

**Sunday, January 12, 2025  
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 January children's offering will be for the Twin Cities Pads Homeless Shelter in Sterling. They are experiencing high numbers of people seeking shelter and are seeking physical and/or monetary donations. Click [HERE](#) to see what physical items they are in need of.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

[pastormark@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:pastormark@stpaulsterling.com)

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### Prelude

*"Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)"*

Words and Music by Matt Crocker, Joel Houston and Salomon Ligthelm

### Welcome/Announcements

#### GATHER

### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**All: Amen.**

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.

**All: Amen.**

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**All: Amen.**

### GREETING

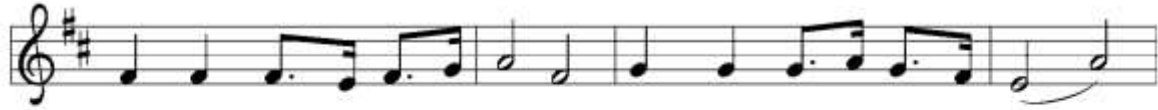
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

## Gathering Hymn

### “Shall We Gather at the River”

ELW #423



1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,  
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,  
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;  
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

*Refrain*



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899

Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

**All: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## Psalm: Psalm 29

R: Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**All: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

R: The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

**All: The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

R: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

**All: the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

R: The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

**All: The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**

R: The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, “Glory!”

**All: The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

R: O LORD, give strength to your people;

**All: give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.**

## Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

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: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 3rd chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

## Children's Message

## Sermon

## Hymn of the Day

### "Down Galilee's Slow Roadways"

1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on  
2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;  
3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.  
from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.  
it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.  
We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.  
He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,  
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:  
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.  
but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.  
"You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."  
"You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: MERLE'S TUNE, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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Music © 1983 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

## Prayers of Intercession

P: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*Each petition ends with these words:*

P: God of grace,

All: hear 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

*"O Sing a Song of Bethlehem"*

Benson/Williams

### Offering Prayer

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

**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.**

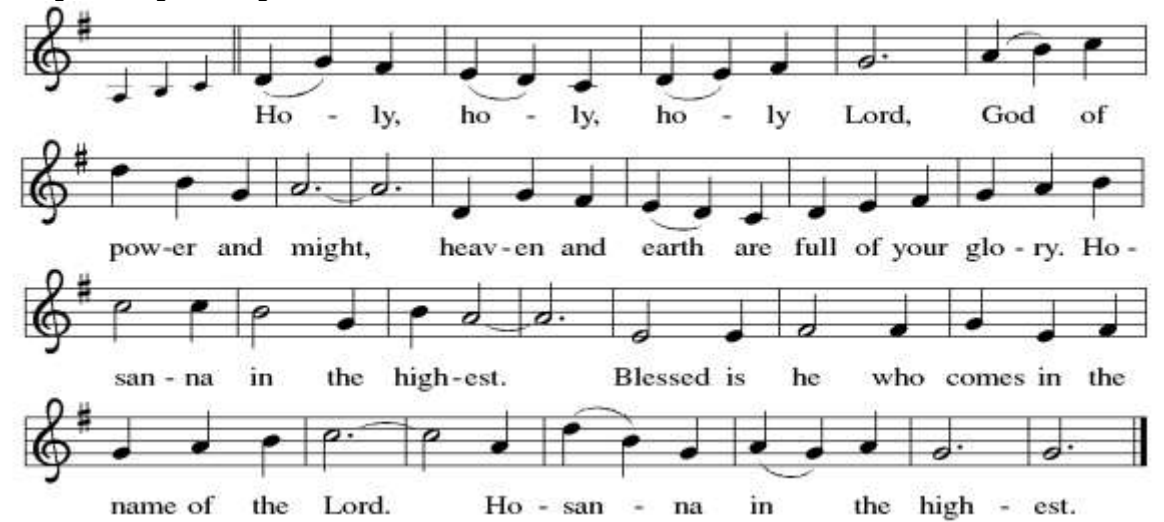
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

### Words of Institution

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### "Holy, Holy, Holy"



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.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### 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: The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

### Communion

#### 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.

##### *"Christ Is the Truth, the Way"*

Duck/Elvey

### 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.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your

good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

**All: Amen**

### Blessing

P: The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**All: Amen.**

### Sending Song

#### *"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"*

ELW #543

1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.  
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.  
Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.  
In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.  
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.  
Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."  
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.  
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional  
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”*

Hoffman/Showalter

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

**Placing our confidence** in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of our loved ones, we extend our sympathy to the following members of our congregation at the loss of their family members.

To Bev Julien and Mary Ordean & family, upon the death of their son/brother Michael Harting on January 4.

To the family of Kay Kutchera who passed away on January 8. Kay is a sister to Gary Fields.

To the family of Kujala family, upon the death of Larry, who passed away in Minnesota on December 31.

It is also believed that Burt Severson passed away. His mailings have been coming back to the church. Upon search of obituaries in the Mesa, AZ area, one was found for him. If it is the same person, he passed away in May of 2023. If someone has knowledge if this is correct, please let the church office know.

*May God’s presence bring you comfort and peace.*

**Worship Assistants:**

Presider – Pastor Kathy Burkheimer

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Stacey Avelar

Acolytes – Avelar family

Greeters – Audrey & Cathy Cox

Ushers – Diane Yoeckel, Mel Johnson

Reader – Bev Julien

Sound – Bradyn Arians

**Musicians:**

Maureen Marrindino

Linda VonHolten

**Next week – January 19**

Presider – Pastor Jennifer Beamsley

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Greg Zeigler

Acolytes – *Volunteer needed*

Greeters – Bev Graunke, Susan Kuehl

Ushers – Bill & Carolyn Duncan

Reader – Carolyn Duncan

Sound – David Carrillo

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*

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