

**THE THIRD SUNDAY IN**  
**ADVENT**  
DECEMBER 14, 2025



*St. Paul Lutheran Church:  
Being the Greater Force in the World.  
Winning Souls for Heaven.  
Keeping Each Other Faithful and True.*

**Pastoral Staff**

Rev. Jakob Andrzejewski  
*Senior Pastor*

**Staff**

Mr. Greg Paul  
*Minister of Music*

Mrs. Sue Francik  
*Office Manager*

Mr. Chris Francik  
*School Principal*

Mrs. Julie Hansen  
*School Administrative Assistant  
Admissions Counselor*

Mrs. Blyth Mackinder  
*Preschool Director*



**St. Paul**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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**ST. PAUL  
LUTHERAN**  
ROYAL OAK, MI

**Prelude**

**Opening Hymn**

*Praise the Almighty*

LSB 797



1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!  
3 Bless - ed, oh, bless - ed are they for - ev - er  
△ 5 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and  
Whose help is from the Lord Most High, Whom from sal -  
Of Him who does such won - drous things! All that has



an - thems I come be - fore Him As long as  
va - tion can noth - ing sev - er, And who in  
be - ing, to praise Him sole - ly, With hap - py



He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and  
hope to Christ draw nigh. To all who trust in  
heart its a - men sings. Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.  
Him, our Lord Will aid and coun - sel now af - ford.  
an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!



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

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

## Invocation

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

**C** Amen.

## Opening Verses

*Psalm 146*

**P** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**C** **I will praise the LORD as long as I live;**

**P** I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**C** **Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.**

**P** The LORD will reign forever,

**C** **your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the LORD!**

*-Please Kneel/Sit for a Time of Private Confession-*

## Confession and Absolution

**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. 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.**

**P** O almighty God, merciful Father,

**C** **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

**P** Upon this confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**P** This is the day that the Lord has made;

**C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)**

**P** Rejoice in the Lord always;

**C** **again I will say, rejoice! (Philippians 4:4)**

- P** Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
**C** and uphold me with a willing spirit. (*Psalm 51:12*)

**Advent Carol**

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*LSB 361*

3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
 No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
 Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.

**Salutation**

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** And also with you.

**Collect of the Day**

- P** Let us pray.  
 Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** Amen.

**Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 35*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning

sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Jr. Chancel Choir** (11:00am)

#### **Epistle**

*James 5:7-11*

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Alleluia**

*LSB 190*



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

#### **Holy Gospel**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.



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

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face,  
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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



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

### **Confession of the Church**

**P** "We believe, teach, and confess that the divine and human natures are personally united in Christ, and that there are not two Christs but one Christ." — *Formula of Concord, Epitome VIII:3*

**C** "Each nature does not exist or act separately, apart from the other... but both natures in one person." — *Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration VIII:12*

**P** "The human nature has been exalted to the right hand of God because of this personal union." — *Formula of Concord, Epitome VIII:17*

**C** "In Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." — *Colossians 2:9, confessed in Formula of Concord, Solid Declaration VIII:44*

**P** "It is necessary to believe that Christ has suffered and died for our sins and that through Him we obtain grace and forgiveness of sins." — *Augsburg Confession II:1*

**C** "He alone is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and God has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." — *Smalcald Articles, Part II, I:4*

**P** "This Jesus Christ is our righteousness, who justifies us by faith." — *Apology of the Augsburg Confession IV:86*

**C** "He sanctifies those who believe in Him by sending the Holy Ghost into their hearts to rule, comfort, and quicken them." — *Large Catechism, Creed:33–34 (combined)*

### Children's Message

*-Children of all ages are welcome to the altar during this time!-*

### Sermon Hymn

### Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, Vir - gin's Son, make  
4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and  
7 From the man - ger new - born light Shines in glo - ry  
△ 8 Glo - ry to the Fa - ther sing, Glo - ry to the



here Your home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth,  
king - ly hall; God of God, yet ful - ly man,  
through the night. Dark - ness there no more re - sides;  
Son, our king, Glo - ry to the Spir - it be



That the Lord chose such a birth.  
His he - ro - ic course be - gan.  
In this light faith now a - bides.  
Now and through e - ter - ni - ty.

### Sermon

"We'll Cross That Bridge When We Get to It"

Isaiah 35

*Rev. Jakob Andrzejewski, Senior Pastor*

### Advent Offertory

### It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366



3 All you, be - neath your heav - y load, By care and guilt bent low,



Who toil a - long a drea - ry way With pain - ful steps and slow:

Look up, for gold - en is the hour, Come swift - ly on the wing,  
The Prince was born to bring you peace; Of Him the an - gels sing.

**Gathering of Tithes and Offerings**

*To continue the work of the Lord at St. Paul- You may joyfully give at [www.stpaulroyaloak.org/online-giving](http://www.stpaulroyaloak.org/online-giving)*



**Prayer of the Church**

*-8:15am service continues with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction-*

† THE ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION †

**Preface**

LSB 194

**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 un - to the Lord, our God.  
**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who as Your only begotten Son did Your will perfectly in His life, but also in His suffering and death. All that Jesus has done is good in Your eyes so that, through faith, we might be forgiven in Your eyes. Bless us now in the public confession of our faith and remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...

## Lord's Prayer

*Mt. 6:9-11*

**G** 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

*Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Co 11:23-25*

## Pax Domini

*LSB 197*



**P** The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



**G** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

*LSB 198*

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.

**Distribution Hymn**

*LSB 619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior*

1 Thy bod - y, giv'n for me, O Sav - ior, Thy blood which  
 2 With Thee, Lord, I am now u - nit - ed; I live in  
 3 Who can con - demn me now? For sure - ly The Lord is  
 4 Though death may threat - en with dis - as - ter, It can - not  
 5 My heart has now be - come Thy dwell - ing, O bless - ed,

Thou for me didst shed, These are my life and  
 Thee and Thou in me. No sor - row fills my  
 nigh, who jus - ti - fies. No hell I fear, and  
 rob me of my cheer; For He who is of  
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Thy

strength for - ev - er, By them my hun - gry soul is fed.  
 soul, de - light - ed It finds its on - ly joy in Thee.  
 thus se - cure - ly With Je - sus I to heav - en rise.  
 death the mas - ter With aid and com - fort e'er is near.  
 prais - es tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly.

*Refrain*

Lord, may Thy bod - y and Thy blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

**Distribution Hymn**

*LSB 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

**Post-Communion Collect**

**P** Gracious God, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **Benediction**

LSB 166

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**G** Amen.

## **Closing Hymn**

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer*

LSB 918



1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;  
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar  
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,  
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,  
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,

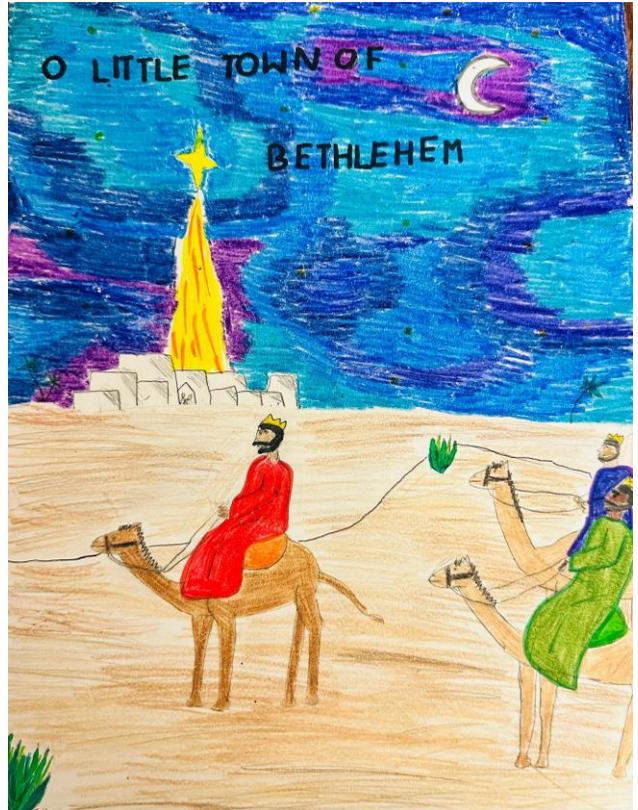


bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no  
strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and  
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more;  
shield; Feed me till I want no more.  
Thee; Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
I will ev - er give to Thee.

This Advent season, please enjoy our St. Paul Lutheran School Christmas drawings throughout the years!



Christmas Midweek Services – 12/17 @ 7pm  
*(Children's Christmas Program)*

Christmas Eve Service- 12/24 @ 5pm + 11pm

Christmas Morning- 12/25 @ 10am

**Serving us in Worship this week:**

Preacher	Pastor Andrzejewski
Music	Gregory Paul
Altar Guild	Anne Sagan + Lauren Banker
Readers	8:15 David Newton
	11 Dawn Heins
Elders	8:15 Brian Hermann
	11 Bryan Harris + Jim Schultz
Counters	8:15 Carol Zimmie + Carrie Smith
	11 Chris Francik + Rick Thomas
Ushers	8:15 Roger Pierce + David Owens + Elders
	11 Erik Olsen + Drew Haselton + Rob Moelich + Mike Boyd

**Acknowledgments:**

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