

**Sunday, January 5, 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

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### Prelude

*"Brightest and Best"*

arr. John M. Rasley

### 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, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**All: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God-with-us, we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. We have overlooked the shepherds, expecting good news in prettier packaging. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.

**All: Amen.**

P: Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, † forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

**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

### “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

ELW #275



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

**All: O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

## First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup> For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup> Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup> Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup> A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

R: Word of God, Word of Life,

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

R: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;

**All: that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**

R: that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**All: Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

R: May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

**All: Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**

R: In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

**All: May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**

R: May all kings bow down before him, and all the nations do him service.

**All: For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress, the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**

R: He has compassion on the lowly and poor, and preserves the lives of the needy.

**All: From oppression and violence he redeems their lives, and precious is their blood in his sight.**

### 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: Matthew 2:1-12

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter

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

<sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over

the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

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

### Children’s Message

### Sermon

**“The Magi: Serious Seekers”**

## Hymn of the Day

### "When a Star Is Shining"



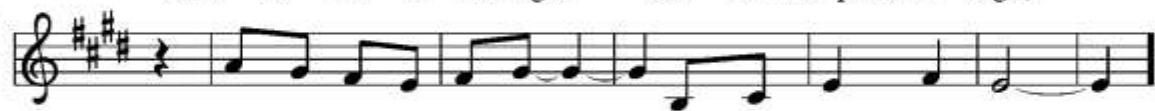
1 When a star is shin-ing o-ver east-ern hills,  
2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un-known day,  
3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui-et night;



when the air is si-lent, and the clam-or stills,  
where a voice for-got-ten cries, "Pre-pare the way!"  
guide us through the shad-ow with your gen-tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,  
Where an earth-ly pow-er makes the heart turn cold,  
show us in a man-ger our re-demp-tion's sign;



then the time has rip-pened and the heart grows wise.  
there the gifts are of-fered— in-cense, myrrh, and gold.  
bring us to a morn-ing where the prom-ise shines.



*Refrain*  
Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn-ing where the



prom-ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn-ing where the prom-ise shines.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: WHERE THE PROMISE SHINES, Bob Moore, b. 1962

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## Prayers of Intercession

P: Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*Each petition ends with these words:*

P: God of grace,

**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

*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

arr. Richard Walters

## Offering Prayer

P: God of heaven and earth, from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day.

**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: A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

### **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.

#### **“The First Nowell”**

arr. Chris Lawry & Keri Degg

## 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.

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

**All: Amen**

## Blessing

P: The God of love, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

**All: Amen.**

## Sending Song

**"Arise, Your Light Has Come!"**

ELW #314



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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## Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*"We Three Kings"*

arr. John Barr

**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, Michael Harting, 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 family and friends of Bobby McElhinney. Bobby passed away on Thursday morning. Bobby is a brother to Janie Billings.

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

## Worship Assistants:

Presider: Pastor Mark Luepke

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters – Bob & Judy Bartel

Ushers – Ruben & JoAnn Garcia

Reader – JoAnn Garcia

Sound – Greg Zeigler

Altar Guild – Audrey & Cathy Cox

## Musicians:

Amy Zeigler

Dawn Zeigler

Greg Zeigler

## Next week – January 12

Presider – Pastor Kathy Burkheimer

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Stacey Aveler



Acolytes – Avelar family

Greeters – Audrey & Cathy Cox

Ushers – Diane Yoeckel, Mel Johnson

Reader – Bev Julien

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*

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