



**ST. PAUL'S**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship  
1609 Kurtz Avenue ~ Lutherville, MD 21093

*Welcome to our sanctuary worship service. If you haven't already done so, take a moment to check-in on social media to share that you are here before silencing any electronic devices, and breathe a bit to center yourself before we begin.*

*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.*

**For Our Digital Worship Assembly**

Participation: You can find everything you need to participate in the service within the Facebook video description or alongside our website homepage. If you're joining the live feed through Facebook, comment to "say hello" and connect with one another. Feel free to use the "share" button and to help spread the reach of our ministry. If you are joining at the Table to celebrate Communion this day, please have your bread and wine close at hand.

Offering: In addition to sending your gifts to the church, you may also choose to give your offering gift electronically at [www.stpaulslutherville.org](http://www.stpaulslutherville.org). Thank you for your generosity!

**For Our In-Person Worship Assembly**

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 optional (but strongly encouraged for those not yet vaccinated), 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. We encourage you to keep a facemask with you to be able to honor others who are choosing to wear one when you greet one another.

Restrooms: The bathrooms outside the Wilkening Room 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. Masks are required in any of our other buildings, regardless of vaccination status.

Offering: An offering plate is at both doors in the worship space, where you may place your gifts as you come or go from the service. You may also choose to give your offering gift electronically at [www.stpaulslutherville.org](http://www.stpaulslutherville.org). Thank you for your generosity!

# GATHERING

## WELCOME & PRELUDE

### \*RINGING OF THE BELL

*Please rise in body or spirit at the ringing of the bell.*

### \*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: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (ELW 244)

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### \*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.

<sup>14</sup>The 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. <sup>15</sup>In 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. <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.”

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: <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.

<sup>11</sup>Now may that very God, our Father, 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 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: <sup>25</sup>"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."

<sup>29</sup>Then Jesus 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 dominion 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.

<sup>34</sup>"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."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY: *Jesus Shall Reign* (ELW 435)**

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**\*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**

### **\*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: *Fling Wide the Door* (ELW 259)**

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### **\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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### **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](http://www.stpaulslutherville.org). You can also mail your offerings in to the church office - we have a secured mailbox which is checked regularly.

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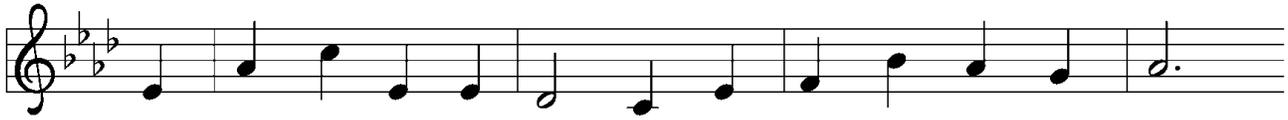
## **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

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

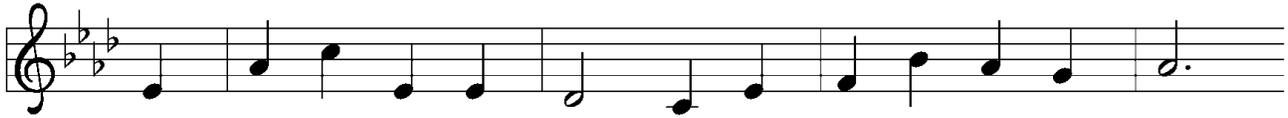
Preacher/Presider	The Rev. Dr. Ed Kay
Assisting Minister	Sue DePasquale
Host/Usher	John Musachio
Worship Musician (recorded)	Mary Munson (Camano Lutheran Church, Camano Island, WA)

GATHERING SONG: *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (ELW 244)

## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



- 1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - ti - ence their cross and suf - f' - rings bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

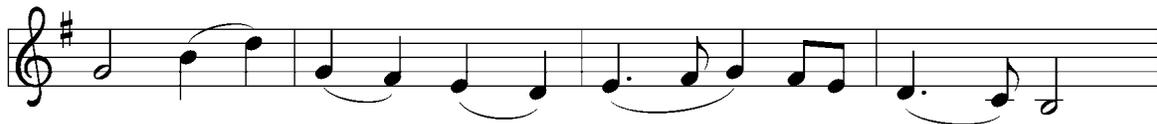


Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

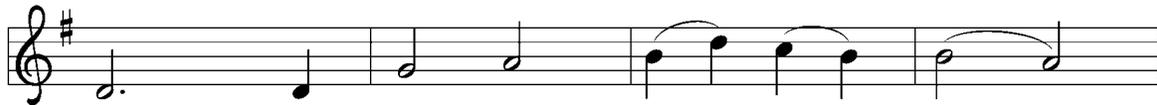
Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Jesus Shall Reign* (ELW 435)

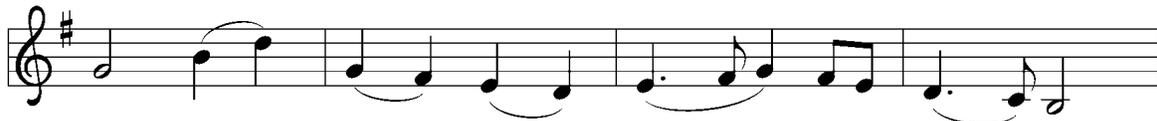
Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



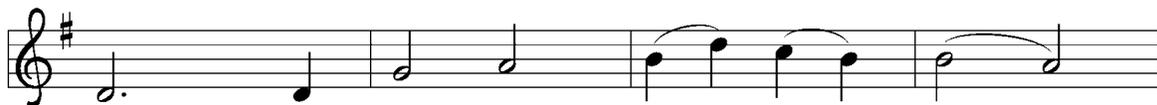
1 Lo! he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
 2 Now re - demp - tion, long - ex - pect - ed,  
 3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain;  
 comes in sol - emn splen - dor near;  
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 all the saints this world re - ject - ed  
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



join to sing the glad re - frain:  
 thrill the trum - pet sound to hear:  
 claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!  
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
 Music: HELMSLEY, Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799

**SENDING SONG: *Fling Wide the Door* (ELW 259)**

## Fling Wide the Door



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry  
2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's  
3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true  
4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the  
gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his  
king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the  
wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion  
scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows  
hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful  
on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and  
to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and  
Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -  
Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.  
wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.  
a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.  
praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943  
Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704  
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