Third Sunday Of Advent December 13 & 14, 2015



Welcome in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ! We are happy to have you with us. We pray that your worship will be enriched and blessed by the Word of God. Restrooms are located in the hallway off the west side of the sanctuary. We also ask that you sign one of our Friendship Registers which are located in each of the pews. Please come and worship with us again!

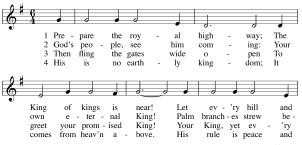
Our Worship Service

Service of the Word, page 38

WELCOME

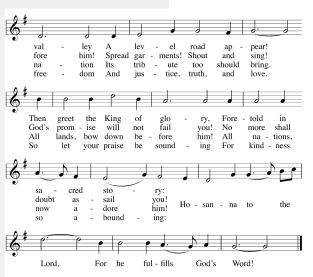
THE OPENING HYMN "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Christian Worship Supplement #702



Hymn continues on next page





This hymn reminds us that Advent is a season of preparation, as King Jesus comes to rule in our hearts and lives and leads us to his heavenly kingdom.

Text: F. M. Franzen, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship; admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: BEREBORN VAGFOR HERAN 167 5 77 74 and Refrain) Swedish folk tune, 17th century

Please Stand

THE INVOCATION

- **P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C: And also with you.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

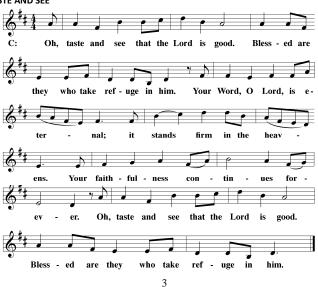
P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

- C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.
- **P:** God, our heavenly Father has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.
- C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

P: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

OH, TASTE AND SEE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Hear our prayers, Lord Jesus Christ, and come with the good news of your mighty deliverance. Drive the darkness from our hearts and fill us with your light; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please he Seated

THE FIRST LESSON ..

...Zephaniah 3:14-17

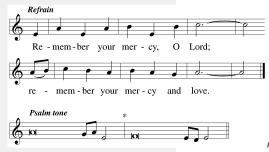
Zephaniah refers to believers with the loving terms of Daughter of Zion, Israel, Daughter of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, and Zion. The realization of our sinfulness may cause us to fear the Lord's coming, but we can rejoice because the Lord our God is with us to save us.

¹⁴ Sing, O Daughter of Zion; shout aloud, O Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O Daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing."

THE PSALM OF THE DAY

.. Psalm 130

Christian Worship Pg. 114



Psalm continues on next page

Out of the depths I cry to <u>you</u>, O LORD;*
O Lord, <u>hear</u> my voice.
Let your ears be at<u>tent</u>ive*
to my cry for <u>mer</u>cy.
If you, O LORD, kept a rec<u>ord</u> of sins,*
O Lord, <u>who</u> could stand?
But with you there is for<u>give</u>ness;*
therefore <u>you</u> are feared.



I wait for the LORD and in his Word I <u>put</u> my hope.*
My soul waits for the Lord more than
watchmen wait for the <u>morning</u>.
O Israel, put your hope <u>in</u> the LORD,*
for with the LORD is unfailing love
and with him is full redemption.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son* and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the beg<u>in</u>ning,* is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.

Refrain

5

THE SECOND LESSON Philippians 4:4-7

Even though St. Paul was in prison and had endured many hardships, he could still rejoice and give us the encouragement to do the same. Since God's forgiveness is constant, our rejoicing will also be constant.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia. (Matthew 11:10 cf. NIV)



Please Stand

THE GOSPEL LESSON......Luke 3:7-18

The Judgment is coming. Those who refuse to repent and continue to hold on to their sinful lives will be cut down. But those who repent rejoice in God's good news of forgiveness. This joy will show itself in lives filled with good works.

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." 10 "What should we do then?" the crowd asked. 11 John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" ¹³ "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. 14 Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." 15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. ¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.



Please be Seated



Hymn continues on next page

7



Please Stand

THE 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.

Please be Seated

THE OFFERING

(We invite you to sign our Friendship Registers in each pew during the offering.)

THE OFFERING PRAYER

Please Stand

THE PRAYERS

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.

Please be Seated

9

CONGREGATION HYMN......"Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates"

Christian Worship #4



Please Stand

P: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE BENEDICTION

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



Please be Seated



From our sins and fears re-lease us By your death on Cal - va - ry. Born to reign in us for - ev - er, Now your gra-cious king-dom bring.

Hymn continues on next page

Is - rael's Strength and Con - so - la-tion, Hope to all the earth im-part, By your own e - ter-nal Spir-it Rule in all our hearts a-lone;

Dear De-sire of ev-'ry na-tion, Joy of ev-'ry long-ing heart.
By your all - suf - fi-cient mer-it Raise us to your glo-rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–88, alt. Tune: St. Hilary (87 87 D) Unknown.

Worship Participants

Liturgist and Preacher Pastor Brian Adams
Organist Miss Heather Schmidt

Announcements

SOUTHSIDE MINISTRIES UPDATE: Good Morning, we have a door collection for Southside Ministries this morning. The last four years, St. Paul's has been sponsoring gift bags for the children of Food Pantry recipients. We will give out 250 gift bags containing apples, oranges, peanuts, and candy. We also will have a small toy for each child. Words fail me in trying to describe the joy that this activity brings to the children, their parents, and the volunteers.

This year was a very good year for our outreach effort. We average about 50 students twice a week (Monday and Wednesday 6 PM to 8 PM) for help with their homework throughout the year. We could use more volunteers for whatever time you could give. The only language you need is English. We have grown very close to the students as some have been attending for more than 5 years. We have been successful with most students getting very good grades and many attending Christian schools.

We have had some special times during the year such as tubing at the Rock, pizza parties, VBS, Trunk or Treat, Christmas caroling, and open playgrounds. The collection barrel at St. Paul's has been overflowing weekly with an endless supply of clothing, food, toys, school

supplies, and kitchen utensils. Thank you. This is so helpful and appreciated by the families. Although it's exhausting trying to keep up with your generosity, it's really fun distributing the donations – I'm playing Santa Claus all year long.

A special memory this year was a weekend in early November. I was delivering some furniture to the north side. On the way to pick up the furniture, I stopped at St. Paul's to empty the collection barrel. While putting the items in my car, one bag spilled a bunch of small stuffed animals. During the year, I try to put aside toys for Christmas. While at the house unloading the furniture, a little girl was watching from the porch. I pulled one of the stuffed animals from the hidden stash and gave it to her. As she snuggled the bear, It brought a huge smile to her face, and to her mother's face. As I proceeded to continue unloading the furniture, each trip from my van to the house, more children would show up on the porch. Thank God, there were exactly as many stuffed animals as children — eight. I was anxious for a while as more children kept appearing.

Christmas is a difficult time for me. The children are hearing the secular Christmas message that Santa comes for the good little girls and boys, but the naughty children get nothing. These children are wonderful, yet most of them will receive nothing for Christmas. What is the message they receive? I don't want them to question our wonderful message about the birth of Jesus by also setting them up for a Santa disappointment.

The toys we put aside during the year are made available to the children during the next couple of weeks to pick out a gift for a sibling. We have wrapping paper and tape so they can wrap the present to give to their sibling on Christmas. They really enjoy this. If you have some extra toys around the house, please bring them to the collection barrel in the next few weeks. If you have any questions, or would like to help with the tutoring, please call Gary Eickhorst at (414) 870-9215. May God continue to bless you and your family. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

- **BIBLE STUDY/SUNDAY SCHOOL:** There will be **NO** Sunday School December 20^{th} , 27^{th} or January 3^{rd} . There will be no Adult Bible Class on December 27^{th} or January 3^{rd} due to the Christmas and New Year holidays .
- PUBLIC SCHOOL CONFIRMATION INSTRUCTION CLASS: The Public School Confirmation Instruction Class will meet this Tuesday, December 15th, from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. They will not meet on Tuesday, December 22nd, and Tuesday, December 29th, due to the Christmas holiday and Christmas break.

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- MARY MARTHA CHRISTMAS PARTY: Mary Martha will be having their Christmas party this week, Tuesday, December 15th beginning at 6:00 pm.
- **SCHOOL PLAY:** Mr. Schulmeister is looking for a copy of the play "Kids From Camelot", either the written script the video, or both. If anyone has these items, please contact the school at office@stpaulsfranklin.org; or call (414)421-1930. Thank you!
- **NEIGBORHOOD CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** We will once again go Christmas Caroling on next Sunday evening, December 20th. We will meet at the church at 6:00 pm. Following the caroling, everyone is invited back to the parsonage for chili, cider and hot chocolate. If you wish to bring a snack or cookies to share, that would be fine. Also, if anyone would like to stop by the parsonage without going caroling, you are invited to join us for fellowship.
- PASTOR STERNBERG FAMILY ADDITION: In case you may not have heard, this past week on Tuesday, December 8th, Julie Sternberg, gave birth to a new-born son. His name is: Ezra Peter Sternberg. We wish the Sternberg's the Lord's blessings.
- **CALL ACKNOWLEGED:** The following letter has been received by us from Pastor Jacob Hoff, who was called as a second pastor here at St. Paul's:

"Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St. Paul's, God's inexhaustible grace and his peace that passes understanding be with you. I am humbled and thankful that God the Holy Spirit has led you to call me to be your shepherd. It is exciting to hear and read about the work you are pursuing for our Savior Jesus Christ in Franklin, Wl. It is equally exciting for me to consider how God could use me in that pursuit. What an amazing God we have – that he would choose to spread the incredibly beautiful and meaningful message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified through jars of clay like us! As I prayerfully consider how I can serve our Good Shepherd, I ask you to keep me and my family in your prayers. I look forward to learning more about your work in Wisconsin over the coming weeks as I deliberate this call. Please feel free to contact me any time! In Christ, Pastor Jacob Hoff, 703-297-5072 jakehoff@gmail.com"

- **2015 LIVING Nativity:** For a variety of reasons, we will not be having a Living Nativity this year. We will look at doing it again next year.
- **150TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT:** God has blessed St. Paul's for 150 years with his Grace. Out of thanks for the Grace of God, we have begun to undertake the project of replacing our organ.

The final cost of the organ is \$58,150. To date, we have received \$45,160.00. More information as to how everyone can participate in the project will be coming out soon. We give thanks to God for all the blessings that God has showered upon us.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE: In December, there will be many different opportunities to worship our coming Savior. The schedule is below:

December 6 – Advent 2 (8:00am & 10:30am)

December 7 – Advent 2 (6:30pm)

December 9 – Midweek Advent (6:30pm)

December 13 - Advent 3 (8:00am & 10:30am)

December 14 – Advent 3 (6:30pm)

December 20 - Advent 4 (8:00am & 10:30am)

December 21 – Advent 4 (6:30pm)

December 23 - Children's Christmas Service (6:30pm)

December 24 – Children's Christmas Service (4:30pm)

December 24 - Candlelight Service (10:00pm)

December 25 - Christmas Day Worship (10:00am)

December 27 – Christmas 1 (8:00am & 10:30am)

December 28 - No Monday Worship December 31 – New Year's Eve (6:30 pm)

ALTAR FLOWERS: This week the altar flowers are given by Pete and Sherry Kosovich in memory of their parents.

GREETER SCHEDULE 2016: The Greeter Schedule for 2016 is currently being created. If you have any changes from last year, please let Marge Gebert (414)425-5041 know by December 15th. Also, if you would like to be a greeter, there are sign- up sheets on the counter in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS AT WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY: Join the Seminary Chorus today at 3:00 or 7:00 PM for Christmas at the Seminary. The 54-voice men's choir will share the story of Jesus' birth in songs, carols, and hymns. Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is located in Mequon at 11831 N. Seminary Drive. The concert is held in the campus auditorium, and seating is available on a first-come, first-seated basis. The 3:00 PM concert is streamed live at http://livestream.com/WLSLive.

2016 GALA AUCTION: Hello Families! The Gala and Auction committee needs your help and creativity to plan an amazing event to be held on February 20, 2016. Currently, we need items like restaurant gift cards, event tickets, and experiences. We know that you have some great ideas and suggestions to make this event even bigger than the last time, please don't hesitate to share those ideas with us! Forms are located in the back of church on the counter in the narthex and can be returned to the office or via email to auction@stpaulsfranklin.org. Most importantly, please put this date on your calendar and invite family and friends! Tickets can be purchased at http://bidpal.net/stpf.

FUTURE PASTOR'S OFFICES: We will soon be starting construction on new offices for the Pastors. The cost to complete this project will be approximately \$18,000. To date we have received \$8,886.00. This work will be done with our own people including rough carpentry, drywall, insulation, painting, suspended ceilings and floor covering. If you are able to help financially in addition to your weekly offering, please place in separate envelopes stating "New Pastor's Offices". You may drop off your contribution in the school office, put it into the collection plate, or give it to Pastor Adams. If you have any questions, please contact Mark Derouin (414) 881-8944 or Bob Hille (414) 427-6106.

LUTHER PREPARATORY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERTS: Sunday, December 13, at 3:00 pm. and Thursday, December 17, at 10:00 am.

WLHS SACRED CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The annual Sacred Christmas Concert will take place this evening, at 7:00 p.m. in the WLHS auditorium. The concert will feature the A Cappella, Cantorei, and Freshman Choirs of WLHS, Inspiration, Jubilation Handbell Choir, Wisconsin Lutheran Children's Choir, and numerous instrumentalists. Admission is free, and a freewill offering will be taken during the concert.

Volunteers

GREETERS THIS WEEK (December 13 & 14)

8:00 AM – Allyn & Patsy Curler

10:30 AM - Brian & Kristal Young; Noelle & Declan

6:30 PM - Dave & Janet Long

GREETERS NEXT WEEK (December 20 & 21)

8:00 AM – Dave & Marlene Horn

10:30 AM - Jack & Kathy Klunder

6:30 PM - Richard & Kathy Hinz

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USHERS FOR DECEMBER:

8:00 AM TEAM #4 – Pete Kosovich, Craig Gebert, Matt Gebert, Gordy Lesser 10:30 AM TEAM #8 –

6:30 PM TEAM #9 – Curt Stellwagen, Dave Long, Max Grueneberg

USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

CHILDRENS SERVICE DECEMBER 23RD 6:30 PM TEAM #5-Mark Klein, Chris Klein, Gary Eickhorst, Todd Grunze, Dan Mertz, Brett Abramowski

CHILDRENS SERVICE DECEMBER 24TH 4:30 PM TEAM #7-Dave Brightsman, Kyle Brightsman, Brandon Wirtz, Austin Wirtz, Ian Wirtz, Randy Raduenz, Peter Eppen, Ian Eppen

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE DECEMBER 24TH 10:00 PM TEAM

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE DECEMBER 25TH 10:00 AM TEAM #3 Donn Johnson, John Migacz, Brad Johnson, Frank Krajewski

ALTAR GUILD:

December 9-December 22- TEAM #2 Jane Koplein, Karen Hille, Kelly Cannistra December 23-December 29- TEAM #3 Jane Koplein, Carol Wilms

The Weekly Schedule

Sunday, December 13	
Worship Service	8:00 AN
Adult Bible Study/Sunday School	
Worship Service	
Monday, December 14	
Worship Service	6:30 PN
Tuesday, December 15	
PSCIC	6:00 PN
Mary Martha Christmas Party	6:00 PN
Wednesday, December 16	
Adult Choir Rehearsal	6:30 PN

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Worship Service with Communion 10:30 AM
Neighborhood Christmas Caroling 6:00 PM

Statistics – Last Week

Attendance: 8:00 am 116, Communed-108; 10:30 am- 126, Communed-84; 6:30 pm-61, Communed-55
Total Attendance 303, Total Communed 247
Bible Class 22, Sunday School 8

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Friday, December 18

Sunday, December 20

School Devotion