

*The Language of
Christmas Love*



The Second Sunday in Advent

December 8, 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 our 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*”. If you did not get the “*The Five Love Languages Profile*” last week you can pick one up after the service today. Last week we looked at the love language of “**quality time**.” Today, our focus will be on the love language of “**words of affirmation**” Advent is a time of preparation. It is a time of renewal. It is a time of comfort. It is a time to **affirm** and **reaffirm** our faith. The prophet of old, Isaiah, cries forth with the message of Christmas love with the words “*Comfort, comfort ye my people*”. Though we come to hear and bathe in His words of mercy and grace, we dare not become so tender that we grow spiritually flabby, making us unable to fight the wars that will come our way this holiday season—the wars of busyness, distractions and celebrations void of Christ. May this hour in His presence and in His spiritual gymnasium revitalize us, **affirm** us and build us up in the one true faith, and prepare us for the celebration of Jesus’ birth and His coming again.

Stand

Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 357 sts. 4 (with intro)

4 O come, Thou Branch of Jesse’s tree,
Free them from Satan’s tyranny
That trust Thy mighty pow’r to save,
And give them vict’ry o’er the grave.

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 as 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

Psalms 80:1, 3, 14, 17; antiphon: Isaiah 62:11b; 30:30, 29

Say to the daughter of Zion,

“Behold, your salvation comes.”

The LORD will cause His majestic voice to be heard,

and you shall have gladness of heart.

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

You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

Restore us, O God;

let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Turn again, O God of hosts!

Look down from Heaven, and see.

But let Your hand be on the man of Your right hand,

the Son of Man whom You have made strong for Yourself!

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.

Say to the daughter of Zion,

“Behold, your salvation comes.”

The LORD will cause His majestic voice to be heard,

and you shall have gladness of heart.

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. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”

¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual

Psalm 50:2-3a, 5

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
Our God comes; He does not keep silence;

**“Gather to Me My faithful ones,
who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!”**

Epistle

2 Peter 3:8-14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia & Verse

Luke 3: 4b, 6

Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;
all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter:



C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

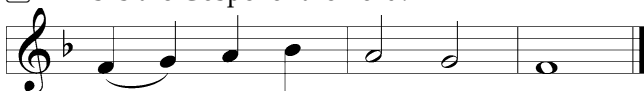
“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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 ✝ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

344 sts. 1-2

Sermon

The Song of Response

O Christmas Love

Sung a cappella

Words by R&R Sonnenberg

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.
Affirmed to be His very own;
Assured that we are His alone.
Led by the Spirit through His love,
We now **affirm** each other.

Offering/LWML Mites

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,



bles - 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



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

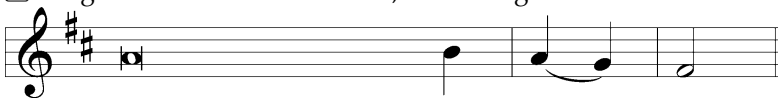
Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come	350
I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table	618
All Depends on Our Possessing	732

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 - tles 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.

Hymn

What Child Is This

370

Acknowledgments

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FLOWERS UNDER THE CROSS ARE GIVEN

IN CELEBRATION OF

JAMES WARREN DOUGHTY

BORN: NOVEMBER 18

BAPTIZED: NOVEMBER 24

SON OF NATALIE & ANDREW DOUGHTY.

- JAN BALLARD



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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 8	9:30am	Divine Service	Sanctuary
	11:00am	Adult Bible Class	Irmer Hall
		Sunday School	Library
Wednesday, December 11	7:00pm	Midweek Advent Service	Sanctuary
Saturday, December 14	8:30am	CPR Class	Irmer Hall

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON IN IRMER HALL- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

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

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The deadline for poinsettia orders is **Sunday, 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.

CHRISTIANITY & OTHER WORLD RELIGIONS

Judaism, Islam, Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Hinduism, Buddhism, Atheism, Scientology, Issues, Etc., a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL, is doing a World Religions 101 series with Dr. Adam Francisco of Concordia University Chicago. You can listen to this multi-part series at issuesetc.org/worldreligions.



MIDWEEK ADVENT VESPERS

Thursdays @ 7:00 pm

December 11th & 18th

THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Service of Lessons and Carols

Thursday, December 24th @ 7:00 pm

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Friday, December 25th @ 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. 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

The Rev. Jeff Proctor and family

Sunday School teachers & children

LCMS officers, congregations & schools

Maryvale Preparatory Academy families & staff

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