



# St. Paul Lutheran Church

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La Grange, Texas

The Rev. Jerry Wirtley, *Supply Pastor*  
*Organists: (5 p.m.) Jean McHenry*  
*(9 a.m.) Sherise Davis*  
November 27 & 28, 2021  
First Sunday of Advent



*Then they will see  
“the Son of Man  
coming in a cloud”  
with power and  
great glory.*

Luke 21:27, NRSV

**Next weekend's readings:**

Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6

**LISTEN TO ST. PAUL SERVICES!**

Visit our webpage, [www.stpaulg.org](http://www.stpaulg.org), and click “Listen” to hear our services live on your smart phone or computer! You can also view our bulletin, weekly service video, newsletters and current calendar. Visit our Facebook page to view the service live Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

**National Domestic Abuse Hotline number (1-800-799-7233)**

## Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

POB 567 / 110 W. Walnut Street, La Grange, Texas 78945

For emergencies, call the church's cell: 979-966-2459 (Melinda has it)

Parish Office: 979-968-5657 Fax: 979-968-6950 Fellowship Hall: 979-968-9603

Office Hours: Monday 1 - 5 p.m.; Tuesday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 1 - 5 p.m.;

Friday 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

e-mail: [stpaul@cvctx.com](mailto:stpaul@cvctx.com)

Web Page: [www.stpaulg.org](http://www.stpaulg.org)

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## Welcome!

- + Welcome to worship!
- + All are welcome at the table of grace. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share the bread and wine. Those at home are invited to use whatever bread or crackers and wine or juice you have on hand. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share whatever elements we have available.
- + The 9 a.m. service will be on Facebook live & audio streamed on our webpage, [www.stpaullg.org](http://www.stpaullg.org). It will also be posted on our Facebook page. You may also listen to last week's service on KBUK 104.9 FM on Sundays at 10 am.
- + Everyone is invited for coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall following Sunday morning's service.

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

## GATHERING

### Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

*(Stand if able)*

### 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.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

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.**

**Hymn ELW 244 “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”** *(back of bulletin)*

### 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.**

### Prayer of the Day

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.**

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek your ways of justice and peace, for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes and welcome him into our hearts and homes, for he is our light and our salvation. Blessed be God forever. **Amen.**

*(Sit)*

# WORD

## Children's Word

**Psalm 25:1-10** *(read responsively)*

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

**<sup>2</sup>O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

**<sup>4</sup>Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.

**<sup>6</sup>Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**

<sup>7</sup>Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

**<sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

<sup>9</sup>He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

**<sup>10</sup>All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.**

## 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.*

<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 our God and Father himself 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 he 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*(Stand if able)*

## Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

## Holy Gospel Luke 21:25-36

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord!**

*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.*

[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 he 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 kingdom 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.”

This is the gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

*(Sit)*

**Sermon**

**Rev. Jerry Wirtley**

*(Stand if able)*

**Hymn ELW 257 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” vs. 1-4** *(back of bulletin)*

**Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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, especially for all affected by the COVID virus, and for the families of Charles Rau and Daniel Pietsch. For Alan, Annazell, Annette, Annie, Autry, Barbara, Becki, Pastor Bill, Blair, Calvin, Carolyn, Don, Doris, Earlene, Ed, Edna Mae, Edwin, Elaine, Elva, Enid, Eric, Fay, Gary, George, Iris, J.C., James, Jenelle, Jerry, JoAnne, Johnny, Jon, Juanita, Kay, Kevin, Leon, Lisa, Marjorie, Mel, Michael, Myrtle, Nellie, Nick, Oliver, Raymond, Ronnie, Sarah, Sherise, Sherry, Sheryl, Shirley, Susie, Pastor Sue, Tom, Walker, and for those we name now in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

## Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## Offering

*The offering plates will be passed this morning. You may also put your offering in the lock box in the Narthex as you exit, mail to St. Paul, PO Box 567, La Grange, Texas, 78945, or bring to the church office, 427 S Washington St. You may donate now by scanning the QR Code which will take you to myEoffering where you can register to give online - you choose the frequency of giving - you may make a one time offering or schedule when you prefer. Thank you for supporting St. Paul!*

## Offering Song

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## Offering Prayer

God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace. **Amen.**

## MEAL

## The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

## Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all. 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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## 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.**

## Communion Instructions

All who receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion in their own community of faith are welcome to receive, or you may come forward to receive a blessing. Grape juice is in the center of the tray. If you are physically unable to come forward for communion, please tell an usher and communion will be brought to you. You may also remain in your pew and use a prepackaged communion kit.

## Communion Blessing

### Prayer after Communion

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.**

## Children's Sunday School

*Children 6<sup>th</sup> grade and below gather in the back of the Sanctuary to go to the Friendship Room for Sunday School. Parents can pick their children up at 10:30 a.m.*

SENDING

## Blessing

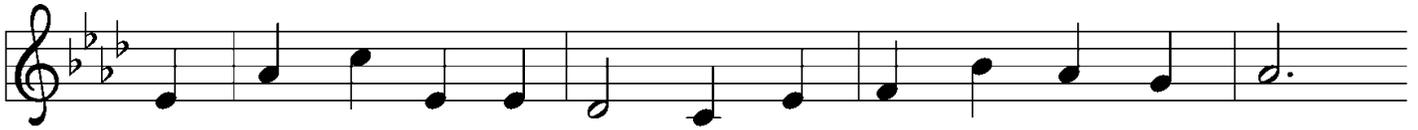
The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

**Sending Song** ELW 438 "My Lord, What a Morning" (*back of bulletin*)

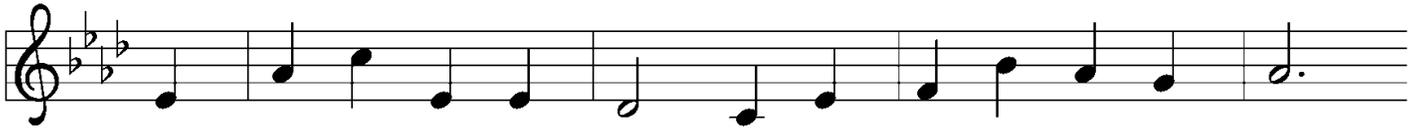
## Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near. **Thanks be to God. And we will!**

# Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, 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 - tience their cross and suf - f'ings 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

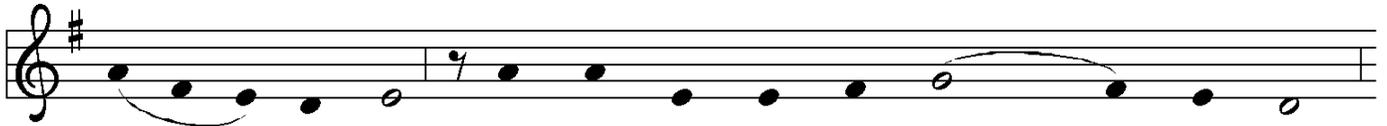
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

**SUNDAY:** 9:00 AM Worship w/ Pr. Jerry Wirtley  
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School  
**MONDAY & TUESDAY:** OFFICE CLOSED  
**WEDNESDAY:** 8:30 AM Community Bible Study  
6:00 PM Confirmation Class  
6:00 PM Handbell Choir  
6:30 PM LYO Wednesday  
7:00 PM Vocal Choir  
8:00 PM Praise Band  
**THURSDAY:** 1:00 PM LG Area Ministers  
**FRIDAY:** 5:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal  
**SATURDAY:** 4:00 PM Knesek/ Brenton wedding  
5:00 PM Worship IN FELLOWSHIP HALL w/ Pr. Wirtley  
**SUNDAY:** 9:00 AM Worship w/ Pr. Jerry Wirtley  
10:00 AM Adult Sunday School

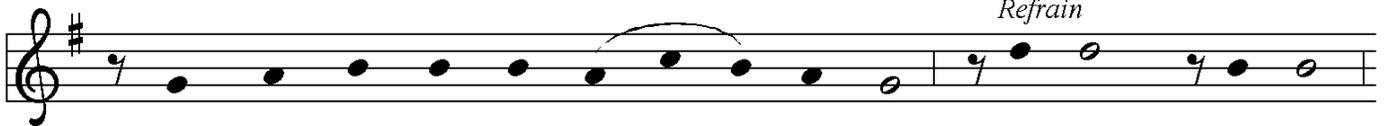
# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite  
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.  
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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# My Lord, What a Morning

*Refrain*



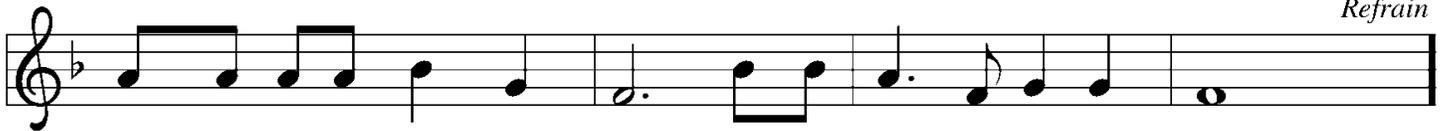
My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

*Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual

Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

**5 p.m. USHER:** Jackie Skelton

**9 a.m. USHERS:** Wayne Anders Family; **READER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ALTAR GUILD:** Gerald & JoLene Hughes

**WE WELCOME** Pastor Jerry Wirtley, Campus Pastor, Treehouse Ministries in College Station, will serve our supply pastor this weekend.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God in memory of Guy and Elsie Tiemann by granddaughter Annette Citzler.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** Thursday, November 29 & 30. Call Melinda, 979-820-8793, with emergencies.

**NEXT SATURDAY'S SERVICE WILL BE IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL!** The Knesek/Brenton wedding will be in the Sanctuary, so the Saturday evening worship service will be at 5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**AMEN DONATIONS:** We collected 234# of food for AMEN so far in November! The 2021 total to date is 1,915#, let's try to donate over 2,000# this year! You may always drop off donations in the AMEN basket or to the green baskets by the door on Walnut Street or on the office porch. Monetary donations to the AMEN Food Pantry are always welcome (mark your envelope AMEN).

### **GIFT CARDS NEEDED!**

Cheri Herbrich, Vice-President of the Fayette County Child Welfare Board will see that these cares are distributed to Fayette County children removed from their parents homes. HEB, Wal-Mart and Academy gift cards are requested, please write the gift amount on the card. Bring all cards to the church office by December 13.

**LET'S GO CHRISTMAS CAROLING!** You will be filled with the Christmas spirit!!

Please join in the rewarding ministry of Christmas Caroling. Everyone (old timers, new timers, all ages) is invited to be at St. Paul's parking lot Monday, December 13, ready to leave at 4 p.m. We will divide into groups and carpool to our members' homes.

We will end at the home of Tim and Susan Knesek about 7:30 p.m. for a Christmas party. Please bring a snack to share!

Any questions, contact Scott Toensing 979-966-2222 or Kathy Toensing 979-966-3376.

**INTERIM UPDATE:** The church Council met Tuesday, November 23, 2021, and interviewed a second Interim candidate.

Regular updates on this process will be given weekly during the announcements at all services.