

**COLLECT:** Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN**

**THE GOSPEL LESSON:** Luke 21:25-31 (NKJV)

<sup>25</sup> "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; <sup>26</sup> men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, 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 happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."

<sup>29</sup> Then He spoke to them a parable: "Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. <sup>30</sup> When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. <sup>31</sup> So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near."

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**THANK YOU, ALL OF YOU WHO SHOWED UP FOR  
THE "GREENING OF THE CHURCH"  
IT LOOKS GREAT DOESN'T IT?**



*ST. Paul's CEC*  
charismatic evangelical sacramental together



**Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Birthday: December 3<sup>rd</sup> = Pat Bird**

**Be persistent**, don't give up, continue to pray for healing and good continued health for Ralph Kalian, Elton Blair, Jack Gilmour, Bill Ruth, Pat Bird, and Kevin Helms.

**Monday night, December 17<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00 PM we will be caroling at Gaye Haven. We will meet here at the Church at 5:15 and leave promptly at 5:30 to be there on time. Please come join us for this happy and joyous occasion. There will be an afterglow Christmas party following the caroling at the Hoff residence.

**Gifts for the residents...**please see Al and Jean Dillon for a list of residents and their simple gift requests.

**POT TRUST IS BACK.....** This month on December 16th, our Pot Trust will be different. Instead of having just dishes to pass, we will plan on having our annual Christmas party after Church that day. Appetizers, cookies, candies and Christmas theme food. Contests, prizes, singing, and lots of good cheer.

**We decorate** the church with Poinsettias at Advent and Christmas. If you would like to donate toward some more of them, please designate this on your offering envelope.

## **FIRST READING** Zechariah 14:4-9 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south. <sup>5</sup> You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. <sup>6</sup> On that day there will be neither sunlight nor cold, frosty darkness. <sup>7</sup> It will be a unique day—a day known only to the LORD—with no distinction between day and night. When evening comes, there will be light. <sup>8</sup> On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half of it east to the Dead Sea and half of it west to the Mediterranean Sea, in summer and in winter. <sup>9</sup> The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

## **THE PSALM** Psalm 50 (NKJV)

The Mighty One, God the LORD has spoken and called the earth from the rising of the sun to its going down.

**\*Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,  
God will shine forth.**

Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent;  
A fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be  
very tempestuous all around Him.

**\*He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the  
earth, that He may judge His people:**

"Gather My saints together to Me, those who have  
made a covenant with Me by sacrifice."

**\*Let the heavens declare His righteousness,  
for God Himself *is* Judge.**

For every beast of the forest *is* Mine, *and* the cattle  
on a thousand hills.

**\*I know all the birds of the mountains, and the wild  
beasts of the field *are* Mine.**

"If I were hungry, I would not tell you; for the  
world *is* Mine, and all its fullness.

**\*Offer to God thanksgiving, and pay your vows to  
the Most High.**

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you,  
and you shall glorify Me."

**\* Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; and to him who  
orders his conduct aright I will show the  
salvation of God."**

## **SECOND READING** 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup> How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? <sup>10</sup> Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. <sup>12</sup> May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. <sup>13</sup> May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be holy and blameless in the presence of our God when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.