

JOIN US FOR A

# CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

DECEMBER 15, 2024  
BEGINS AT 9:00 AM

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
1701 16th Ave, Sterling, IL

Join us this holiday season for St. Paul's Christmas program. Worship will be led by our youth. Bring your family and friends as we come together in fellowship, sharing the love and light of Christ. Enjoy festive treats and the warmth of our community as we honor this cherished time of year. Mark your calendars and be part of our joyful gathering!



**Sunday, November 24, 2024  
9:00 a.m.**

## Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

It is a joy to gather together for worship!

### St. Paul Purpose Statement

Living Christ centered lives so we may love all, serve our community, and share the Word.

### Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. In-person worship with Holy Communion

10:00 a.m. In-person Sunday School – September – May

### Communion

We celebrate Jesus' presence each week in Holy Communion. This is the Lord's Supper and Jesus invites us: whether you are a lifelong Lutheran, or just considering Christianity; if you are an infant or elderly; if your family has been in the United States for generations, or has only recently arrived; if you are LGBTQIA+ or straight; if you live with disabilities, chronic illness, or are able-bodied and currently healthy; if you are home-blessed or homeless; ... YOU are welcome at God's meal of grace at St. Paul.

### Accessibility

Handicap parking, entrance, wheelchair, and restrooms are available. Sound amplifiers and large print bulletins are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

### Children's Offering

The November and December children's offering will be for the God's Global Barnyard through the ELCA Good Gifts. A gift to God's Global Barnyard will be used where needed most to support livestock, agriculture and other sustainable-development projects, which help farmers and families with the resources they need to thrive.

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815-625-3069

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[www.stpaulsterling.com](http://www.stpaulsterling.com)

### Prelude

*"I Lift My Eyes" with "All Creatures of our God and King"*

arr. by Carol Tornquist

### Welcome/Announcements

#### GATHER

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our refuge, our delight, our beginning and our end.

**All: Amen.**

P: Let us come in truth before the one who loves us and has freed us from our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Eternal One, robed in majesty and mercy, we confess that sin has taken hold of us and we are complicit in its power. We are disturbed in spirit and our hearts cannot rest. Unbind us and set us free. Lead us again to the waters of rebirth, that we may live just and generous lives for the good of your world and the care of our neighbors, following in the servant way of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

P: These words are trustworthy and true: Christ bore our sins once, for all, on the cross, swallowing up death forever. For his sake, you are † forgiven and God remembers your sin no more. Let your heart be glad again, and rejoice in your salvation.

**All: Amen.**

### GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

## Gathering Hymn

### “Before You Lord, We Bow”

ELW #893



1 Be - fore you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns a - bove and  
2 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, each vale and for - est green, shine  
3 Earth, hear your mak - er's voice; your great re - deem - er own; be -  
4 And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may then ev - 'ry land from



rules the world be - low with bound - less pow'r and love. Our thanks we  
forth in wis - dom's light, and its rich fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry  
lieve, o - bey, re - joice, and wor - ship God a - lone. Cast down your  
all its rend - ing tombs send forth a glo - rious band, a count - less



bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise, to you we sing!  
tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grate - ful song.  
pride, your sin de - plore, and bow be - fore the Cru - ci - fied.  
throng, with joy to sing to heav'n's high king sal - va - tion's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.

Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

**All: Almighty God, your sovereign purpose brings salvation to birth. Give us faith to be steadfast amid the tumults of this world, trusting that your kingdom comes and your will is done through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## First Reading: Revelation 1:4b-8

R: <sup>4b</sup> Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins

by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

<sup>8</sup> “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## Gospel: John 18:33-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>33</sup> Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” <sup>35</sup> Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” <sup>36</sup> Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” <sup>37</sup> Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for

this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Children’s Message

### Sermon

### Hymn of the Day

*“We Will Glory”*

1 We will glo - ri - fy the King of kings, we will  
2 Lord Je - ho - vah reigns in maj - es - ty, we will  
3 He is Lord of heav - en, Lord of earth, he is  
4 Hal - le - lu - jah to the King of kings, hal - le -

glo - ri - fy the Lamb; we will glo - ri - fy the  
bow be - fore his throne; we will wor - ship him in  
Lord of all who live; he is Lord a - bove the  
lu - jah to the Lamb; hal - le - lu - jah to the

Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.  
righ - teous - ness, we will wor - ship him a - lone.  
u - ni - verse, all praise to him we give.  
Lord of lords, who is the great I AM.

Text: Twila Paris  
Music: Twila Paris; arr. David Allen  
Text and music © 1982 Brentwood-Benson Music Publishing

### Prayers of Intercession

P: Rooted in God’s abundant love for the world, let us pray for our neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

*Each petition ends with these words:*

P: Merciful God,

**All: receive our prayer.**

### Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you!**

P: Let us share a sign of Christ’s peace in whatever way you are comfortable.

### MEAL

### Offering

*“He Is Exalted”*

arr. by Phillip Keveren

### Offering Prayer

P: Lord Jesus, our portion and our cup, you offered yourself in love for the world, and in this meal you nourish us with your life. Fill us with your abundance, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger, trusting in your name.

**All: Amen.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

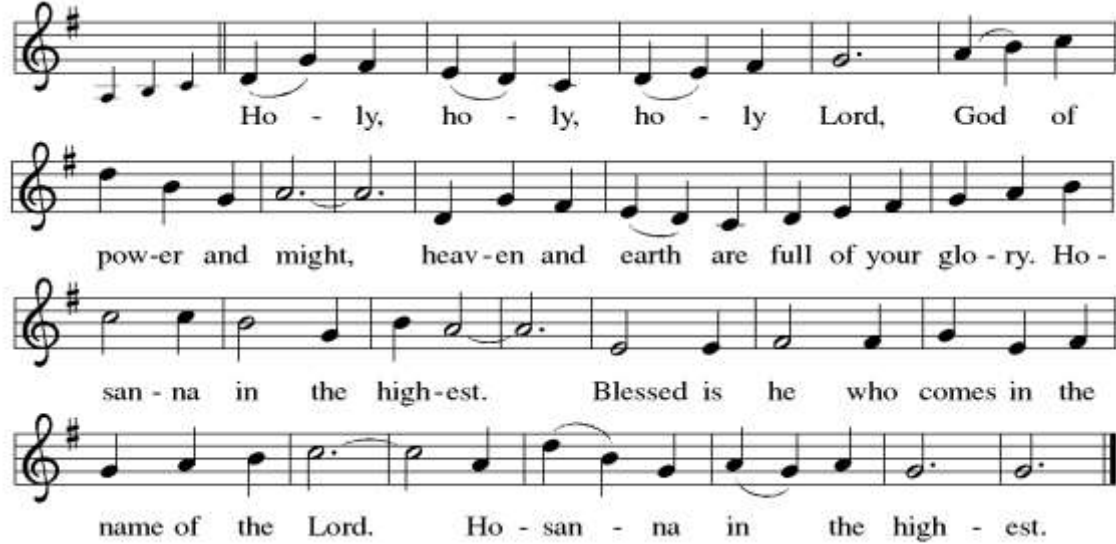
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Words of Institution

### Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

## Invitation to Communion

P: Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

## Communion Music

### "Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### "We Bow Down"

arr. by Mark Hayes

## Prayer after Communion

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**All: Amen.**

P: Let us pray

Faithful God, you have spread before us a feast of rich food and drink in the body and blood of your Son. Now send us out to labor with you, in service to the world you have made, and among the people you have made your home, in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**All: Amen**

## Blessing

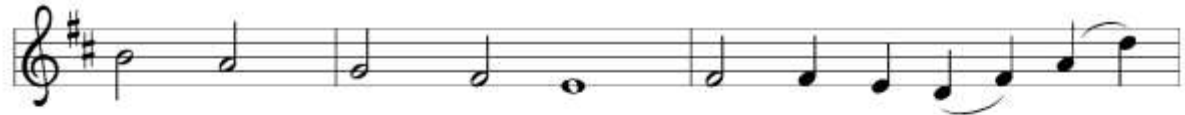
P: The Ancient One, enthroned, the Crucified One, now risen, the Indwelling One, poured out, ✠ bless you now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**Sending Song**  
**“Jesus Shall Reign”**  
ELW #434



1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar



ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with



shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another in Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**“O Worship the King”**  
arr. by Tim Doran

**We Remember in Prayer;** those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Steven Julifs, Bev Julien, Phyllis Jacobson, JoAnn Garcia, Barb Lenn, Lori Dewey, Betty Steinke, Michael Harting, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Sandy Julifs, and Lila Edeus.

**Worship Assistants:**

Presider: Pastor Mark Luepke  
Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean  
Acolytes – Ordean family  
Greeters – John Renner, Gary Fields  
Ushers – Greg Zeigler, Dan Dir  
Reader – Greg Zeigler  
Sound – David Carrillo

**Musicians:**

Virginia Schumaker  
Julie Woessner

**Next week – December 1**

Presider: Pastor Susan Davenport  
Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean  
Advent Readers – Ordean family  
Acolytes – Ordean family  
Greeters – Bob & Judy Bartel  
Ushers – Bill & Carolyn Duncan  
Reader – Bill Duncan  
Sound – Greg Zeigler  
Altar Guild – Debbie O'Brien, Diane Yoeckel  
Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*

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