

# St. Paul Lutheran Church

## CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

**Pastor:** David Reim

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**Organist:** Julie Reim

**Usher:** Ken

**Preparation for worship:** Psalm 45 (Hymnal pg. 133)

### End of the Church Year

You will see Him Coming in the Clouds  
with Great Power and Glory!



#### Invocation:

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

C:



A \_\_\_\_\_ men.

### **Call to Worship:**

P: "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;

**C: Men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth.**

P: For the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

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

P: Now when these things begin to happen,

**C: look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near." (Luke 21:25-27)**

P: "But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.

**C: For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth.**

P: Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass,

**C: and to stand before the Son of Man." (Luke 21:34-36)**

### **Opening Hymn: 609** Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

1. "Wake, awake, for night is flying,"

The watchmen on the heights are crying;

"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"

Midnight hears the welcome voices

And at the thrilling cry rejoices:

"Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?

The Bridegroom comes, awake!

Your lamps with gladness take!

Hallelujah!

With bridal care Yourselves prepare

To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

2. Zion hears the watchmen singing,

And all her heart with joy is springing,

She wakes, she rises from her gloom;  
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,  
The strong in grace, in truth victorious,  
Her Star is ris'n, her Light is come.  
"Now come, Thou Blessed One,  
Lord Jesus, God's own Son,  
Hail! Hosanna!  
The joyful call We answer all  
And follow to the nuptial hall."

3. Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee,  
Let men and angels sing before Thee,  
With harp and cymbal's clearest tone.  
Of one pearl each shining portal,  
Where, dwelling with the choir immortal,  
We gather round Thy radiant throne.  
No vision ever brought,  
No ear hath ever caught,  
Such great glory;  
Therefore will we Eternally  
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee.

**Confession of Sin: From Psalm 32**

P: Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C: Blessed is the man to whom the Lord does not impute iniquity,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile.**

P: When I kept silent, my bones grew old through my groaning all the day long.

**C: For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality  
was turned into the drought of summer.**

P: I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden.

**C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord, and You  
forgave the iniquity of my sin."**

**Cong. & Pastor: Oh Lord, our merciful and gracious God, we  
humbly confess all our sins unto You. We plead for Your mercy,  
Lord. Do not deal with us according to our sins, but graciously**

**forgive us for Jesus sake and richly bless us with Your love. Grant that we may worship You today with clean hands and a pure heart and may our worship and praise be acceptable in Your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: God our Father has had mercy upon us. He has given His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into death for us and for His sake He promises us: "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18)

**Sing:**

Melody of hymn 292

**O faithful God, thanks be to Thee For You forgive iniquity.  
You grant us help in sin's distress,  
And soul and body You shall bless.**

**O Lord, we bless Your gracious heart,  
For You Yourself do heal our smart  
Thru' Christ our Saviour's precious blood,  
Which for the sake of sinners flowed.**

**Responsive Reading: from Psalm 98**

P: Oh, sing to the Lord a new song! For He has done marvellous things;

**C: His right hand and His holy arm have gained Him the victory.**

P: The Lord has made known His salvation;

**C: His righteousness He has openly shown in the sight of the nations.**

P: He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;

**C: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

P: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;

**C: Break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.**

P: Sing to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of a psalm,

**C: Shout joyfully before the Lord, the King.**

P: For He is coming to judge the earth,

**C: With righteousness He shall judge the world, and the peoples with equity.**

### **Scripture Readings: Zephaniah 1:7-16**

7 Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. 8 And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. 9 On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.

10 "On that day," declares the Lord, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills.

11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.'

13 Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them." 14 The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. 15 A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

### **Gradual**

P: I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord:

**C: Thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.**

P: Then you shall call upon Me and pray unto Me, and I will hear you:

**C: And I will turn your captivity and gather you from all the nations and from all places.**

P: Lord, You have been favorable unto Your land:

**C: You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.**

### **Gospel Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully aware

that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. 5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

### **Confession of Faith: Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Hymn 608** Let Thoughtless Thousands Choose the Road

1. Let thoughtless thousands choose the road  
That leads the soul away from God;  
This happiness, dear Lord, be mine,  
To live and die entirely Thine.

2. On Christ, by faith, I fain would live,  
From Him my life, my all, receive,  
To Him devote my fleeting hours,

Serve Him alone with all my pow'rs.

3. Christ is my everlasting All;  
To Him I look, on Him I call;  
He will my ev'ry want supply  
In time and thro' eternity.

4. Soon will the Lord, my Life, appear;  
Soon shall I end my trials here,  
Leave sin and sorrow, death and pain.  
To live is Christ, to die is gain.

5. Soon will the saints in glory meet,  
Soon walk through every golden street,  
And sing on every blissful plain:  
To live is Christ, to die is gain.

**Sermon Text: Matthew 25:14-30**

*14 "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward,*

saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

**Theme:**

**Jesus Calls to us in Love—**

**Be Ready!**

**-I- He Warns Us of a False Faith.**

**-II- He Urges Us to an Active Faith.**

**Hymn: 396** Oh, for a Faith that Will Not Shrink

1. Oh, for a faith that will not shrink  
Tho' pressed by many a foe;  
That will not tremble on the brink  
Of poverty or woe;
2. That will not murmur nor complain  
Beneath the chast'ning rod,  
But in the hour of grief or pain  
Can lean upon its God;
3. A faith that shines more bright and clear  
When tempests rage without;  
That, when in danger, knows no fear,  
In darkness feels no doubt;
4. That bears unmoved the world's dread frown



Nor heeds its scornful smile;  
That sin's wild ocean cannot drown  
Nor Satan's arts beguile;

5. A faith that keeps the narrow way  
Till life's last spark is fled  
And with a pure and heavenly ray  
Lights up the dying bed.

6. Lord give us such a faith as this;  
And then, whate'er may come,  
We'll taste e'en now the hallowed bliss  
Of an eternal home.

**Offerings from Thankful Hearts:**

Hymn 441 st. 1-2 (while offering is presented)

**We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.**

**May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive  
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!**

**Prayers for the Church:**

**The 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

L: The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Cre ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re  
 new a right spir - it with in me. Cast me not a -  
 way from your pre-sence, and take not your ho-ly Spir - it from me. —  
 — Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -  
 hold me with your spir - it free. Cre - ate in me a clean  
 heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. —

**Responsive Reading:** Revelation 22:12-20 selected verses

P: Jesus says, “Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me,  
**C: to give to every one according to his work.**

P: I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First  
 and the Last. Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they  
 may have the right to the tree of life,

**C: and may enter through the gates into the city.**

P: I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches.

**C: I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and  
 Morning Star.**

P: And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears  
 say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come.

**C: Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.**

P: He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.”

**C: Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!**

## **Benediction:**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



## **Closing Hymn: 398 Renew Me, O Eternal Light**

1. Renew me, O eternal Light,  
And let my heart and soul be bright,  
Illumined with the light of grace  
That issues from Thy holy face.
2. Destroy in me the lust of sin,  
From all impureness make me clean.  
Oh, grant me power and strength, my God,  
To strive against my flesh and blood!
3. Create in me a new heart, Lord,  
That gladly I obey Thy Word  
And naught but what Thou wilt, desire;  
With such new life my soul inspire.
4. Grant that I only Thee may love  
And seek those things which are above  
Till I behold Thee face to face,  
O Light eternal, through Thy grace.

## **Scripture Treasure to Remember**

### **Matthew 25:21**

*“His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’”*

# Announcements

**Today:** Bible Class at 11:20

**Monday:** Choir Practice at 6:30

**Wednesday:** Skype Bible Study with Kenneth at 9:30  
Bible Study with Karrie at 2:00.

**Thursday:** Pacific Coast Pastor's Study Club at 2:00.  
Catechism Class at 4:00.

**Friday:** Visit George Rosenberg at 1:30

**Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent**

Worship Service at 10:00

Bible Class at 11:15

Christmas Eve Rehearsal with Choir and children after BC.

## **Choir and Instruments**

We have opportunities to use your talents to serve the Lord with singing or playing your instruments. Join our choir and/or let the pastor know if you would like to play your instrument for Christmas.

## **Voters Meeting Report**

**Outreach Opportunity:** The voters discussed how the current situation that we have the only Lutheran Pastor in town can be an opportunity for outreach. We are considering the possibility of having an open forum to invite people to come and see what we have to offer. Please share your ideas with us and pray for the Lord's guidance.

**Treasurer's Report:** The balance in our General Fund at the end of September was \$1556.45. However, our offerings routinely fall short of our expenses by \$200 to \$500 per month. The voters decided to transfer the interest from our Building Fund which is in a GIC to our savings account so that we can draw from it to help cover this shortfall. May the Lord blessing our work.

**Christmas Eve Service:** The voters have scheduled our Christmas Eve Service for 3:00 on Tuesday, December 24th. Our Christmas Day service will be at our regular time, 10:00 am.

## **Calendar**

Dec. 1st - 1st Sunday of Advent

Dec. 22nd - Christmas Dinner after the Service.

Dec. 24th, Tuesday, afternoon Service at 3:00?

Dec. 25th Sunday, Christmas Day Service 10:00

Jan. 1st Wednesday, New Year's Service.

Feb. 2nd Annual Voter's Meeting after the Service.

March 5th Ash Wednesday Service and beginning of Lent

May God keep us all in a living, working faith until He comes.