

**Advent Vespers Week 3**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
25 W. Springettsbury Avenue, York, Pennsylvania, 17403  
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# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com)

**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 184 years. By worshipping with us this evening, you become part of that living tradition.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

**Thank you for your faithfulness** in making offerings in person, through the mail or by using online options from your financial institution or through the "Donate" now from the church website [stpaulsyork.org](http://stpaulsyork.org). Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul's and our ministry partners.

## Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

### Entering and Leaving the Church:

*Face masks are required.*

*Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.*

*Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly. Please don't place it back into a basket.*

### Offerings:

*Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)*

### While in the Nave:

*You may sit together as a family. Worshippers should sit in designated pews only. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul's. Please thank Deacon Ellen Doughty, Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Tim Yakim for their dedication and service.



Flowers This Week

*This week's flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of my daughter Jaclyn's 13th birthday Dec 14th by Joe Kinkella.*

### In our prayers we remember...

*Deborah Fulton, Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Becky Diggs, Bill Troutman, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey..*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Sat
<b>13</b> Advent 3 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Evening Service	<b>14</b> 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool 7:00 PM Council Meeting	<b>15</b> Newsletter Deadline 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers 6:00 PM Christmas Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 6:00 PM Church Decorating 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool	<b>17</b> 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Advent 4 - 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist - Blessing of Creche 9:15 AM Christmas Rehearsal 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist - Ringing in of Christmas 5:00 PM Evening Service - Baptism	<b>21</b> First Day of Winter 9:00 - 11:30 AM NO Preschool 7:00 PM Finance Committee	<b>22</b> 9:00 - 11:30 AM NO Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers 12:30 PM Christian Ed Meeting	<b>23</b> 9:00 - 11:30 AM NO Preschool	<b>24</b> CHRISTMAS EVE - reservations needed 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Carol Sing George Street Porch 7:00 PM Vespers - Church Nave 11:00 PM Christmas Prayers - Compline	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Service 10:30 AM by reservation only - with Communion	<b>26</b>

## Advent Vespers Week 3

Welcome to St. Paul's Church. We are delighted that you have joined us in worship during this season of Advent. If you are visiting, please provide an email and/or contact information at the sign-in table.

About the liturgy this evening: Vespers (Evening Prayer) is prayed by the faith community at the evening hour, often associated with the setting of the sun. There is a basic formula to the service. The Cantor and or congregation sing one or more Psalms, songs from the Hebrew Scriptures, during which our minds meditate on words and ideas that come to us. Christian faith always looks backwards into its roots and forward to God's action. This is represented by two readings and the responses to them. The first reading is from the Old Testament the books recording God's dealing with his ancient people the Jews. Theirs is the tradition into which Jesus was born. In response we sing *Magnificat*, the song of Jesus' mother, Mary, which affirms God's work in history. The second reading is from the New Testament and is a story or passage of teaching from Jesus or the first Christians. We respond with *Nunc Dimittis*, a song that recognizes that in Jesus' coming God keeps his promise to the whole world. In the Creed we affirm that Christian faith is founded on this story and we offer further prayers.

### PRELUDE

*Stand*

#### OPENING DIALOGUE AND HYMN OF LIGHT

Stanzas 1-3 Sung by the Cantor to a setting by Aaron David Miller.

The musical score is written for Cantor and Assembly in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of staves. The first system shows the Cantor's part (treble clef) and the Assembly's part (treble clef). The lyrics are: "Be-hold, our light has come, death is no more,". The second system continues the lyrics: "Be-hold, our light has come, death is no more, though the sun fades from our sight. God has sent sus - tain - ing light." The third system shows the Cantor's part and the Assembly's part with the lyrics: "Be-hold, our light has come, shine on us." The fourth system continues the lyrics: "Be-hold, our light has come, shine on us". The score includes dynamic markings like *mf* and *f*, and articulation marks like accents and slurs. There are also fermatas over the final notes of the Cantor's part in the third and fourth systems.

1 O Trinity, O blessed light, O Unity of sovereign might;  
As now the fiery sun departs, shed holy light within our hearts.

2 To you our morning song of praise, to you our evening prayer we  
raise; To you in awe we bend the knee from age to age, eternally.

3 All glory be to God above,  
and to the Son, the prince of love,  
and to the Spirit, One in Three!  
We praise you, blessed Trinity.

*Behold Our Light: Music for Evening Worship* by Aaron David Miller, ISBN 978-1-4514-6252-4

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## THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

We praise and thank you, O God, through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom you have enlightened us by revealing the light that never fades.

Night is falling and day's allotted span draws to a close.

The daylight which you created for our pleasure has fully satisfied us, and yet, of your free gift, now the evening lights do not fail us.

We praise you and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; through him be glory, honor, and power to you in the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

**Amen.**

*Sit*

**EVENING PSALM** Psalm 139 *Sung by the cantor to a setting by Aaron David Miller.*

Lord you have searched me and known me; you know when I sit, when I rise.

You know my thoughts, you know my heart, you know the ways of my life.

You know the sound of my voice, you know the words of my tongue;

You hold me close, you guide my ways, you know the ways of my life.

Where can I go to leave your spirit? Where can I fall that you aren't near:

If I say, The darkness will hide me, your bright light sets me free.

Lord you have searched me and known me; you know when I sit, when I rise.

You know my thoughts, you know my heart, you know the ways of my life.

You know the ways of my life. You know the ways of my life.

*A period of silence follows the Psalm. Then the minister continues with the prayer.*

## PSALM PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, when you descended among the dead, you brought them the light of day; when you ascended into heaven, you brought it new radiance. Remain with us and lead us along the paths of life until we come to rest with your saints in the holy dwelling place, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever.

**Amen**

## SECOND PSALM Psalm 126

*Sung by the Cantor to a setting "Turn again our fortunes, O Lord" by David Lee*

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the for- | tunes of Zion,\*  
then were we like | those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth | filled with laughter,\*  
and our tongue with | shouts of joy.

<sup>3</sup> Then they said a- | mong the nations,\*  
"The LORD has done great | things for them."

<sup>4</sup> The LORD has done great | things for us,\*  
and we are | glad indeed.

<sup>5</sup> Restore our for- | tunes, O LORD,\*  
like the watercourses | of the Negev.

<sup>6</sup> Those who | sowed with tears\*  
will reap with | songs of joy.

<sup>7</sup> Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,\*  
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their sheaves.

*A period of silence follows the Psalm. Then the minister continues with the prayer.*

## PSALM PRAYER

Lord Jesus, our life and our resurrection, the tears you sowed in the sorrow of your Passion brought the earth to flower on Easter morning. Renew the wonders of your power in the Church, so that, after the sorrows of our exile, we may come home to you in gladness and praise you now and forever.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

<sup>1</sup>The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup>to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup>to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

<sup>4</sup>They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup>For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup>Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations

*Stand*  
**MAGNIFICAT** *My Soul Proclaims Sung by the cantor to a setting by Aaron David Miller.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit sings for joy in God my Savior.  
You look with favor upon your servant, blessed is my name.  
You have done great things for me, holy is your name.  
You send your mercy to those who fear you through every age.  
You have shown strength of your arm, you have scorned the thoughts of the proud,  
You cast down the mighty you have lifted the lowly, holy is your name.  
You have filled the hungry with good things, you have left the rich with empty hands,  
You have come to the help of your people, holy is your name.  
You have kept your promise of mercy, the promise that you made to our forebears;  
To Abraham and Sarah and their children forever, holy is your name. Holy is your name.

*Sit*  
**NEW TESTAMENT READING 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise the words of prophets, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast to what is good; <sup>22</sup>abstain from every form of evil.

<sup>23</sup>May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>24</sup>The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*Stand*  
**NUNC DIMITTIS** *Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace (All sing)* **Mark Mummert**



Now, Lord, you let your ser- vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

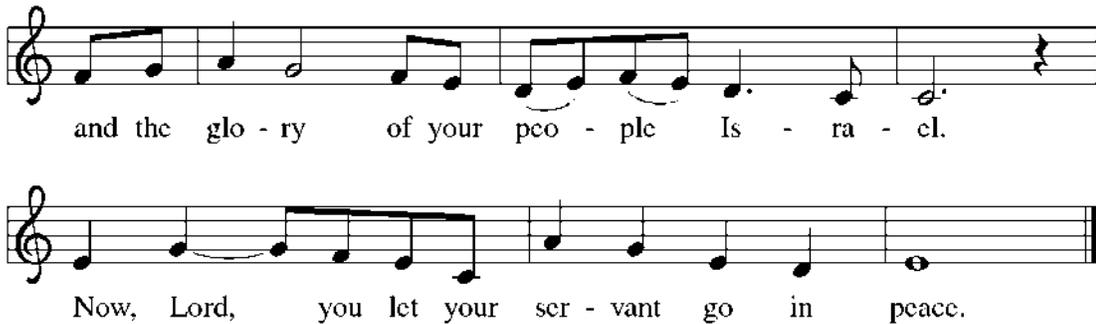


filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre- pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

*Continued on next page...*



**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended into hell.  
 On the third day he rose again.  
 He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again 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.**

*Sit*  
**HOMILY**

**LITANY**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For Elizabeth, James, and Edward our bishops, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us pray to the Lord.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves to one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.  
**To you, O Lord.**

O God, from whom comes 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 commandment; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

**Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

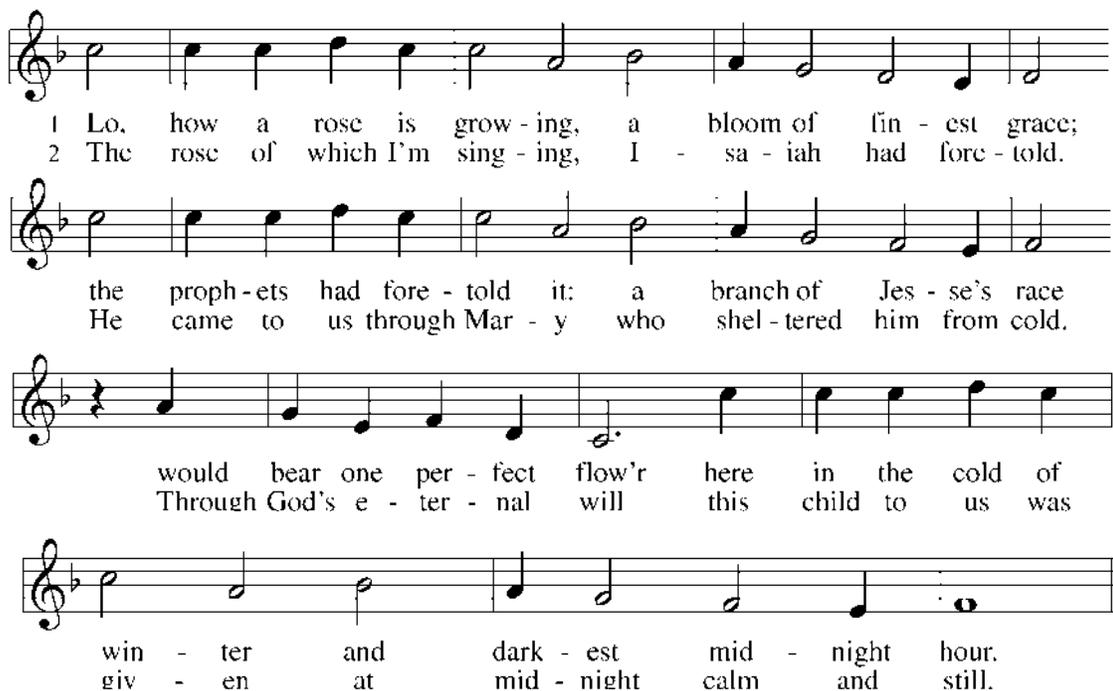
Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.  
**Amen.**

## **HYMN**

### *Lo, How a Rose Is Growing (LBW 58) stanzas 1 & 2*



1 Lo, how a rose is grow - ing, a bloom of līn - est grace;  
2 The rose of which I'm sing - ing, I - sa - iah had fore - told.

the proph - ets had fore - told it: a branch of Jes - se's race  
He came to us through Mar - y who shel - tered him from cold.

would bear one per - fect flow'r here in the cold of  
Through God's e - ter - nal will this child to us was

win - ter and dark - est mid - night hour.  
giv - en at mid - night calm and still.

## **POSTLUDE**

## Christmas Worship Schedule at St. Paul's

Please note the adjusted schedule for the entire Christmas season

### Sunday, December 20, 2020      The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM      Holy Communion with Blessing of the Creche  
10:30 AM      Holy Communion with The Ringing in of Christmas  
5:00 PM      Vespers with Sacrament of Holy Baptism

### Thursday, December 24, 2020      Christmas Eve

4:00 PM      Outside Christmas Carol Service with Brass Ensemble  
~~7:00 PM — Christmas Eve Vespers~~  
~~11:00 PM — Christmas Eve Compline~~

### Friday, December 25, 2020      Christmas Day

~~10:30 AM — Holy Communion~~

### Sunday, December 27, 2020      The First Sunday of Christmas

8:00 AM      Holy Communion, spoken  
10:30 AM      Lessons and Carols  
5:00 PM      Lessons and Carols

### Sunday, January 3, 2021      Epiphany

8:00 AM      Holy Communion  
10:30 AM      Holy Communion  
5:00 PM      Holy Communion

**2021 Calendar Sale**—Make sure you get your copies of the 2021 calendar! They feature the watercolor paintings of Pastor Reep. The images highlight the beautiful cottages from the grounds of the Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua NY (painted during summer 2019) and fruits and flowers still life arrangements (painted during 2020). We ask for a minimum donation of \$20. All proceeds go to the Capital Campaign. The original paintings will be auctioned at our October 16<sup>th</sup> 2021 event. Thank you for supporting this fundraising effort.



**Advent and Christmas Devotional** ideas, activities and resources for all ages can be found on the church website. Look on the front page or under the tab LEARN. [stpaulsyork.org](http://stpaulsyork.org)

**Advent Zoom Bible Study: The women in Jesus lineage according to the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 1.** Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. December 16. Pastor Reep spoke in his sermon on October 11th, about the book of Matthew beginning with the long list of names that starts with Abraham and ends with Jesus. In that list there are five women named. Join us as we learn about these women and what their lives could mean for us today. To register and receive Zoom information, call the church office, 717 or Patty Snyder 717-578-2253.

### Food Pantry—December

**Items needed:** Stuffing, Canned beans, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, canned beans, canned vegetables, canned meats, apple sauce, mashed potato mix, rice, pasta side dishes and peanut butter & jelly. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.

**Christmas Eve 7 PM,  
11 PM and Christmas  
Day are now full.**

The 4:00 PM outside Christmas Eve Service does not require a reservation. Please note that you will need to bring a lawn chair (if desired). **A face mask is required.**

