

A note of joy anticipates the birth of the Christ Child- the Word made flesh in the womb of Mary- and also looks forward with delight to His return at the end of the age. This Sunday, therefore, provides a pause in the surrounding penitential nature of Advent. The symbolism of a pink or rose candle on the Advent wreath furthers the message of joy. John the Baptist is consistently featured as the herald of the Messiah's coming. Welcome all!

There is a Cry Room available for use during our worship service. It is located just outside the sanctuary.

Children Leaving the Sanctuary: This is a matter of caring concern for your child, or the young child that you are responsible for, age 13 or younger. The Board of Lay Ministry asks that if your child needs to leave the sanctuary during the worship service, you as a parent or responsible adult will need to escort them to and from the sanctuary. Thank you

**The Lord's Supper** is a very special privilege God gives to His people. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because the Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive this sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

**Hymn 355**

O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*C* **Amen.**

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

*C* **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*P* Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

*C* **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

*P* Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*C* **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### Introit

*P* Rejoice in the Lord always;

*C* **again I will say, Rejoice.**

*P* Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob,

*C* **whose hope is in the LORD his God,**

*P* who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them,

*C* **who keeps faith forever;**

*P* who executes justice for the oppressed,

**C** who gives food to the hungry.

**P** The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

**C** **The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**

**All:** **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** Rejoice in the Lord always;

**C** **again I will say, Rejoice.**

## **Kyrie**

LSB 152

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** 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.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

*P* Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



## Salutation and Collect of the Day

*P* The Lord be with you.



*P* Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



## Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14–20

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty One who will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; He will exult over you with loud singing. <sup>18</sup>I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. <sup>19</sup>Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all

the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

*P* This is the Word of the Lord.

*C* **Thanks be to God.**

### Gradual

*P* Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion.

*C* **Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem.**

*P* Behold, your King is coming to you;

*C* **righteous and having salvation.**

*P* Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

*C* **From the house of the Lord we bless you.**

### Epistle

Philippians 4:4–7

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; <sup>6</sup>do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*P* This is the Word of the Lord.

*C* **Thanks be to God.**

### Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

**C** Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a common time signature (C) and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics. The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia." The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final double bar line at the end of the second staff.

## Holy Gospel

Luke 7:18–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.



<sup>18</sup>The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, <sup>19</sup>calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are You the One who is to come, or shall we look for another?" <sup>20</sup>And when the men had come to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, 'Are You the One who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" <sup>21</sup>In that hour He healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. <sup>22</sup>And He answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. <sup>23</sup>And blessed is the one who is not offended by Me."

<sup>24</sup>When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>25</sup>What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. <sup>26</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>27</sup>This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you.'

<sup>28</sup>I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## Nicene Creed

C **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.**

**Hymn 356**

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

**Sermon Text**

Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)

**Sermon**

“Are You the One?”

1. You think you know who you are by \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Here is the wonderful truth about \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God gives you your new and wonderful identity \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Hymn 338**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

**Prayers**

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

## Preface

LSB 160

*P* The Lord be with you.



☐ And al - so with you.

*P* Lift up your hearts.



☐ We lift them to the Lord.

*P* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☐ It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

*P* It is truly good, 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 singing:

## Sanctus

LSB 161



☐ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Bless-ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

*P* Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

*C* **Amen.**

## The Words of Our Lord

*P* As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

*C* **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

*P* O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

## Pax Domini

LSB 163

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

LSB 163

**C** Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## Communion Hymns

**Hymn 629**

What Is This Bread

**Hymn 627**

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

**Hymn 623**

Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray

**Hymn 620**

Jesus Comes Today with Healing

# Thank the Lord

LSB 164



**C** Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

# Post-Communion Collect

*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.

# Benediction

LSB 166

*P* The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.



**C** A - men.

# Hymn 353

Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

**Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book  
Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2021 Concordia Publishing House.

ALTAR FLOWERS – are provided today by Larry & Beth Enders in thanksgiving and praise for their wedding anniversary. Praise and thanksgiving for Christie Wonnacott’s birthday as well.

*BUDGET*

Operating budget fund balance as of December 5, 2021 - \$117,500

**This amount represents over 8 weeks of normal day-to-day expenses of the Church and School ministries.**

VOTERS’ ASSEMBLY MINUTES – Copies of the minutes from the November 22 regular Voters’ Assembly meeting are available on the table in the narthex. These minutes include the regular board reports along with information about our 2022 congregational budget. If the supply has run out and you desire a copy for yourself, please contact Ken Eichinger. If you prefer an electronic copy, email Ken at [keneichinger@gmail.com](mailto:keneichinger@gmail.com).

**YOUTH NEWS**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:** Practices for the Christmas Eve Service will continue today following the church service and next Sunday (12/19) and last approximately an hour. We also may hold an additional practice before the Service itself on December 24th. If you have any questions, please speak with Andy Wildauer.



**TODAY:** ..... **December 12, 2021**  
Sunday School & Bible Classes..... 8:30 am  
Worship Service with Communion..... 9:30 am

Bell Choir Practice.....	4:00 pm
<b>MON:</b>	
Basketball at MCAC.....	4:30/5:30 pm
<b>TUES:</b>	
Basketball at Montessori, South Bend.....	4:30/ 5:30 pm
Prayer Meeting.....	7:00 pm
<b>WEDS:</b>	
Men’s Bible Study.....	6:30 am
Day School / Preschool Chapel.....	11:00 am
Children’s Christmas Service.....	7:00 pm
<b>NEXT SUNDAY:..... December 19, 2021</b>	
Sunday School & Bible Classes.....	8:30 am
Worship Service.....	9:30 am
Men’s Group.....	3:00 pm

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY DATES FOR DECEMBER : December 15<sup>th</sup> and December 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Sign up for Email!**

Starting in January 2022, the PR Board will begin using email as an additional way to get information out to the congregation. If you are interested in receiving emails from St. Paul's you can sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex or you can email church@stpaulsbremen.org. Please note: this will NOT change or replace anything that we are currently doing. Your email address will remain confidential and not given out to any member or be visible to anyone else receiving emails.

**Liturgical Corner**

**Worship Component:** Hymn of the Day

**Scriptural Basis:** Col. 3:16, Psalm 78:4

**Meaning:** The only Lutheran addition to the historic Mass, this hymn is usually doctrinal in nature, teaching the theme of the day by placing it on our lips.

**Application for Daily Living:** Daily prayers life is enriched by meditation upon hymn verses.

**OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD FROM HIS BLESSINGS TO US**

One of the changes brought about due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak was using an “offering box” in the narthex of the church in front of the

water fountains instead of passing an offering plate during the worship service. Please remember to give back to the Lord from the many blessings He gives us by placing your offering in the offering box or “e-tithing” by having a weekly deposit to St Paul’s from your bank account. If you have questions on e-tithing, please contact the Church Office.

### **Search for Teachers**

Thank you to those who have helped substitute teach this year! We are certainly blessed! **We are still in need of more substitute teachers.** If you are interested in subbing, please let Mr. Wildauer or Jennifer Harman know. **Also, we still are looking for a part-time 1<sup>st</sup> Grade teacher.** Potential candidates may email [mwildauer@stpaulsbremen.org](mailto:mwildauer@stpaulsbremen.org).

### **SGO**

The year is rapidly coming to an end! If you would like to receive a 50% tax credit for 2021, please send in your SGO donations by the end of December. Information is in the tract rack or available from the school office. Thank you for donating and assisting our school families with their tuition!

### **THANK YOU**

**Thanks** to all who contributed clothing for Hope Ministries and peanut butter for Bremen Bags. We collected four full truckloads of clothing and over three hundred jars of peanut butter. Pastor Wonnacott thanks God for these two opportunities and also thanks the members and friends of St. Paul’s to help our neighbors in need and show fruits of repentance! Also, the Board of Public Relations was able to share last Wednesday’s Advent meal with the Cardinal House (South) and the Bremen Police Department. Praise the Lord! Parish Fellowship and Pastor Wonnacott would like to **thank** all the Thrivent members who used their action team resources to help with projects this past year. These included dinners for Advent and Lent, dinners at Hope Ministries, Christmas lunch for the Bremen Police, Christmas parties for the Cardinal Houses, peanut butter for Bremen bags, Thanksgiving dinner for the community, Preschool Advent bags...thank you all!

**Servants for Today’s Worship**

Pastor: Rev. Neil Wonnacott  
Organist: Ellen Augustine  
Ushers: Joe Ervin & Mark Matejka  
Acolyte: Rebecca & Jessica Rogers  
Greeter: Heaven Hicks  
Elder: Lewis Haug  
Communion Assistant: Bill Rogers