

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN "BLUE" CHURCH

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**First Sunday of Advent ✕ November 28, 2021**

PRELUDE – "STILL, STILL, STILL" – JAMES MANSFIELD

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity ✕ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things. **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection*

God for whom we wait,  
**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.**

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. **Amen.**

**HYMN #254 "COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS"**

### ADVENT WREATH BLESSING & LIGHTING 1<sup>ST</sup> CANDLE

P: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*First candle is lit.*

**HYMN #240 "LIGHT ONE CANDLE TO WATCH FOR MESSIAH"**  
*(STANZA 1)*

### GREETING

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.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray...Stir up your power, LORD Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to 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 LESSON:**

**JEREMIAH 33:14-16**

**PSALM 25:1-10** *Spoken responsively*

To you, O LORD,

I lift up my soul.

**<sup>2</sup>My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

**<sup>4</sup>Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.

**<sup>6</sup>Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

**<sup>8</sup>You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice  
and teach the lowly your way.

**<sup>10</sup>All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

**SECOND LESSON:**

**1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21<sup>st</sup> Chapter.  
**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**HOLY GOSPEL:** LUKE 21:25-36

P: The Gospel of the LORD.  
**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN #255 "THERE'S A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS"

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and  
 unseen.  
 We believe in one LORD, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
 eternally begotten of the Father, God from God,  
 Light from Light, true God from true God,  
 begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
 Through him all things were made.  
 For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;  
 by the power of the Holy Spirit he became  
 incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.  
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
 he suffered death and was buried.  
 On the third day he rose again in accordance with  
 the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is  
 seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
 dead, and his kingdom will have no end.  
 We believe in the Holy Spirit, the LORD, the giver of life,  
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
 With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and  
 glorified.  
 He has spoken through the prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS Response: "Your mercy is great."

**EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The pastor offers the prayer. The congregation joins in praying the LORD's Prayer.

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

HOLY COMMUNION

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you  
 and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER

A: Let us pray...Most High God, you have come among us at this  
 table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,  
 sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our  
 host and our guest. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we  
 may bound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ  
 Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

HYMN #244 "REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE — "VOLUNTARY ON 'COME, THOU LONG EXPECTED  
 JESUS'" — GRIMOALDO MACCHIA

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**WELCOME TO ALL IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!** We especially welcome those who are visiting. We invite you to sign our guest register in the narthex.

*“Gods purpose for St. Paul’s Lutheran “Blue” Church is to spread the Good News of Christ’s love for all people in the Southern Lehigh community and beyond.”*  
—Mission Statement adopted, February 2012

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**1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: ABOUT THE SCRIPTURE**

**READINGS.....***Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our LORD Jesus with all the saints.” Our LORD’S contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming and the advent of our LORD in word and supper.*

**JEREMIAH 33:14-16:** *In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The LORD is our righteousness”—proclaims that the Lord is even now working salvation for Israel.*

**1 THESSALONIANS 3:9-13:** *Upon Timothy’s report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

**LUKE 21:25-36:** *God will fulfill God’s purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God’s people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God’s promised redemption.*

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**PRAYER FOR THE DAY:** Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your wisdom.

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** God of love, strengthen our hearts in holiness. Prepare us to meet the LORD Jesus when he comes again with all his saints. Amen.

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**BLUE CHURCH PRAYS FOR...**Marie Berghold, Cyndi Cline, Sandra Denora, Irene Frederick, Ann Greensweig, Ray Hammond, Anita Johnson, Frank Kelly, Stephen

**Other concerns:**

*Note: This is a short-term list, for those who are in “acute care” situations—hospitalized or in recovery, dying, facing the recent death of a loved one, or presently facing a severe life crisis. The names of those for whom we pray will be kept on the list for one month. If you wish to have them placed back on the list please contact the church office.*

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**LEADING OUR WORSHIP**

**CELEBRANT** The Rev. James Hammond  
**ORGANIST** Dr. Jennifer Dodd  
**ASSISTING MINISTER** Ron Fried  
**LECTOR** Karen Kelly  
**GREETERS** Marcy & John Sumoski  
**CHURCH COUNCIL REP** John Sumoski

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**WEEKLY GIFTS, PRESENTED TO THE GLORY OF GOD:**

**ALTAR FLOWERS...**by Shirley Hildebrand in honor of the Birthdays of sons Jesse and Terry Hildebrand.

**BULLETIN...**by Joyce Fulford in honor of Loved Ones.

**SANCTUARY LAMP...**by Dean and Deb Stover in honor of Granddaughter Veronica’s 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**COMMUNION BREAD & WINE...**by Dean and Deb Stover

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**LOOKING AHEAD**

**MON. DEC. 2 6:30 – 7:30 PM Cub Pack #364**

**SUN. DEC. 5– 9:30 AM Choir Rehearsal.**

**SUN. DEC. 5 – 10:30 AM Worship – 2<sup>ND</sup> Sunday of Advent**

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**There are Advent Calendars and Advent Booklets available in the Narthex.** You are welcome to take one.

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**THE LEHIGH MISSION DISTRICT LUTHERAN INGATHERING BOX IS IN THE NARTHEX.** The Ingathering is to brighten the holy season of Christmas for our Christian brothers and sisters who have special needs. **TODAY** is the deadline for the items.

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**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** – The sign-up chart is on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please make checks payable to St. Paul’s Lutheran (Blue) Church. **TODAY IS THE last day to order.**

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**Please remember to use the Amazon Smile Program** for all your upcoming purchases. It’s an opportunity to earn money for Blue Church. The Amazon Foundation will donate 0.05% of the price of your eligible purchases at no cost to you.

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## **LESSONS**

### **Jeremiah 33:14-16 – 1<sup>st</sup> Lesson**

14 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In 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. <sup>16</sup>In 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.'

### **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson**

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

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And 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.

### **Luke 21:25-36 - Gospel**

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. <sup>26</sup>People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup>Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup>Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

29 Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup>as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup>Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup>Heaven 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, <sup>35</sup>like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>Be 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.'

**St. Paul's Lutheran "Blue" Church**  
**Prayers ✕ First Sunday of Advent ✕**  
**November 28, 2021**

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

**"Your mercy is great."**

*A brief silence*

A: 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."**

A: 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."**

A: 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."**

A: 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. Today we pray especially for: Marie, Cyndi, Sandra, Irene, Ann, Ray, Anita, Frank, Stephen, and everyone who has asked for our prayers or known only to the Lord. Hear us, O God.

**"Your mercy is great."**

A: 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."**

A: 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."**

**Pastor: 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.**