

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 250 * 205 West Jefferson Street
Cole Camp, MO 65325

"Being Transformed By God's Grace To Love And Serve."

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If it is uncomfortable for you to stand where indicated, please feel free to remain seated. The congregation responds where it is bold print.



THE POWER OF YES - MARY SAID YES

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Dialog

God loved Mary very much. He sent His angel Gabriel to Mary, with a message asking her to carry a baby who would be the son of God.

She could've said no.

Mary said YES

Maybe she should've said no.

Mary said YES

There were reasons she might've said no.

Mary said YES

Mary took a risk. She took a chance on God.

Mary said YES

Opening Hymn

"How Many Kings"

How Many Kings

Words and Music by
Marc Martel and Jason Germain

$\text{♩} = 162$

VERSE 1

B

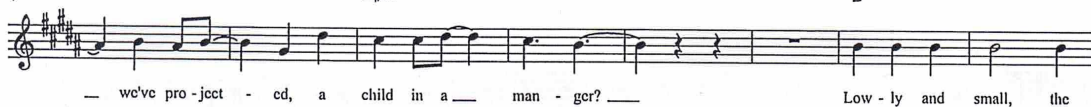
G#m



7

C#m

B



15

G#m

C#m



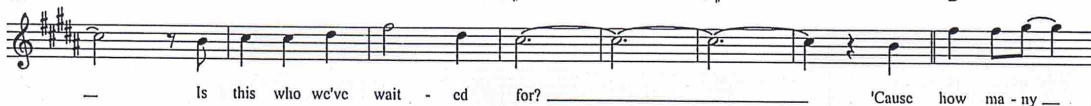
22

F#sus

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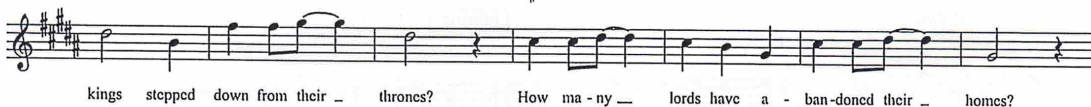
CHORUS 1

B



30

G#m



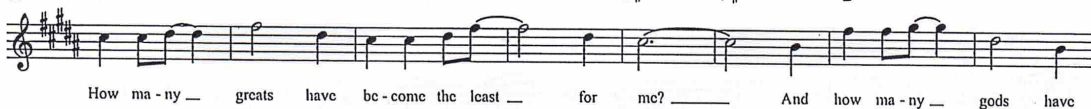
37

C#m

F#sus

F#

B



45

G#m

C#m



52 2nd time to Coda Φ $F\sharp^{sus}$ $F\sharp$ VERSE 2
B

fa - thers gave up their sons for me? _____ 2. Bring - ing out gifts for the

61 $G\sharp m$ $C\sharp m$

new - born Sav - ior all that we have, wheth - er cost - ly or meek, be - cause we be -

68 B $G\sharp m$

-lieve, _____ Gold for His hon - or and frank - in - cense for _____ His plea - sure and

76 $C\sharp m$

myrrh for the cross He'll suf - fer. Do you be - lieve? Is

81 $F\sharp^{sus}$ $F\sharp$ D.S. al Coda

this who we've wait - ed for? _____

87 Φ Coda $F\sharp^{sus}$ $F\sharp$ $F\sharp^{sus}$ $F\sharp$ BRIDGE A $E/G\sharp$

_____ On - ly one _ did that _____ for me. _____ Oh, _____

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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.**

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Litany

Responsive Reading: Psalm 34:1-9

¹ I will bless the Lord at all times; the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

² **I will glory in the Lord; let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

³ Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; let us exalt God's name together.

⁴ **I sought the Lord, who answered me and delivered me from all my terrors.**

⁵ Look upon the Lord and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed.

⁶ **I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me and saved me from all my troubles.**

⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear the Lord and delivers them.

⁸ **Taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are they who take refuge in God!**

⁹ Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord, for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.

We light three candles for the mystery of the Trinity: Creator, Christ, and Spirit.

We light three candles as we worship that which we cannot ever fully name.

We light three candles to say YES to the invitation,
to look for the holy in the most surprising of places.

Hymn of Praise "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" #240 vs. 1-3

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.....**Lord God, give us courage like Mary, that we too might say yes to you in the most unlikely circumstances, and bear witness to your justice for all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Children's Sermon

Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller

Gospel Acclamation "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#257 vs. 5

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1st chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. ³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰ indeed, his

mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”
⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Stephen Zeller

please stand in body or spirit

Hymn of the Day

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came”

#265

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Sharing The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

please be seated

Offering



please stand in body or spirit

Offertory

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

#257 vs. 6

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray... God of every good gift, we offer what we have back to you, knowing that your son is the greatest gift we will ever receive. Grant us glad and generous hearts, ever and always. **Amen.**

**(1) O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**(2) Sharing a table, Jesus and disciples,
Blessing and breaking bread, he said to them:
"This is my body, take it and remember."
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**(3) Then, after supper, Jesus blessed the chalice,
"This, a new covenant, for you and for all."
Eat this, and drink this, do this in remembrance.
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**(4) Sing, "Holy Holy," sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God.., in.. the.. highest!"
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**



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

HOLY COMMUNION

By Stations

All who believe that Jesus is present in the Bread and the Wine
and has the power to forgive are welcome to commune.
Red wine or white grape juice is available.

Communion Hymns

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

#263

“Away in the Manger”

#277

please stand in body or spirit

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.....Christ Jesus, you have fed us with love incarnate, and we are truly changed.
Send us forth from this meal to be forces for change in this world, as we find the YES within
each of us. In Jesus’ name we pray, **Amen.**

Blessing

May God bless you with courage, as you seek the YES within you;
May Christ be born again in every risk you take for the sake of the world;
And may the Holy Spirit remind you, again and again, that you are never alone, and that
you are loved beyond measure. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

#270

Dismissal

Go in peace. Keep saying “yes”!

Thanks be to God.

"THE POWER OF YES"



Welcome: On this third Sunday in Advent, let us rejoice in God's great love revealed to us in Christ. We have received "glad tidings of great joy." Therefore let us show our joy by sharing this glorious news with one another in a spirit of love, peace and friendship. Welcome friends!

We invite everyone to enjoy coffee and fellowship before worship in the Gathering Space. Please join us!

In Our Prayers: "Unspoken prayer concerns", Robert Tatum, Jerome Goosen, Nathan Vanderlinden, Ron Eickhoff, Gordon Ives, Norene Ives, Jon Beckman, Scott Cash, Judie VonHolten, Greg Ives, and Kyle Luetjen. Mike Wingerter (brother of Susan Goosen), Donna Braniff (niece of Paul Fuelling), Kathy Harms, Deanna Browning, Debra Eichler, Kylie Simon, Hazel Karstons, Marvin Logan (brother of Gale Logan), Larry Haase (brother-in-law of Gene Beckman), David Mobely (brother-in-law of Randy Healan), Joyce Jones (sister of Connie Gerken), Kris Barnes (friend of Julie Cronin), Joe Campbell, Cliff Eickhoff, Carmilla Swaim and husband (friends of Debbie Eickhoff), Joseph Fuelling (nephew of Paul Fuelling), Karen Haase (sister-in-law of Gene Beckman), Jackie Ross (sister of Randy Healan), Adam Gumbel (son of Jim & Kim Gumbel) and Shirley Cash



Nursing Home: Vern Dean Bohling, Larry & Judy Schlesselman: *Anew*. Marie Viebrock & Florence VonHolten: *GSCC*.

Military: Please keep all those who have served our country past and present in your prayers, especially: Lt. Col. Ron Poe, Major Joseph Strathman, Rank E3 Jensen Hamilton (son of Matt & Isabel Hamilton and grandson of Judie VonHolten), Private Bradyn Hood (grandson of Connie Gerken), MSgt. Jason Ostberg (son-in law of Suzanne Lutjen) and Capt. Ashlie Colston (daughter of Jon Beckman).



Prayers: If you would like your name added or removed from the prayer list, please contact the church office at 668-3537.



Christmas Program Practice: The children of St. Paul's (PreK-8th grade) will present the Story of Christmas during the evening worship service on Christmas Eve. Program practice is at 9:00 am (during the Sunday School hour) in the Fellowship Hall and will run each Sunday until Christmas.

Let's Sing Again: If anyone interested in singing in the choir on Christmas Eve the next practice will be Wednesday, **December 17th** at 6:30pm. You can contact Joyce Schlesselmann if you have any questions .



BCHD Health Care: The Benton County Health Department will be here on Thursday, **December 18th** from 8:00am until 10:00am to assist you with your health care needs.

Annual Meeting: Our Annual Meeting will be Sunday, **January 18th**, starting at 12:15 pm. At this year's meeting we will be using electronic voting devices instead of paper ballots. This will eliminate the time it takes to hand-count the paper ballots, allowing for a quicker meeting. If you would like to see and practice with the electronic voting devices, join us immediately after worship on either Saturday, **December 13**, or Sunday, **December 14**, for a quick test run. If you have any questions, please contact a member of Council.



Winterfest: Bundle up (depending on the weather) and celebrate with us the joy of the season! Winterfest will be held on Friday evening, **December 19th**, at our Grove Street property behind the church. Join us at any point in the evening starting at 5:30 pm. We will have a bonfire (guaranteed to keep you warm!) with hot chocolate, hot dogs, and other snacks. Bring a chair, a blanket, a friend, and we'll see you at Winterfest!

Baptism: Everett Randolph Schweitzer will be washed clean in the waters of Holy Baptism on Sunday, **December 21st**. We welcome him into the fellowship of faith that we all share through baptismal grace of God. Everett is the son of Colby and Hannah Schweitzer and was born on October 24th.





Angel Tree: Thank you to everyone who contributed gifts to the Christmas for Kids program through our Angel Tree!! There are a lot of families in our community who will receive that extra help during the holidays, and it is truly appreciated! Our Angel Tree will remain up during December. There are new angels on the tree with ideas for a gift collection that can be given to a senior in our area or at one of our local care facilities. Those gifts should be wrapped and need to be returned to St. Paul's by **December 21st**. Again, thank you for your care and generosity this Christmas season!



An Invitation to ALL women of St. Paul's: Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering will be held in Des Moines, Iowa - **July 16 - 19, 2026**. There is information regarding the Triennial in the Link. Please note that the registration for the three days is presently \$475, however, the registration will increase on **January 1, 2026** to \$525. There is a scholarship application for *first time* Gathering attendees in the Link, which would cover your registration. This application is due to Rita Nelson by November 30. Questions?? See Janice...

Free Yoga Class: Every Monday at 6:30pm at St. Paul's in the Fellowship Hall, a free yoga class will be offered. Thanks to new local doctor and certified Yoga instructor, Stephanie Schirding, for offering her time! This is a beginner's class.



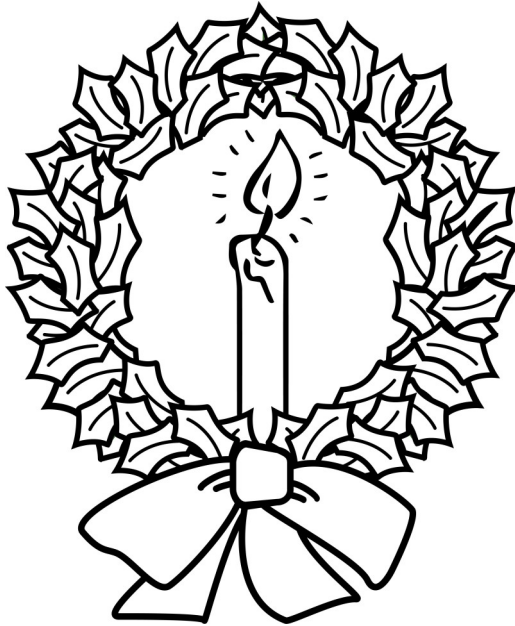
Secret Sisters

Secret Sisters: It's that time of the year for ***secret sister reveals for 2025 AND to sign up as a secret sister for 2026***. The Secret Sister signups are located at each usher's stand. Sign up and enjoy a year of cards, small gifts, and prayers!

~ * ~ **IN OUR COMMUNITY** ~ * ~

Live Nativity: Mt. Hulda Lutheran Church will have its Live Nativity Display **Tonight**. Viewing starts at 6:30 until 7:30 p.m. Please enter from Highway 'B' onto Mt. Hulda Avenue. Stop by the church for refreshments and caroling.





~ * ~ **Coming Events** ~ * ~

December 19.....	Winterfest
December 24.....	Christmas Eve Worship Service
December 25.....	Christmas Day Worship Service
December 27.....	No Casual Worship Service
January 18.....	Annual Meeting



GOOD NEWS TO THE SHEPHERDS

What did the angel of the Lord say to the shepherds?

Directions: Write the first letter of each picture on the lines.

“



”



Luke 2:11, NIV

Answer: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." Luke 2:11, NIV

...his name
shall be called



Wonderful
Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting
Father,
PRINCE
of Peace



Isaiah 9:6

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Ministers The Whole Congregation
Presiding Minister Pastor Stephen Zeller
Organist Lois Viebrock
Pianist Jeannette VonHolten
AV Technicians Russ Oelrichs & Todd Rusk
Altar Guild Kathy Oelrichs & Sharel Wienberg
Ushers Victoria Fox, Assistant Head Usher
..... Scott Gerken, Eric Kullman, John Oelrichs & Braden Poe



Second Sunday of Advent ~ December 14, 2025

Assisting Minister Tom Oelrichs
Communion Assistants Debbie Eckhoff & Trisha Goosen
Reader Krista Poe, Lynn Schear & Lesa Warden
Children's Sermon Pastor Kim Knowle-Zeller
Acolytes Kelsey Viebrock & Charlotte Zeller
Flowers Advent Wreath



Third Sunday of Advent ~ December 21, 2025

Assisting Minister Anne Goosen
Communion Assistants Luther League
Reader Luke Goosen
Children's Sermon Jennifer Rehmer
Acolytes Fred Goosen & Evan Randall
Flowers Advent Wreath