



*“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word;  
for my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.”*

## **The First Sunday after Christmas**

**December 31, 2023**

**9:30 a.m.**

This Morning's Hymns

390 392 389 556 388

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in Heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the Mediator of a New Covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better Word than the blood of Abel.

*Hebrews 12:18–24*

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread . . . For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My Body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This Cup is the New Covenant in My Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

*1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:23–29*

*Who receives this sacrament worthily?* Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

*Luther's Small Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar*

Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass; for the Mass is retained among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved . . . For ceremonies are needed to this end alone: that the unlearned be taught what they need to know of Christ . . . The people are accustomed to partake of the Sacrament together, if any be fit for it, and this also increases the reverence and devotion of public worship. For none are admitted except they be first examined.

*Augsburg Confession XXIV: Of the Mass*

### A Welcome to Our Visitors

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad that you have joined us this morning to receive from our gracious God and to offer Him your prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. If this is your first visit to St. Paul, or you have never received the Lord's Supper from Pastor Wahl, we ask that you speak with him or one of the elders before receiving Holy Communion. Children and adults who are not permitted to the Sacrament of the Altar may come forward and cross their arms against their chest to indicate they would like to receive a blessing at the rail.



1 Let us all with glad-some voice Praise the God of heav - en,  
 2 To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sad - ness,  
 3 We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a won - der?  
 4 Christ, our Lord and Sav - ior dear, Be Thou ev - er near us.



Who, to bid our hearts re - joice, His own Son hath giv - en.  
 That with Him in heav'n's fair homes We may reign in glad - ness.  
 There-fore praise God ev - er - more Here on earth and yon - der.  
 Grant us now a glad new year. A - men, Je - sus, hear us.

## ✠ CONFESSIO AND ABSOLUTIO ✠

**P** In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**P** Our help is in the Name of the Lord,

**C** who made Heaven and earth.

**P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

**C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**C** O Most Merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**P** Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His Name He gives power to become the children of God and as promised them his Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

**C** Amen.

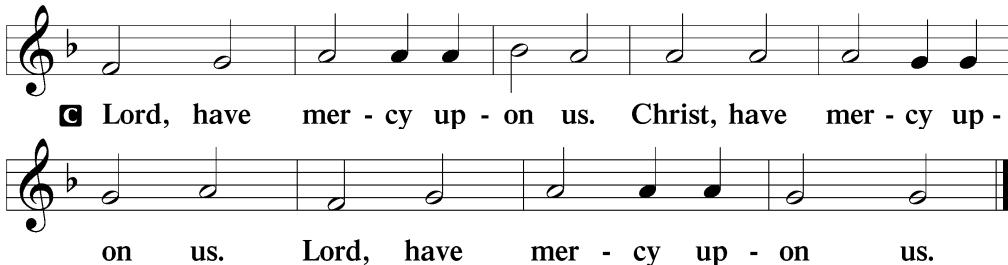
## ✠ SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

### Introit

*Psalm 93:1, 3–4; antiphon: vv. 5, 2*



## Kyrie

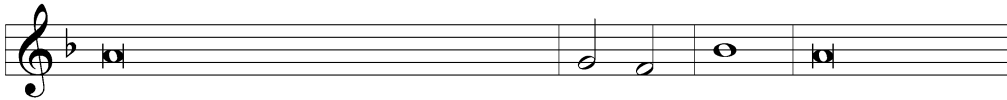


**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Gloria in Excelsis



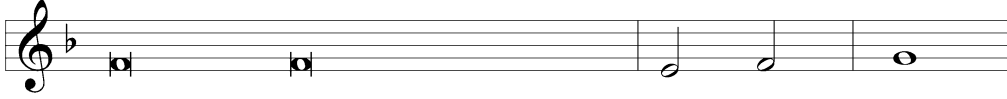
**P** Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, good - will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up-on us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re-ceive our prayer.



Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up-



on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.



Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,



art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Let us pray. O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

*Sit*

### Old Testament

*Isaiah 11:1-5*

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth

with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalm 45:2a, 1b*



You are the most handsome of the | sons of men;\*  
grace is poured up- | on your lips.  
I address my verses | to the king;\*  
my tongue is like the pen of a | ready scribe.

## Epistle

*Galatians 4:1-7*

ⁱI mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ²but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## Alleluia & Verse



**C** Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 2:22-40*

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



**C** Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) <sup>24</sup>and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” <sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup>And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. <sup>27</sup>And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup>he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, <sup>29</sup>“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup>that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup>And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup>(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

<sup>36</sup>And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup>and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**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.

Sit

Hymn of the Day

God Loves Me Dearly

392



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -  
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and  
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -  
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did  
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.  
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.  
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.  
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.  
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.



*Refrain*  
 There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me



dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Sermon

A Day Longer?

Rev. Randy Wahl

Offering

Stand

### Offertory



**C** 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 Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -  
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

### Prayer of the Church

- P** Let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord have mercy.

## ✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠

### Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.



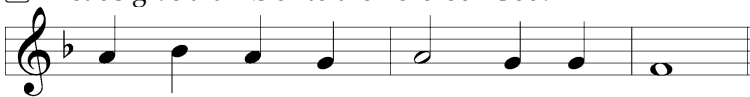
**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.



**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

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



**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface

It is truly meet, 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 saying:

## Sanctus



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;



heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,



ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,



bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## 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.

## The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the New Testament in My ✠ Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## Pax Domini

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



**C** A - men.

## Agnus Dei



**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the

world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit*

**Distribution Hymns**

Let All Together Praise Our God 389

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice 556

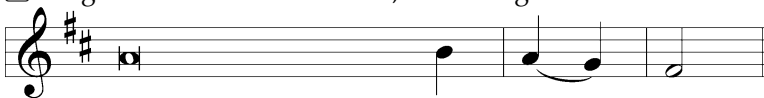
*Stand*

**Nunc Dimittis**

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-  
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,  
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,  
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy  
people Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and  
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

**P** O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good.



**C** and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

**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.

## Salutation and Benedicamus

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.




**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.


## Hymn

## Go Tell It on the Mountain


*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

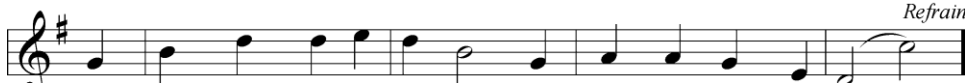


Go tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem - bled When lo, a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger The hum-ble Christ was born;

*Refrain*



Be - hold, through - out the heav - ens There shone a ho - ly light.  
 Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

**Acknowledgments**

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*To God Alone be all the Glory!*

## ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*"To Shine Forth the Light of God's Love into Our World"*

# BULLETIN NEWS

## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday, December 31	9:30am	Divine Service	Sanctuary
	11:30am	Congregational Potluck	Irmer Hall
Monday, January 1		Church Office Closed	

## **BIRTHDAYS**

01/01 – Jorge Jimenez  
01/01 – Anne Smith  
01/04 – Vickie Hulteen  
01/05 – David Oravec  
01/05 – Taryn Wininger

## **BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS**

01/05 – Jonathan Quiñones

## **CHURCH OFFICE COPY MACHINE**

Donations are being requested for the purchase of a replacement copy machine for our church office. The cost is \$3,780.00 plus tax. If you would like to donate directly to this purchase, please label your donation with "Copy Machine" and place your donation in the offering plate.

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY PROJECT - Cymantha Makeley**

Social ministry's will be collecting canned and boxed food to help fill the shelves of the food pantry at the Lutheran Church on 51<sup>st</sup> Ave and Glendale. Let's all the people in need.



## LET US PRAY FOR...

Please keep this list available for your daily devotions. *For prayer requests Church office (623) 846-2228, or email at [info@stpaulslutheran-az.com](mailto:info@stpaulslutheran-az.com). Prayer requests are removed after three weeks.*

### IMMEDIATE CONCERNS:

**Sharon Meyer**, recovering from COVID.

**Suzanne Berna**, recovering from a fall and a broken arm.

### ON-GOING CONCERNS:

**Randy Parker**, receiving treatment for Leukemia

**Dennis Stonecypher**, suffering an undiagnosed illness

**Nigel Proctor** – suffering from severe digestive issues

**Wayne Bartels** – ongoing health issues

**Jonathan Brant** – recovering from surgery

**Nicholas Jimenez, Linda Rossow, Jim Rucker, Pat Haas**

**Kevin Stamm** – recovering from surgery

**Debbie Dyjak** – ongoing eyesight concerns

**Suzi Riley** – suffering from sleep apnea

**Jorge Jimenez** – fighting cancer

**Rose Tressler** – health issues

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

**Bill Garber** (cousin of Jeanne Schubring) diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

**Rei Imer** (sister of Louise Ahrens) going through 12-week Chemo treatment.

**Sharon Wies** (wife of Cliff Wies, cousin of Vickie Hulteen) diagnosed with metastatic lung cancer.

**Nick Koontz** (husband of Mary Howard's stepdaughter) diagnosed with leukemia.

### THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING:

Family and friends of **Lois Carlson**, died October 2023.

### MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY ST. PAUL:

Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram and wife, **Joan**, serving in Japan.

Rev. Steven Massey and son, **Marco**, serving in Guatemala.

Rev. Stephen Oliver and wife, **Maggie, and children**, serving in Taiwan and the Asia Region.

**Debbie Dyjak**, preparing to serve in Latvia

**PSWD Missions**

### PRAY FOR ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH/THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD:

The Rev. Randy Wahl and family

Sunday School teachers & children

Maryvale Preparatory Academy families & staff

The Rev. Jeff Proctor and family

LCMS officers, congregations & schools

Lexington Life Academy families & staff

**OUR NATION:** For all elected and appointed public servants, and all who labor to maintain peace and order.

**FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY** (*members, friends, or relatives*): **Lucas Butterfass, Erich Dyjak, Nathanael Dyjak, Juan Garcia, Robert Gilmore, Tiffany Gilmore, Robert Majewski, Mike Nguyen, Ethan Peterman, Andy Smiley, Jacob Wilson**

**OUR SHUT-INS:** **Anne Smith, Suzanne Berna**