

Part of the ministry we share includes providing a worship space that gives glory to God. Especially in this, one of our highest festival occasions, we decorate with particular detail. Thanks to the following people for the donation of poinsettias, a symbol of the season:

Pat Glafka in memory of James Glafka, Paul and Ono Andersen

Jerry & Khe Crofts in memory of Heather Crofts

John Renner in memory of Julie Renner and parents, Ronald & Julia

Dianne Stern Miller in honor and in memory of all families

Leta VanZuiden in memory of Merwyn VanZuiden, Harry & Ann Landheer, Richard Landheer

Nancy Beck in memory of loved ones

Ron & Janie Billings in memory of our parents

Gary Fields in memory of Marcia Fields

Bob & Judy Bartel & family; Dave & Donna Kendall & family in memory of Ruth & Don Stern and Mabel Rohde

Jim & Cheryl Gorman in memory of Geraldine Chismarick, Bob & Shirley Gorman

Sharon & Dale Worley in memory of our parents

Verges & Noreen Aageson & family in memory of Ken & Miriam Chubb, Dr. Carl & Minna Wiederanders

Sandra Julifs in memory of Harold Julifs

Sandra Julifs in memory of Steven Julifs

Julie Randy DeJonge in memory of Bob Woessner, Bob Wasmund, & Rhonda DeJonge

Patty & Mark Arians in memory of our parents; Mary & John Doty, Vernon Johnson, Marv & Betty Arians

Ron & Karol Gerken in memory of Lisa Gerken Lee

Jeff & Jul, Jacy & family, Jennifer, and Jessica Woodworth in memory of son and brother, Jacob Woodworth

Shirley Dodd in memory grandson, Jacob Woodworth

Debbie Riggins in memory of Ed & Barb Hussung, Harry & Winnie Riggins

Audrey & Cathy Cox in memory of Dick, Harold, Hazel & Bob Cox

Mike & Debbie O'Brien in memory of Rocky Hasbrouck, Jim Herzing

Greg & Dawn Zeigler in memory of parents, Charles Steinke and Sandra Zeigler

Ann Beswick in memory of Loren Beswick, Bob & Lila Gomsrud

Ann Beswick in memory of Ruthie T. Loud, Ted, Tom & Marion Beswick

If you ordered a poinsettia and would like to take it home, you may do so following the worship service.



**Sunday, December 28, 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

10:15 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 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.

Pastor Mark Luepke, Part-time Interim

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First Sunday of Christmas

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

Prelude

"Angels From the Realms of Glory/Emmanuel"

Words and music by James Montgomery and Henry Smart, Paul Baloche, Michael Rossback and Brenton Brown

Arranged by John Cumberland

Welcome/Announcements

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, One God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

All: Amen



Carol

“Love Has Come”

ELW #292

1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -

Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.

hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the

you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray together:

All: O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Carol

“Your Little Ones, Dear Lord”

ELW #286

1 Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and
2 With songs we has - ten you to greet, and
3 Oh, draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and
4 Un - til at last we too pro - claim, with

come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry
kiss the ground be - fore your feet. Oh, bless - ed hour, oh,
to us all your grace ac - cord; true faith and love to
all your saints, your glo - rious name; in par - a - dise our

soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.
sweet - est night that gave you birth, our soul's de - light.
us im - part, that we may hold you in our heart.
songs re - new, and praise you as the an - gels do.

Text: Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764; tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.

Music: HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

FIRST READING: Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully,” and he became their savior

⁹in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

R: Word of God, word of life,

All: Thanks be to God

Carol

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

ELW #288

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.

SECOND READING: Psalm 148

R: ¹ Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights! ² Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!

All: ³ Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!
⁴ Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens!

R: ⁵ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created. ⁶ He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

All: ⁷ Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, ⁸ fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

R: ⁹ Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! ¹⁰ Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

All: ¹¹ Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! ¹² Young men and women alike, old and young together!

R: ¹³ Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. ¹⁴ He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.

All: Praise the LORD!

Gospel Acclamation

“Let Our Gladness Have No End”

ELW #291 verse 1 only

1 Let our glad - ness have no end, Hal - le - lu - jah!
for to earth did Christ de - scend. Hal - le - lu - jah!

Refrain

On this day God gave us Christ, the Son, to
save us; Christ, the Son, to save us.

Text: Bohemian carol, 15th cent.; tr. unknown
Music: NARODIL SE KRISTUS PÁN, Bohemian carol, 15th cent.

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 2nd chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now after [the magi] had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. ¹⁷ Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ “A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” ²¹ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon “Christmas in the Real World”

Hymn of the Day

“I Wonder as I Wander”

1 I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky, how
2 When Mar-y birthed . . Je-sus, all in a cow's stall, came
3 If Je-sus had . . want-ed for an-y wee thing, a
4 I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky, how
Je-sus the Sav-ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo-ple like
wise men and farm-ers and shep-herds and all, and high from the heav-ens a
star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an-gels in
Je-sus the Sav-ior did come for to die for poor ord'-n'ry peo-ple like
you and like I. I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky.
star's light did fall; the prom-ise of the a-ges it then did re-call.
heav'n for to sing, he sure-ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
you and like I. I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky.

Text: Appalachian carol, collected by John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980
Music: Appalachian folk tune, adapt. John Jacob Niles, 1892-1980
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Prayers of Intercession

P: Empowered by the news of Christ’s birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: Hear us O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

P: With the joy of Christ’s birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

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.

Offering

“What Child Is This

ELW #296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y’s lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Offering Prayer

P: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

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

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: God is now in flesh appearing.

Come to the feast of joy!

Communion

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

By Anna Laura Page

Communion Music

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

ELW #276

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new
ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all,
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true,
Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing;
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W. ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

“I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve”

ELW #271

1 I am so glad each Christ - mas Eve, the night of Je - sus' birth!
2 The lit - tle child in Beth - le - hem, he was a king in - deed!
3 He dwells a - gain in heav - en's realm, the Son of God to - day;
4 I am so glad each Christ - mas Eve! His prais - es then I sing;
5 And so I love each Christ - mas Eve, and I love Je - sus too;
Then like the sun the star shone forth, and an - gels sang on earth.
For he came down from heav'n a - bove to help a world in need.
and still he loves his lit - tle ones and hears them when they pray,
he o - pens now for ev - 'ry child the pal - ace of the king.
and that he loves me ev - 'ry day I know so well is true.

Text: Marie Wexelsen, 1832–1911; tr. Peter A. Svereggen, 1881–1959
Music: JEG ER SÅ GLAD, Peder Knudsen, 1819–1863
Text © 1932 Augsburg Publishing House

“Lo, how a Rose E'er Blooming”

ELW #272

1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man
sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who
seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind, To show God's love a - right, she
dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to
mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

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.

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

All: Amen.

P: I invite you to rise in body or spirit to receive a blessing.

Blessing

P: The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✚ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.


All: Amen.

Sending Song


“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

ELW #290


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.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

Dismissal

P: Glory to God in the highest! And peace to God's people on earth! Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“He Shall Reign Forevermore”

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin and Matt Maher

Arranged by Larry Shackley

We Remember in Prayer; those hospitalized this week: Ron Billings; those on our Home Visitation list and those on our prayer list: Lori Dewey, Maggie N., John Renner, the Woodworth family, Michelle Klinger, Pastor Bree, Matt Friel, Sandy Julifs, Mike, Dylan Wescott, Phyllis Jacobson, and Betty Steinke

Worship Assistants:

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Mary Ordean

Acolytes – Ordean family

Greeters/Ushers – Dan Dir, Gary Fields, Keith Peugh

Reader – Keith Peugh

Sound – Bradyn Arians

Communion Assistant – Janie Billings

Altar Guild – Debbie O'Brien, Diane Yoeckel

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*

Musicians:

Lori Attig

Julie Woessner DeJonge

Next Week – January 4

Worship Assistants

Opener/Head Usher/Closer – Greg Zeigler

Acolytes – Altar Guild

Greeters – Susan Kuehl, Bev Graunke

Ushers – Nancy Beck, Donna Kendall

Reader – Greg Zeigler

Sound – David Carrillo

Communion Assistant – Nancy Beck

Altar Guild – Judy Bartel, Donna Kendall

Coffee Fellowship – *Volunteer Needed*