

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
2nd Sunday after Epiphany - January 14, 2024
8:30 am Service is live, 11:00 am is live, live-streamed, and recorded
Holy Communion, Setting One

Hymns will be found in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book.

Prelude - *Adagio in D* by Franz Liszt

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P 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.

C Amen.

P Most merciful God,

C 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.

C Amen.

P 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 ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

He Comes to Us as One Unknown



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -
 2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -
 3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and
 4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
 5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in
 part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -
 foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the
 birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a
 dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.
 cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.
 tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
 sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.
 not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918

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APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C And also with you.

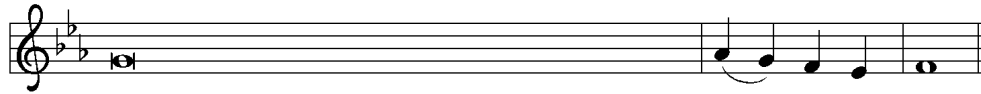
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



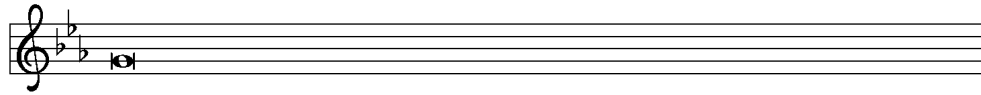
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



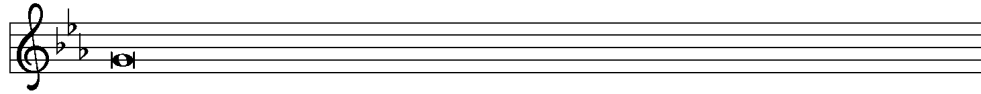
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

Canticle of Praise – This is the feast...



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



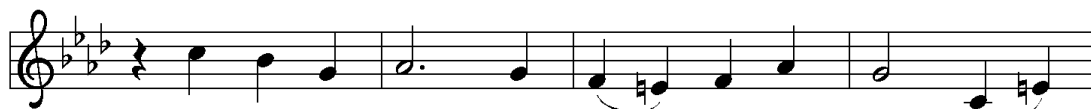
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



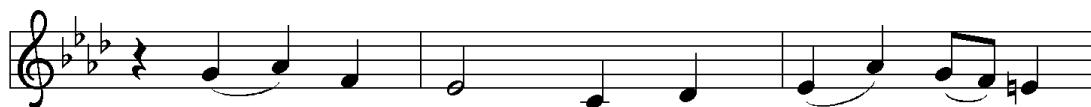
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

P The Lord be with you
C **And also with you**
P Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." [¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.]

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18

Congregation sings Refrain and bold verses.

Refrain



You have searched me out and known me.

¹LORD, you have | searched me out;

O LORD, you | have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my | rising up;**

you discern my thoughts | from afar.

³You trace my journeys and my | resting-places

and are acquainted with | all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word | on my lips,**

but you, O LORD, know it | altogether. Refrain

⁵You encompass me, behind | and before,

and lay your | hand upon me.

⁶**Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me;**

it is so high that I cannot at- | tain to it.

¹³For you yourself created my | inmost parts;

you knit me together in my | mother's womb.

¹⁴**I will thank you because I am mar- | velously made;**

your works are wonderful, and I | know it well. Refrain

¹⁵My body was not hid- | den from you,

while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths | of the earth.

¹⁶**Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written | in your book;**

my days were fashioned before they | came to be.

¹⁷How deep I find your | thoughts, O God!

How great is the | sum of them!

¹⁸**If I were to count them, they would be more in number | than the sand;**

to count them all, my life span would need to | be like yours. Refrain

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

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.

After the Gospel is announced, the people say: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 1:43-51

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.”

⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”

⁵⁰Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”

After the Gospel is read, the people say: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message

Sermon

O Jesus, I Have Promised



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.

Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS *(both services)*
Joan Albright, Megan Cunningham, Mike Mauriello, Katie Benjamin, Jayce Getz, Emily Pauline, Ken Knudsen, Michelle Meadors, Steve Mzyk.

APOSTLES' CREED

**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

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church (*especially*) be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration (especially), Barbara, Jan, Janet, Joyce, Ida, Phyllis and Larry, Bob and Ellie, Mary, John, Tom, Doug, Alice, Charlie, Pat and Morris, Karl and Otti, Larry, Karen, and others we may name aloud or quietly in our hearts. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints (*especially the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. whose faithful advocacy for peace and justice continues to embolden the church*). God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

MEAL

Offering

Offertory - (8:30) *Improvisation on "Dearest Jesus, at Your Word"*
(11:00) *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* by Johann Ahle

Offertory - Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together

C God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al- so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

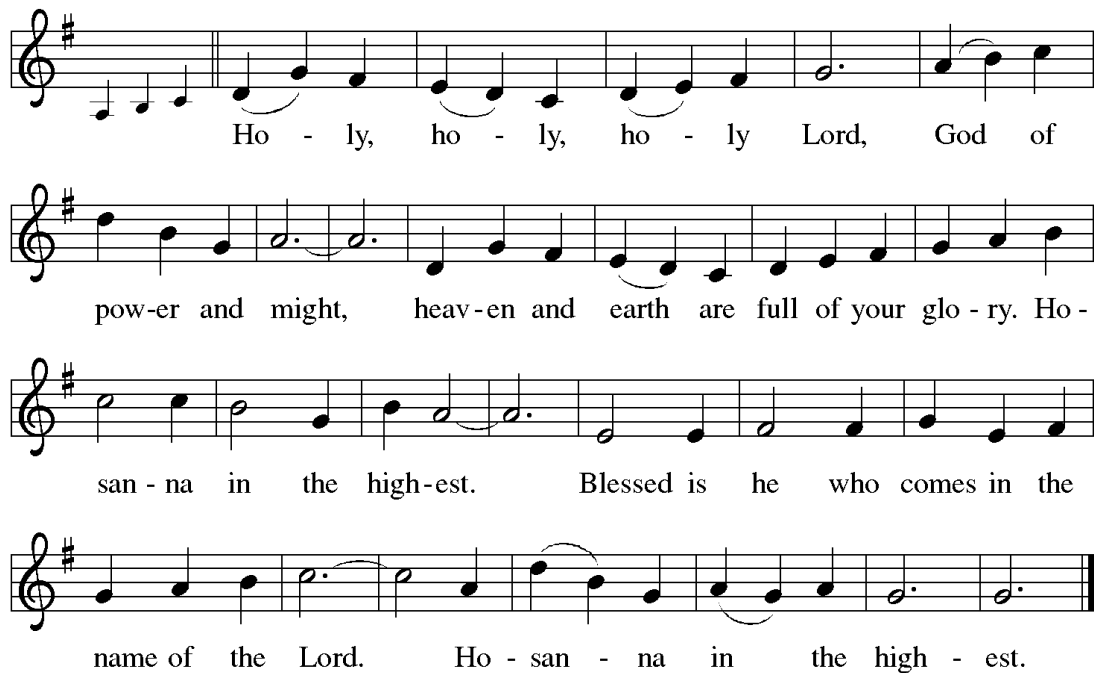
Preface

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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

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.

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C 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.**

P Come to the banquet for all is ready.

COMMUNION SONG – LAMB OF GOD

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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 music consists of a single melodic line on a five-line staff.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

And each person may respond Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN – Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether

470

Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether



1 Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er
ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.

Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958

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POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

A God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

P 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 + give you peace.

C Amen

Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak



1 Lord, speak to us, that we may speak in
 2 Oh, lead us, Lord, that we may lead the
 3 Oh, teach us, Lord, that we may teach the
 4 Oh, fill us with your full - ness, Lord, un -



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan-d'ring and the wa - v'ring feet; oh, feed us, Lord, that
 pre - cious truths which you im - part; and wing our words, that
 til our ver - y hearts o'er - flow in kin - dling thought and



let us seek your stray - ing chil - dren, lost and lone.
 we may feed your hun - g'ring ones with man - na sweet.
 they may reach the hid - den depths of man - y a heart.
 glow - ing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: CANONBURY, Robert Schumann, 1810–1856

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C We will. Thanks be to God.

Postlude - *Fantasia in d* by Matthias Weckmann

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The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God with the following recognitions:

✚ To the glory of God by Hitch Havill and Rachel Harter

Altar Flowers – If you would like to make a recognition through a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you would like to request, pick up an envelope and form in the lower box and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, speak with a staff person.

Prayer of the Church (Members): Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Ida Elliott, Phyllis and Larry Jenkins, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Mary Bader, John Friedrich, Tom Kraska, Doug Whitfield, Alice Barnes, Charlie Bock, Pat and Morris Casper, Karl and Otti Freundt, Larry Grovenstein, Karen Shoaf (on deployment in Iraq)

Prayers of Sympathy to Max Miller, Duke Lutheran, and his family at the death of his father Don.

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time**, email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews and Robert Meissner [Tony Perrotte's mother and uncle], Diane Johnson (Penni Perrotte's friends), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Virginia Hinshaw (great-grandmother of Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Linda Leslie (mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (brother of Bob DeVries), Gini Rinkus (friend of the Dominicks), Elaine Williamson (sister-in-law of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Paul (son-in-law of Jan Huntley), Richard Dominick (brother of Ted Dominick), Burr Hasselbeck, Josephine Economy and John Bigsby (friends of Bess Line), Marie Watts (cousin of Pat Casper), Ruth Parker (aunt of Pat Casper), Ashley Collins (niece of Deb Tabert), Holly Cashwell (by Pat Cashwell), Patrick Howell (son of a friend of the Waughs), George and Pat Rose (friends of Debbie Fullbright), John and Connie Heinz, Gregory and Colleen Davidson, Richard and Claudia Steele (friends of Dean and Marcia Redman), Kirk Temple (brother-in-law of Deb Tabert), Debra Jetton (sister of Bill Wilson), Penny Wagner (niece of Marcia Wilson), Lynn Hladak (grandmother to Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Tim Holody (by Terry and Sharon Wilson), Kerry Bowars (friend of Megan Cunningham), Cole Cashwell (grandson of Pat Cashwell), Twila Dahl (sister-in-law of Bill Dahl and Martha Dahl), Dirk Davis (by Debbie Fullbright), Lynn and Ray Slabaugh (friends of the Foremans), Dirk Davis (by Debbie Fullbright), Susie Pilcher (sister of Pat Casper), Scott Duncan (stepdad of Bill Elkin), Lindsay Marchell-Holman (family of Deb Tabert)

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 15 for the Martin Luther King Holiday.

Congregational Council Members being installed this morning are:

Joan Albright, Megan Cunningham, Mike Mauriello, Katie Benjamin, Jayce Getz, Emily Pauline, Ken Knudsen, Michelle Meadors, Steve Mzyk.

Adult Sunday School

Rick Lischer is teaching the four Sundays in January. The title of his course is "The Very First Story of Jesus – the Gospel of Mark." The class will meet in Trinity Hall on January 7, 14, 21, and 28 at 9:45-10:45 am. If you would like to take notes, bringing your personal bible is recommended, but there will be bibles available. Coffee will also be available. Future classes are:

- Feb 4 – Stephen Ministers with Nan Treul and Kim Hoke
- Beginning February 11 through March 24, Vicar Gina will be leading a 7-part session about Ash Wednesday to Holy Week, each week we will prepare for the Wednesday evening Worship Services through Holy Week.

Annual Reports! It is time again for our annual reports to be submitted to Susan Esposito by **January 15, 2024**. They should come from each committee and active group at St. Paul's. Content should include membership and what has been accomplished in 2023. They can be left in Susan's mailbox or emailed to admin@stpaulsdurham.org. You are welcome to refer to the 2023 calendar on Susan's door to refresh your memory of activities. Contact the staff if you have any questions.

Plan now to participate in the Chili & Cornbread Cook-Off!!!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2024

sign up on bulletin board – have food here by 5:45 pm

Chili can be brought in crock-pots, cornbread any way. No need to bring serving utensils. You will be labeling your chili and/or cornbread as to main ingredients or style. Condiments (sour cream, cheese, crackers, etc.) are provided as well as salad, desserts, and beverages for the full meal. Come eat, enjoy, and have a great fellowship time!

Thursday Morning Bible Study: The topic for Bible Study is an in-depth look at the sermon on the Mount. They meet on Thursdays at 10:30-11:45 am in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Study notes will be emailed before the meeting. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82845097165?pwd=YWEyd1o1TmQvTXVPaFJwYi9SzkFVQT09>

Meeting ID: 828 4509 7165 Passcode: 165276

RISE AGAINST HUNGER will take place at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, on Saturday, **March 9th** from 9 AM - 12 Noon. January begins the official kickoff for our 2024 Rise Against Hunger work day on March 9, 2024. The financial goal is \$4,300 to cover the cost of 10,000 meals. And, we need commitments for 60 workers between 9:00 am and Noon on March 9th.

Register to work at: Events.Riseagainsthunger.org/STPLC There is a small table display in the foyer for the "CHANGE for a CHANGE" event to collect your loose change (or more). These collections will be turned in at the end of February to help fund the event on March 9th. We have already received financial commitments to cover over half of the cost of this event. We will have special envelopes in the pews and at the usher table for your donations. Any extra we receive will be held over for another event. For questions/suggestions contact: Dean Redman, Marilyn Hawley, Bee Ellertson, or Mary Runestad.

Books for Book Harvest – The Preschool, together with the Slane Family, is collecting new or gently used children's books for Book Harvest, a local organization that supports literacy in Durham. Books should be children's books (ages 0-18) and cannot include textbooks or religious books. Books can be deposited into the marked box near the entrance to the Whitesell Hallway, until the **January 14th** deadline.

Youth Group – Next up is a Lock-In on **Fri, Jan 19 at 6 pm thru Sat, Jan 20, with pick up at 8:30 am**. We will meet at the church. All youth attendees will help cook their own dinner which will be spaghetti with meatballs, salad, and garlic bread. We will be going to play laser tag after dinner.

Book of Devotions – The Anniversary Committee is continuing to celebrate 100 Years of our Ministry by attempting to compile a keepsake **Book of Devotions**, composed of the wonderful and inspiring devotions/poems/photos that we began sharing during covid and still continue to do so. Please reflect on your past devotions, create new ones, and submit them by the **end of January** to maria.taylor.chi@gmail.com.

St. Paul's Readers Resumes January 18 – St. Paul's Readers invite all readers to join us in 2024 as we explore and discuss our wonderful reading list. Our meetings are held in Trinity Hall at 3 pm on the third Thursday of most months. On **Thursday, January 18, at 3 pm**, Katherine Trexler leads our discussion of Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. **Mark your calendars** for our author event on Sunday, February 25, at 12:30 pm, when our own Rick Lischer discusses his memoir Open Secrets: A Memoir of Faith and Discovery (Doubleday). The St. Paul's Readers are low-key and welcome all men and women. We would love for you to join us at our next meeting, even if you have not read the book. Please contact Katherine Trexler (katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com) with any questions. We

are excited to get started on our 2024 reading list! (Check out the January Cross Connections for more information!)

Growing thru Grief

Here is the current schedule for January:

- ▶ Jan 16 – “How to Start: Creating a New Identity” with Scott Anderson
- ▶ Jan 23 – “Your Mandala” with Lindsay Gallo
- ▶ Jan 30 – “Walking Each Other Home” with Terry Allebaugh

We meet at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church from 4 - 6 pm on each Tuesday. All are welcome. First time attendees must show proof of covid vaccination and booster(s). Please contact admin@growingthrugrief.org if you have questions.

The **Dropped Stitch Prayer Shawl Ministry** meets on the last Friday of the month at 1:00 pm in the sofa area of the atrium. This group creates prayer shawls by knitting or crochet.

The **Tongue and Thimble** group creates small quilts which are distributed to nurseries at local hospitals for their critical patients. They meet downstairs in the Fiber Arts/Music room off of the Genesis Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am-12:00 noon.

PASTA for PARKTOWN!!

Help Stock the St. Paul’s Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!

The folks at Parktown Food Hub love our St. Paul’s pasta! THANKS to your generosity the “St. Paul’s Dry Boxed Pasta Shelf” stays stocked and ready to help hungry families. Please continue to add dry pasta to your shopping list to share with the St. Paul’s shelf. The Women’s Connection Group is leading this initiative to support the Parktown Food Hub, led by Pastor Sharon Schulze. **St. Paul’s Shelf - dry boxed pasta** – spaghetti, macaroni, ziti, penne, etc. (NOT: kits or dinner, nor canned pasta entrees).

Sign-Up Genius Links

Please visit the Sign-Up Genius links which we use to enable volunteers to fill in where needed, for both services. Click on the link and fill in your name on the date(s).

◆ **Sunday Worship** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1>

Sign up for: lector, worship assistant, altar guild, communion assistants, and ushers. Staff will be glad to provide guidance for any of these tasks.

◆ **Devotions** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Send your devotions to Vicar Gina Schaefer - vicar@stpaulsdurham.org

Our Youth Group is going to New Orleans in July of 2024 for the National Youth Gathering.

Here is how you can help them on their journey.

We have six youth and two adult leaders heading to New Orleans in July of 2024 for the National Youth Gathering. This is a time for our youth to grow in their faith and as an overall youth group.

We need to raise about \$9,000 for everyone and we cannot do it without the gracious help of our St. Paul’s family. In the atrium is a yellow bulletin board with 8 airplane seats, 8 hotel beds, and 8 plates broken into 3 pieces so you can see the progress as we get ready for this adventure. You can help in a variety of ways, including purchasing a whole airplane seat or hotel bed, or if you can just help with a meal for someone.

How to “purchase” a specific item is broken down:

- ▶ 1 airplane seat cost \$400 (this is for roundtrip)
- ▶ 1 hotel bed cost \$350 (this is for the entire week)
- ▶ 1 meal costs \$25 or a whole day of meals costs \$75 (this is for 1 person)

As we raise funds, watch the airplane take off from RDU (Durham, NC) to MSY (New Orleans, LA).

Donations can be made online through the church website (under the giving online option) or during the offering time in service. Please note on your donation (Youth Gathering – purchase item” (i.e. “Youth Gathering - airplane seat” or “Youth Gathering - 1 meal”).

Thank you for all your help and prayers as we prepare for this unbelievable experience!