com/stpaulscasco Note: it will be left on the sight for viewing at a later time.