



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 28, 2021
First Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
1609 Kurtz Avenue ~ Lutherville, MD 21093

Welcome to our contemporary worship service. If you haven't already done so, take a moment to silence your devices, check in on social media, and breathe a bit before we start.

Directions from the pastor will invite you to stand or "rise in body or spirit" for that section, also indicated by an asterisk. Our digital assembly may choose to rise or remain seated.

Social Distancing: As a reminder, we are expecting everyone gathered in this space to follow the social distancing guidelines with which you are familiar: keep at least 6' distance from others, wearing a facemask is required regardless of vaccination, and use hand sanitizer often. You are invited to sing as you wish. Parents, please keep your children with you within your area for the duration of the service.

Restrooms: The bathrooms are available for one person at a time (parents may accompany children if needed) - please use the signage on the door to indicate the restroom is occupied. Please give one another space in navigating around the hallway.

Communion: We celebrate the sacrament of Communion as part of our worship. When you arrive in the worship space, please stop by the table to pick up a pre-packaged container of Elements for later in the service.

Sending: At the end of the service, please make sure to gather your belongings as you head into the rest of your day. Thank you for putting any borrowed chairs back in the rack by the main doors. There is a basket on a table to place your offering, a bin to receive any food donations for ACTC or our Food For Thought ministry, and a trashcan for the Communion container.

GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Canticle of the Turning*

***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... 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.

***GATHERING SONG: *Create in Me a Clean Heart* Author Unknown, Based on Psalm 51**

Create in me a clean heart, oh God. And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, oh God. And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from Me
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me

Create in me a clean heart, oh God. And renew a right spirit within me
Create in me a clean heart, oh God. And renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord
And take not Thy Holy Spirit from Me
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation
And renew a right spirit within me,
And renew a right spirit within me
And renew a right spirit within me

***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.

***ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING**

Let us pray. 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.

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 you, O Israel.

***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 redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING: 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 God is even now working salvation for Israel.

A reading from Jeremiah.

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, who 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.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 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.

A reading from Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians.

Paul writes: 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 that very God, our Father, 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 the Lord 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL: 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.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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 Jesus 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 dominion 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 the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY: *Open the Eyes of My Heart* by Paul Baloche**

Open the eyes of my heart Lord. Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart Lord. Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love as we sing, holy, holy, holy

Open the eyes of my heart Lord. Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart Lord. Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You, I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love as we sing, holy, holy, holy

To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love as we sing, holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You
Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You
Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy; Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You

***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**

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

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. We pray for leaders throughout the whole Church: for our church-wide bishop, Elizabeth, and our local bishop, William. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. We pray for the service women and men of our country, and for peace-keepers and peace-makers everywhere. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. We pray for the ministry of our LEAD journey: for our community partners and our neighbors in Lutherville. We pray for this community of faith and our continued commitment to purpose and mission. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all times and places, you sent your Son Jesus to be always with us. We pray for what remains in our hearts and minds. Listen as we offer these additional prayers, concerns, and thanksgivings to you — with our voices, in our hearts, and within this space (*we pause for spoken and silent prayers*)... Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

You are invited to share the peace with a wave from your seat to those outside of your household group, and to use a greeting or gesture you would like to share within your group.

MEAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARING THE TABLE

If you will be joining in sharing the Meal of Holy Communion, now is the opportunity to prepare by making sure you have what you need close at hand. If you are a part of the In-Person Assembly and do not have what you need at your seat, please carefully make your way to the entrance to see a worship host. If you are a part of the Digital Assembly, now is the opportunity to prepare your home table with bread and cup.

***GATHERING AROUND THE TABLE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.
Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace.

SHARING THE MEAL

For our In-Person Assembly sharing in the Meal of Holy Communion, be careful as you peel back the foil to expose the bread and wine. You may pray or whisper the words "The body of Christ, given for you." as you consume the bread, and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." as you consume the drink.

For our Digital Assembly sharing in the Meal of Holy Communion, you may use the words "The body of Christ, given for you." as you share the bread with one another, and "The blood of Christ, shed for you." as you share the cup. You may choose to dip your bread into the cup, or to consume the bread and then drink from the cup.

If you are not sharing in the Meal today, please join in reflection and prayer, until we all regather.

REFLECTION SONG: *Come as You Are*

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.

SENDING

*BLESSING

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

Amen.

*SENDING SONG: *Holy Is the Lord* by Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio

We stand and lift up our hands, for the joy of the Lord is our strength.

We bow down and worship Him now; How great how awesome is He

And together we sing; everyone sing:

Holy is the Lord God Almighty; The earth is filled with His glory

Holy is the Lord God Almighty; The earth is filled with His glory, the earth is filled with His glory

We stand and lift up our hands, for the joy of the Lord is our strength.

We bow down and worship Him now; How great how awesome is He

And together we sing; everyone sing:

Holy is the Lord God Almighty; The earth is filled with His glory

Holy is the Lord God Almighty; The earth is filled with His glory, the earth is filled with His glory

It is rising up all around, It's the anthem of the Lord's renown

It is rising up all around, It's the anthem of the Lord's renown

It is rising up all around, It's the anthem of the Lord's renown

It is rising up all around, It's the anthem of the Lord's renown

And together we sing; everyone sing:

Holy is the Lord God Almighty; The earth is filled with His glory

Holy is the Lord God Almighty; The earth is filled with His glory, the earth is filled with His glory

The earth is filled with His glory

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

OFFERING

We encourage you to contribute your offering to help sharing in the ongoing mission and work of the church through making an online offering at www.stpaulslutherville.org. You can also mail your offerings in to the church office - we have a secured mailbox which is checked regularly.

COPYRIGHTS

Copyrights: Portions of the liturgy and hymns are from Sundays and Seasons.com © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress liturgies license #SAS012371.

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-739252. All rights reserved.

Additional music included in this worship service is covered under CCLI license #1592054, expiration December 31, 2021.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Thank you for helping to lead our worship service this holy day!

Preacher/Presider
Assisting Minister
Worship Musician

The Rev. Dr. Ed Kay
Josie Brock
Steve Dooley