

## 2nd Sunday of Christmas January 5, 2025

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS11am installation of council membersPRELUDEWie Schon Leuchtet der Morgenstern by Deiterich Buxtehude

Please quietly reflect and prepare for worship during the music.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ⊕ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

#### Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

#### Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  $\pm$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

The prelude's purpose is to prepare your heart, your hands, and your mind for worship. The Lord is worthy of our preparation and the prelude provides us a time to do just that.

Washed in water and marked with the cross, the baptized children of God are united with Christ, and through him, with other believers, we confess our sins and return to our baptism. In forgiveness God raises us up again.

The paraments, which are the hangings on the altar, pulpit, and lectern, are white for joy, purity, light, and glory. **GATHERING HYMN** 

#295, Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Fa - ther's love worlds be -1 be got ten ere the 2 Oh. that birth for - ev - er bless ed, when the vir - gin, \_ 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with the heights of dore him; hosts, his 4 Let heav'n a an - gel -5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa ther, and, 0 Ho - lv 0 0 gan to be, he is Al - pha and me ga, full of grace, bv the Ho - ly Ghost con ceiv ing, one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph ets pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow fore prais es sing; be him -Ghost, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv to thee, ing ing he the source, the end he. of the things that are. that bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re prom-ised in their faith ful word; now he shines, the long - ex and King; be and ex - tol our God let no tongue on earth and un - wea - ried prais es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do --0 have been. and that fu - ture vears shall see. deem er. first re - vealed his sa - cred face. ed: pect let cre - a - tion praise its Lord si lent. ev -'ry voice in con - cert ring vic - to - ry min ion. e - ter - nal and ev - er - more and more. ev er - er - more and ev ev er \_ more. ev - er - more and ev er more. ev - er - more and ev er more. ev - er - more A men. and ev er more!

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

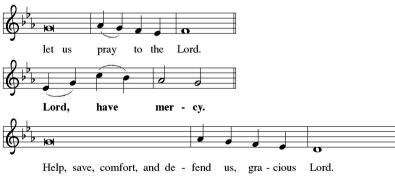
#### GREETING

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**  The Apostolic Greeting is given by the Pastor using the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Cor 13:13. In this greeting the assembly is rooted in the Triune life of God.

The Hymns proclaim the Gospel in song. We sing a variety of hymns to help us tell God's story.

#### **KYRIE**







#### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### Amen.

The assembly is seated.

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

## FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,

"Save, O Lord, your people,

the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,

and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

The prayer of the day is typically a prayer focused around the scripture texts for the day.

The Word part of our liturgy, is where we hear "the living voice of the Gospel." We experience this in the Biblical readings, a sermon based around these readings, and the hymn of the day.

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,

and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,

and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,

and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

says the Lord.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** Psalm 147:12-20



Wor-ship the LORD, O Je - ru - sa-lem; praise your God, O Zi - on.

Worship the Lord, | O Jerusalem; praise your | God, O Zion,

who has strengthened the bars | of your gates

# and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.

God has established peace | on your borders

and satisfies you with the | finest wheat. God sends out a command | to the

earth,

```
a word that runs | very swiftly. R
```

God gives | snow like wool, scattering | frost like ashes.

God scatters | hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?

The Lord sends forth the | word and melts them;

the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

God declares the | word to Jacob, statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.

The Lord has not done so to any | other nation;

they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah! R

## SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

#### Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



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

## GOSPEL John 1:10-18

The holy gospel according to John, the first chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

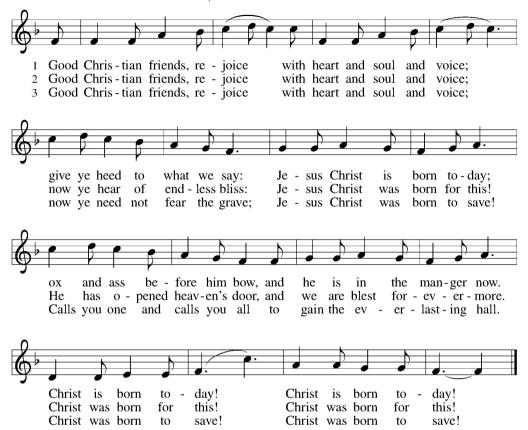
He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated. CHILDREN SERMON SERMON HYMN OF THE DAY

#288, Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



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

#### THE APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in hope and trust, let us confess our faith together. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. *A brief silence.* 

e i briej suenie.

O God, you reveal yourself in this assembly. In water, wine, and bread, show us again and again your grace upon grace, that your church boldly testifies to your love. God of grace,

#### receive our prayer.

You reveal yourself in creation. In seedlings and planets, microorganisms and galaxies, awaken us to the cry of the earth. As you nourish your people like a watered garden, empower us to nourish our creaturely companions. God of grace,

#### receive our prayer.

You reveal yourself in every land and in the farthest parts of the earth. Deliver peoples who suffer under oppressive regimes. Thwart the foolish plans of unjust leaders. Give wisdom to our elected officials. God of grace, **receive our prayer.** 

You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness. Grant us compassion in our care for your people. God of grace, receive our prayer. As Lutheran Christians we have three creeds to articulate our faith. The Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds. Through the Apostles' Creed we confess our faith in the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

The prayers of intercession are prepared in advance by writers from across the Church based around the scripture for a given week.

You reveal yourself in every human being. Help us recognize your image in our siblings in Christ who are in the strong grip of addiction, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, or other illness. Be with those who are sick, injured, and recovering, especially Bee, Jan, Janet, Joyce, Phyllis, Larry, Bob, Ellie, Mary, John, Pat, Anna, Pat, Susan, Charlie and Wendy and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Grant us compassion in our care for your people. God of grace,

#### receive our prayer.

You reveal yourself anew every day. In this new year, renew this congregation and its ministries in our witness to the good news of the incarnation. Transform the way we have always done things into your new future for us. God of grace,

#### receive our prayer.

You reveal yourself in the lives of your holy ones. We give you thanks for those who set their hope on you, trusting the inheritance we receive in you. God of grace,

#### receive our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



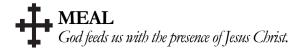
#### PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ. The peace of Christ be with you always.

#### And also with you.

The congregation is invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another The assembly sits.

The passing of the peace is traditionally part of the liturgy, so that anyone in the gathered assembly may have a time to be reconciled to one another before sharing the meal.



## OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

## OFFERTORY

Improvisation on ELW 288

## The assembly stands.

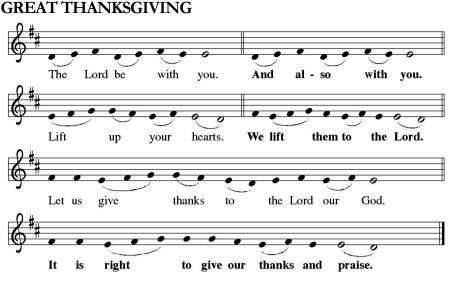
#### **OFFERTORY HYMN**



A musical offering is given to God in our worship as the gifts of the assembly are collected. This is a reminder of God's abundance. We offer back to God just a small portion of what God has given us, so that the mission of God can be realized.

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together. 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. Amen.

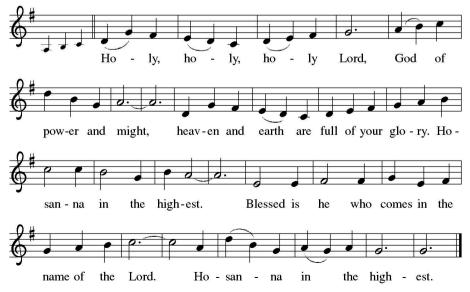


In the meal part of our liturgy we prepare to come to Christ's table. In the Great Thanksgiving we focus on being thankful for all God has done and for all God has given to us. In the Eucharistic Prayer, we ask God to send the Holy Spirit to this meal and we ask that Christ will fulfill his promise to be in the bread and wine.

#### PREFACE

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



#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

#### 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

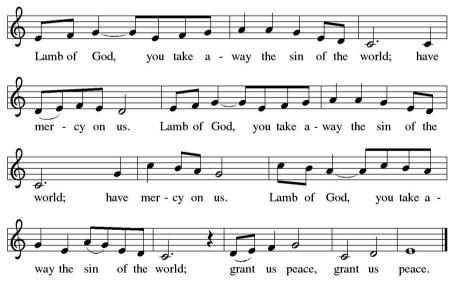
A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

#### COMMUNION

This is the Lord's table. Jesus is the host. We are Christ's guests. Jesus welcomes everyone to come, to eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Visitors and children are welcome to receive communion. Those who do not receive communion are welcomed forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. The pastor and communion assistant will come to the pews of those unable to come forward.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Each person may respond: Amen. The assembly is seated.

## LAMB OF GOD



The Lamb of God is a title for Jesus that appears in John 1:29. It is here that we are reminded that our Lord is present and we are to behold his glory.

#### **COMMUNION HYMN**

#300, The First Noel



Text: English traditional Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

## The assembly stands.

#### TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.** 



#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

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.

Amen.

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

88:30am installation of council members

#### BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and  $\oplus$  give you peace. **Amen.**  Our final part of our liturgy is the sending. We are sent out into the world reminded of God's mission and strengthened by the presence of Christ and one another through the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### **SENDING HYMN**

#308, O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (verses 1-4)



#### DISMISSAL

The assembly is sent into mission.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** Prelude and Fugue in G Major by J. S. Bach

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB165339. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net #735631-A.

## "The Mission of St. Paul's Lutheran Church as a part of the family of God is to share God in Christ with the World by equipping one another through worship, learning, witness, service and support."

Congregation Council		
President	Joan Albright	
Vice-President	Katie Benjamin	
Secretary	Megan Cunningham	
Co-Treasurers	Angela Maine, John Foreman	
<b>Co-Financial Secretaries</b>	Rod Runestad, Phil Hart	
Council Members	Joan Albright, Megan Cunningham, Mike Mauriello, Katie Benjamin, Jayce Getz, Emily	
	Pauline, Ken Knudsen, Michelle Meadors, Steve Myzk	

## Welcome to St. Paul's

In celebrating God's beauty and strength created through diversity, we welcome, value, and include all of God's children regardless of race, culture, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, ability, appearance, or citizenship. St. Paul's is committed to racial equality.

Admission to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is by invitation of our Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. If you are unable to receive Holy Communion at the altar, please notify an usher to receive communion at your seat. All are welcome at the table for a blessing. We use red wine and bread at communion, and offer grape juice and gluten-free wafers. Inform your server at the rail if you desire either.

#### Distribution of the Communion Elements take place as follows:

Exit the pew to the side aisles. Empty cups are obtained from the trays located by the front exit. Proceed to the altar. Persons on the right side (lectern side) proceed to the back of the altar rail and fill forward towards the front. The left side (pulpit side) proceed to the front of the altar rail and fill towards the back. After communing, depart down the center aisle to your seat. Please place your cup in one of the baskets.

#### St. Paul's Live Stream Policy

- 1.St. Paul's Lutheran Church live streams the 11:00 AM service every Sunday. The service is posted to Vimeo and Facebook. In addition, special services may be live streamed.
- 2. The 8:30 AM service is not live streamed and is available for attendance by those who do not wish to be recorded. For live streamed services there will be a "No Video Zone" designated in the Narthex.
- 3. It is recommended that all livestream services include a disclaimer about the service being recorded, posted on a visible location at the entrance of the sanctuary and written in the bulletin.
- 4. Children must have a signed waiver from their parent or guardian before being recorded.
- 5. We will not share personal or identifying information while a service is being live streamed, this includes during announcement, prayer requests, or the sermon.

Staff of St. Paul's		
Pastor	Rev. Scott Anderson	pastor@stpaulsdurham.org
Duke Lutherans Pastor/		
Associate Pastor	Rev. Amanda Highben	Amanda.highben@duke.edu
Vicar	Ashley Bowman	vicar@stpaulsdurham.org
Parish Adminstrator	Susan Esposito	admin@stpaulsdurham.org
Office Assistant	Heather Cain	assistant@stpaulsdurham.org
Minister of Music	Dr. Ted Turner	music@stpaulsdurham.org
Bookkeeper	Alan Rigsbee	bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org
Preschool Director	Candace King	preschool@stpaulsdurham.org
Property Manager	Clark Brunner	property@stpaulsdurham.org

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1200 W. Cornwallis Rd., Durham, NC https://www.stpaulsdurham.org/ (919) 489-3214 A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod