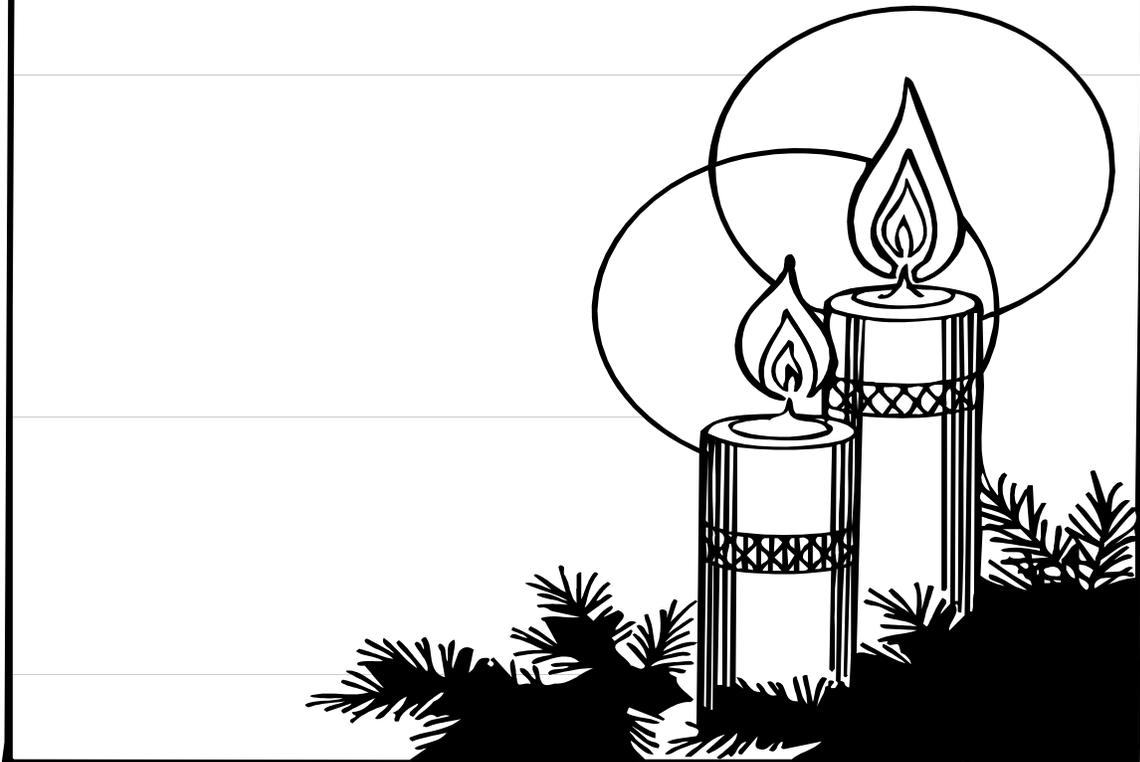


St. Paul Lutheran Church
of Serbin

Advent Celebration Service

December 8, 21
7:00 p.m.



SYMBOLS OF SALVATION: FORETELLING CHRIST'S BIRTH

THE LORD SETS UP HIS TENT AMONG US

We often imagine that God's presence is made known through our feelings, but God has a history of showing His presence in more concrete ways. Throughout Scripture, He attaches Himself to places like Sinai or the tabernacle or the temple or the flesh and blood of His only-begotten Son. Today, we recall how God manifested His presence to His people in the mystery of the cloud and thereby assured them that He was with them and would fulfill His promise never to abandon them. Advent reminds us that at many times and in many ways, God spoke to His people of old, but now, He has spoken through His Son. In Christ, God tabernacles with us and continues to deliver to us the fruits of His saving work on the cross.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING HYMN: ♪ "THE ADVENT OF OUR KING"

LSB 331

- 1 The advent of our King
Our prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy.**
- 2 The everlasting Son
Incarnate deigns to be,
Himself a servant's form puts on
To set His servants free.**
- 3 O Zion's daughter, rise
To meet your lowly King,
Nor let your faithless heart despise
The peace He comes to bring.**
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light,
He soon will come again
And His true members all unite
With Him in heav'n to reign.**
- 5 Before the dawning day
Let sin's dark deeds be gone,
The sinful self be put away,
The new self now put on.**

△6 All glory to the Son,
Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one
Through all eternity.

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Stand

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** make haste to help me, O Lord.
- C** 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. Praise to You, O Christ, King who comes to save us.

PSALM

PSALM 105:1–11, 39–42

- C** He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.
- P** Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!
- C** Sing to Him, sing praises to Him; tell of all His wondrous works!
- P** Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
- C** Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His presence continually!
- P** Remember the wondrous works that He has done, His miracles, and the judgments He uttered,
- C** O offspring of Abraham, His servant, children of Jacob, His chosen ones!
- P** He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth.
- C** He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations,
- P** the covenant that He made with Abraham, His sworn promise to Isaac,
- C** which He confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying,
- P** "To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance."
- C** He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night.
- P** They asked, and He brought quail, and gave them bread from heaven in abundance.
- C** He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river.
- P** For He remembered His holy promise, and Abraham, His servant.
- C** 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.

He is the LORD our God; His judgments are in all the earth. He remembers His covenant forever, the word that He commanded, for a thousand generations.

Sit

- 1 O God, O Lord of heav'n and earth,
Thy living finger never wrote
That life should be an aimless mote,
A deathward drift from futile birth.
Thy Word meant life triumphant hurled
In splendor through Thy broken world.
Since light awoke and life began,
Thou hast desired Thy life for man.**
- 2 Our fatal will to equal Thee,
Our rebel will wrought death and night.
We seized and used in prideful spite
Thy wondrous gift of liberty.
We housed us in this house of doom,
Where death had royal scope and room,
Until Thy servant, Prince of Peace,
Breached all its walls for our release.**
- 3 Thou camest to our hall of death,
O Christ, to breathe our poisoned air,
To drink for us the dark despair
That strangled our reluctant breath.
How beautiful the feet that trod
The road that leads us back to God!
How beautiful the feet that ran
To bring the great good news to man!**
- △4 O Spirit, who didst once restore
Thy Church that it might be again
The bringer of good news to men,
Breathe on Thy cloven Church once more,
That in these gray and latter days
There may be those whose life is praise,
Each life a high doxology
To Father, Son, and unto Thee.**

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FIRST READING

EXODUS 40:17-21, 34-38

P A reading from Exodus, the fortieth chapter.

In the first month in the second year, on the first day of the month, the tabernacle was erected. Moses erected the tabernacle. He laid its bases, and set up its frames, and put in its poles, and raised up its pillars. And he spread the tent over the tabernacle and put the covering of the tent over it, as the LORD had commanded Moses. He took the testimony and put it into the ark, and put the poles on the ark and set the

mercy seat above on the ark. And he brought the ark into the tabernacle and set up the veil of the screen, and screened the ark of the testimony, as the LORD had commanded Moses. . . .

Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

JOHN 1:14-18

P A reading from John, the first chapter.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about Him, and cried out, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.'") And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORY GOT ADVENT

P Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **This is the name by which He will be called: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.**

SERMON: "THE LORD SETS UP HIS TENT AMONG US"

EXODUS 40:17-21. 34-38

By Pastor John Schmidt

Stand

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

CATECHESIS

The Second Article

C **And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P *What does this mean?*

C I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

Sit

HYMN: ♪ "SING PRAISE TO THE GOD OF ISRAEL"

LSB 936

- 1 Sing praise to the God of Israel!
Sing praise for His visitation!
Redeeming His people from their sin,
Accomplishing their salvation,
Upraising a mighty horn within
The house of His servant David!

- 2 God spoke by the prophets long ago,
His promise on oath recalling—
To Abraham made in former years:
Of vanquishing foes appalling,
That those He delivered from their fears
Might gladly and truly serve Him.

- 3 You, child, will go on before the Lord
As prophet, His way preparing;
To speak on behalf of God Most High,
His counsel of truth declaring:
Rich mercy and grace for all whereby
Iniquity is forgiven.

- 4 O bright, rising Sun, now shine on us
In need of illumination;
Come scatter the shades of sin and death
And shatter their domination.
Be guiding our footsteps on the path
Of peace, in Your presence dawning!

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Stand

ANTIPHON

- P** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
G and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

KYRIE

- G** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

- G** 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.

COLLECTS

- P** O Lord, hear my prayer.
G And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** 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.
G Amen.

COLLECT

- P** Blessed Lord, You made Yourself known in many and various ways in the days of old, but now in Your Son, You have fulfilled Your promise to dwell among Your people as Savior and Redeemer, calling us to new life in His name. Grant to us Your Holy Spirit that we may rejoice in Your presence, be moved to repentance and faith, and remember our Savior, whose voice speaks in Your Word and whose gracious acts continue to fill us with Your grace in the Holy Sacraments; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
G Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
G Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
G Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: ♪ "COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS"

LSB 338

- 1** Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

- 2** Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

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SILENT PRAYER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Acknowledgments

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2021 Advent/Christmas Schedule

Service	Day	Date	Time	Detail	Offering
Candlelight Carol Service	Wed	Dec. 15	7:00 p.m.		General
Song Service	Sun	Dec. 19	8:30 a.m.		General
Christmas Eve	Fri	Dec. 24	6:00 p.m.		½ Lutheran Braille Workers & ½ Bus Fund
Christmas Day	Sat	Dec. 25	9:00 a.m.	English/ German	½ LSS & ½ LBT
New Year's Eve	Fri	Dec. 31	7:00 p.m.		General
New Year's Day	Sat	Jan. 1	9:00 a.m.	Communion	General