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**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

2100 16<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Austin, MN 55912

Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Class: 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Theodore W. Barthels

Phone: 507-433-1957

Cell: 507-219-2517

Church Office:

Phone: 507-433-8191

Worship Services streamed on YouTube Channel: St. Paul CLC Austin.

*Affiliated with*  
**CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION**  
[stpaulclcaustin.wordpress.com](http://stpaulclcaustin.wordpress.com)  
[www.CLClutheran.org](http://www.CLClutheran.org)  
[www.ilc.edu/home.htm](http://www.ilc.edu/home.htm)

December 20, 2020

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

PRESERVICE PRAYER Heavenly Father as we once again celebrate Your Son's incarnation and birth, lead us to find our comfort and joy in knowing that Jesus came to be our Savior. Help us remember always that it was His sacrifice upon the cross that purchased our peace. As we this day receive His body and blood in the Blessed Sacrament, we ask that Your Spirit might bless us and increase our faith, that we may grow in grace and in the assurance of everlasting life that is ours in Christ Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE: (p. 22 Worship Supplement 2000)

### **HYMN 99: Now Are the Days Fulfilled**

1. Now are the days fulfilled, God's Son is manifested,  
Now His great majesty In human flesh is vested.  
Behold the mighty God, By whom all wrath is stilled,  
The woman's promised Seed – Now are the days fulfilled.

2. Now are the days fulfilled. Lo, Jacob's Star is shining;  
The gloomy night has fled Wherein the world lay pining.  
Now, Israel look on Him Who long thy heart hath thrilled;  
Hear Zion's watchman cry: Now are the days fulfilled.

3. Now are the days fulfilled, the child of God rejoices;  
No bondage of the Law, No curses that it voices,  
Can fill our hearts with fear; On Christ our hope we build.  
Behold the Prince of Peace -- Now are the days fulfilled.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Together let us pray.

**C: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us.**

**Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

P: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the 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.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

THE EPISTLE LESSON: Romans 1:1-10

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated to the gospel of God <sup>2</sup> which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, <sup>4</sup> *and* declared *to be* the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. <sup>5</sup> Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, <sup>6</sup> among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; <sup>7</sup> To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called *to be* saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (NKJV)

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 126-38

<sup>26</sup> Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And

having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!”

<sup>29</sup> But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

<sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I do not know a man?”

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered and said to her, “*The Holy Spirit* will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

<sup>36</sup> Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For with God nothing will be impossible.”

<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her. (NKJV)

## THE APOSTLES CREED

### **HYMN 105:1,4,5,8 Praise God the Lord, Ye Sons of Men**

1. Praise God the Lord, Ye sons of men,  
Before His highest throne:  
Today He opens heav'n again  
And gives us His own Son,  
And gives us His own Son.

4. He nestles at His mother's breast,  
Receives her tender care,  
Whom angels hail with joy most blest,  
King David's royal Heir, ...

5. 'Tis He who in these latter days  
From Judah's tribe should come,  
By whom the Father would upraise  
The Church, His Christendom. ...

8. He opens us again the door  
Of Paradise today;  
The angel guards the gate no more,  
To God our thanks we pay.

THE SERMON: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

Theme: The Son of David Is Mankind's Only Hope of Salvation

- I. God's Superior Plan
- II. The Reign of the Son of David
- III. The Son of David –Your Hope of Eternal Life

SERMON TEXT: 2 Samuel 7:8-16

<sup>8</sup>Now therefore, thus shall you say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts: "I took you from the sheepfold, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people, over Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you have gone, and have cut off all your enemies from before you, and have made you a great name, like the name of the great men who *are* on the earth. <sup>10</sup>Moreover I will appoint a place for My people Israel, and will plant them, that they may dwell in a place of their own and move no more; nor shall the sons of wickedness oppress them anymore, as previously, <sup>11</sup>since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house.

<sup>12</sup>"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. <sup>14</sup>I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. <sup>15</sup>But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took *it* from Saul, whom I removed from before you. <sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' (NKJV)

PRAYER; THE LORD'S PRAYER

**HYMN** 645:1, 5 Behold, a Branch is Growing

1. Behold, a Branch is growing Of loveliest form and grace,  
As prophets sung, foreknowing; It springs from Jesse's race  
And bears one little Flow'r In midst of coldest winter  
At deepest midnight hour.

5. O Savior, Child of Mary, Who felt our human woe;  
O Savior, King of Glory, Who dost our weakness know,  
Bring us at length, we pray, To the bright courts of heaven  
And to the endless day.

### THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

We observe the Scriptural practice of closed communion. We do this in loving concern for all who would desire to commune, that it might be for their spiritual blessing and not their spiritual harm. The Scriptures teach us that communicants need to be able to examine themselves concerning their sin and repentance, and also a proper understanding of the Lord's presence in the sacrament. We ask that only those who are members of this congregation, or one affiliated with us in the CLC, partake of the sacrament. Please speak with the pastor if you would wish to commune with us at a future time.

BENEDICTION;

**C: Amen.**

### **Hymn 97:1, 4 Let Us All with Gladsome Voice**

1. Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven,  
Who to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given.

4. O Lord Christ, our Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us.  
Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us!

### CALENDAR

TODAY: Thank you for coming to hear the Word. A church council meeting is scheduled to follow the service. We will meet in the fellowship hall spreading out at individual tables to maintain social distancing.

Used bulletins should either be taken home or deposited in the wastepaper basket at the narthex door. Your offerings may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the nave.

WEDNESDAY: Catechism is in holiday recess until January 6, 2021.

FRIDAY: **Christmas festival worship** at 9:30

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship at 9:30. Bible class is in holiday recess. Next Sunday's sermon text: Colossians 3:12-17.

### SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: Dec. 13 worship – 15 Bible Class - 10; Sunday school – 0  
Dec. 16 Midweek Advent worship - 15

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,250.00	Other offerings	
Offerings Received	\$1,525.00	Missions	\$30.00
Needed for Year:	\$61,250.00	Property Imprv. Fund	\$35.00
Received for Year:	\$55,664,00		

December Church Cleaning – Nelson

**Donations for Christmas bags:** We are going to have Christmas bags of peanuts fruits and candies, even though we will not have a children's program this year. They will be distributed on Christmas and to the homes of some of the members who presently are not attending church due to Covid 19 concerns. Your donation toward this is appreciated. Please place your gift in the marked basket in the narthex.

**NEW ILC TOUR CHOIR CD:** The CD "Worthy Is the Lamb" is \$12.00 for one, or \$20 for two. Payment should be placed in the envelope pinned to the bulletin board.

**CLC NEWS:** Pastor Michael Eichstadt, Messiah, Hales Corners, WI has been called by Living Savior, Eden Prairie, MN. <> Pastor David Ude, Living Hope, Appleton, WI has been called by Redeemer, Cheyenne, WY.

**Nominations for ILC Professor:** The following nominations have been received to fill the professorship vacated by the impending retirement of Professor John Reim at the end of the 2020-21 academic year: Pastors Paul Krause, Neal Radichel, Rob Sauers, and David Schaller. All comments from members of CLC congregations regarding these

candidates are to be received by email or letter no later than midnight December 29, 2020 (letters postmarked December 24, 2020) to: Mr. James Burkhardt; 217 Windy Lane; Rockwall, TX 75087; email: [jeb6217@yahoo.com](mailto:jeb6217@yahoo.com).

**CLC Project KINSHIP - On the Rise!** As endeavors to spread the Gospel overseas continue to increase, so do our opportunities to support these endeavors. Of the current 113 overseas seminary students, there are currently five students that do not have stateside sponsors. Please consider becoming a sponsor through the CLC KINSHIP program. The cost for this particular sponsorship is \$35/month (\$420/year). There will also be sponsorship opportunities for the overseas orphan population in the near future, and KINSHIP would welcome folks who are willing to be put on the “wait list” for those sponsorships. These sponsorships require a similar financial commitment. Contact is Dan Roehl ([danroehl@hotmail.com](mailto:danroehl@hotmail.com) or 507-381-2042).