



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ROOTED AND GROWING

December 28, 2025 8:15 am

Large print bulletins are  
available at the Host Station

An \* indicates to please stand if you are able

**Bold** print indicates congregational responses

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church!

We are glad you're here and pray you experience God's presence in worship today. For those visiting, please fill out a *visitor card* located in the pews and place it in the offering plate or hand to a worship leader.

Blessings to you and we hope you join us again.

## WELCOME

### PRELUDE MUSIC

"O Holy Night"  
Jonah Ahlers, Flute

Adolphe Adam

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We worship in the name in which we baptize, in the name of the Father,  $\text{✝}$  the Son and 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.**

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

*(Pause 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.**

The Pastor declares the forgiveness of sin.

**\*GATHERING CAROL #279 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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.**

**\*CAROL OF PRAISE #275 “Angels from the Realms of Glory” Verses 1 and 4**

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

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

*Refrain*

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

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

### **READING**

**Isaiah 63:7-9**

*God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.*

<sup>7</sup> I 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.

<sup>8</sup> For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not act deceitfully,"

and he became their savior

<sup>9</sup> in 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 148

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!
- <sup>2</sup> **Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his host!**
- <sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!
- <sup>4</sup> **Praise him, you highest heavens  
and you waters above the heavens!**
- <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they were created.
- <sup>6</sup> **He established them forever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**
- <sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,
- <sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**
- <sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!
- <sup>10</sup> **Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!**
- <sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!
- <sup>12</sup> **Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!**
- <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.
- <sup>14</sup> **He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the Lord!**

## **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

### ***Refrain***

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

### ***Stanza***

Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born.  
And God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

## **\*GOSPEL**

**Matthew 2:13-23**

The reading is found on page 4 and 5 in the New Testament of the pew Bibles.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Rev. Robert Wallace

## **SERMON**

Rev. Robert Wallace

## **\*CAROL OF THE DAY**

**#296 "What Child is This?"**

## **\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each portion of the prayers concludes with these or similar words:

... Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

## \*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Scan the QR Code to

- Read the Weekly Announcements
- Give electronically
- Introduce yourself to us

Hard copies of the Weekly Announcements can be found in the Narthex. Weekly news can also be found on our website: [stpaulsitiz.net](http://stpaulsitiz.net)

## \*OFFERING CAROL

### “In the Bleak Midwinter”

### Verse 3



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

God our provider,

**You are faithful to your promises. We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

... We praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### **\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

### **\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed... ...Do this in remembrance of me.

For as often as we do this, we proclaim the great mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**



## \*LORD'S PRAYER

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.

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

All baptized Christians who recognize the Lord's forgiveness and presence in Holy Communion are invited to receive the bread and wine. During the distribution, you are invited to come forward as directed by the ushers. Take a cup from the trays, and kneel or stand at the altar railing to receive the Bread and Wine. The first chalice is wine and the second chalice is grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Those who do not commune may come to the altar for a blessing, indicating so by crossing your arms. As the ministers give the bread and cup to you, they say these words: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

If you are interested in being baptized or learning more about baptism and Holy Communion please contact the pastoral staff at St. Paul. Those that would like to receive prayer, please remain at the altar.

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

“I Wonder as I Wander”  
Susan Cardwell, Soprano

John Jacob Niles

**\*BLESSING**

**\*SENDING HYMN**      **#270 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**\*SENDING**      Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**      “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”      Gordon Young

*ELW Setting 4, Augsburg Fortress 2018. ELW Hymns and Liturgy text and music. Reprinted by permission under Liturgies license #SAS003161. Song Lyrics reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733017 and CCLI license #2602486.*

***The Altar Flowers** are in memory of loved ones from Judy and Bob Seitz.*

***The Communion Bread** is given to the glory of God by Marsha Campbell.*



You can also visit <https://ttsu.me/jtptbr> to see who is helping in worship.

***HAPPY NEW YEAR!***



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ROOTED AND GROWING

December 28, 2025 10:45 am

Large print bulletins are  
available at the Host Station

An \* indicates to please stand if you are able

**Bold** print indicates congregational responses

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church!

We are glad you're here and pray you experience God's presence in worship today. For those visiting, please fill out a *visitor card* located in the pews and place it in the offering plate or hand to a worship leader.

Blessings to you and we hope you join us again.

## PRELUDE

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Wilbur Held

## WELCOME

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We worship in the name in which we baptize, in the name of the Father,  $\text{†}$  the Son and 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.**

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

*(Pause 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.**

The Pastor declares the forgiveness of sin.

**\*GATHERING CAROL**

**#279 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”**

**Verses 1 and 4**

**\*APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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.**

**\*CAROL OF PRAISE**

**#275 “Angels from the Realms of Glory”**

**Verse 4**

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

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

*Refrain*

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

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

### **READING**

**Isaiah 63:7-9**

*God does not delegate divine intervention to a messenger or angel. God's own presence brings salvation. The prophet and all who read these words join in celebrating God's gracious deeds. God trusts that God's people will not act falsely.*

<sup>7</sup> I 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.

<sup>8</sup> For he said, "Surely they are my people,  
children who will not act deceitfully,"

and he became their savior

<sup>9</sup> in 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 148

- <sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
praise him in the heights!
- <sup>2</sup> **Praise him, all his angels;  
praise him, all his host!**
- <sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon;  
praise him, all you shining stars!
- <sup>4</sup> **Praise him, you highest heavens  
and you waters above the heavens!**
- <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for he commanded and they were created.
- <sup>6</sup> **He established them forever and ever;  
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.**
- <sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps,
- <sup>8</sup> **fire and hail, snow and frost,  
stormy wind fulfilling his command!**
- <sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars!
- <sup>10</sup> **Wild animals and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds!**
- <sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the earth!
- <sup>12</sup> **Young men and women alike,  
old and young together!**
- <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name alone is exalted;  
his glory is above earth and heaven.
- <sup>14</sup> **He has raised up a horn for his people,  
praise for all his faithful,  
for the people of Israel who are close to him.  
Praise the Lord!**

## **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

### ***Refrain***

Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

### ***Stanza***

Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born.  
And God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

## **\*GOSPEL**

**Matthew 2:13-23**

The reading is found on page 4 and 5 in the New Testament of the pew Bibles.

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Rev. Robert Wallace

## **SERMON**

Rev. Robert Wallace

## **\*CAROL OF THE DAY**

**#296 "What Child is This?"**



## **\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each portion of the prayers concludes with these or similar words:

... Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

## \*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Scan the QR Code to

- Read the Weekly Announcements
- Give electronically
- Introduce yourself to us

Hard copies of the Weekly Announcements can be found in the Narthex. Weekly news can also be found on our website: [stpaulsitiz.net](http://stpaulsitiz.net)

## \*OFFERING CAROL

### “In the Bleak Midwinter”

### Verse 3



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

God our provider,

**You are faithful to your promises. We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed... ...Do this in remembrance of me.

For as often as we do this, we proclaim the great mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

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.

### **LAMB OF GOD**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

All baptized Christians who recognize the Lord's forgiveness and presence in Holy Communion are invited to receive the bread and wine. During the distribution, you are invited to come forward as directed by the ushers. Take a cup from the trays, and kneel or stand at the altar railing to receive the Bread and Wine. The first chalice is wine and the second chalice is grape juice. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. Those who do not commune may come to the altar for a blessing, indicating so by crossing your arms. As the ministers give the bread and cup to you, they say these words: *The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.*

If you are interested in being baptized or learning more about baptism and Holy Communion please contact the pastoral staff at St. Paul. Those that would like to receive prayer, please remain at the altar.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

"O Holy Night"  
Jonah Ahlers, Flute

Adolphe Adam

"When the Song of the Angels is Stilled" Elizabeth Alexander  
St. Paul Choir and Jonah Ahlers, Flute

*When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman

**\*BLESSING**

**\*SENDING HYMN**                    **#270 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

**\*SENDING**                    Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**                    “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”                    Gordon Young

*ELW Setting 4, Augsburg Fortress 2018. ELW Hymns and Liturgy text and music. Reprinted by permission under Liturgies license #SAS003161. Song Lyrics reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733017 and CCLI license #2602486.*

***The Altar Flowers*** are in memory of loved ones from Judy and Bob Seitz.

***The Communion Bread*** is given to the glory of God by Marsha Campbell.



You can also visit <https://ttsu.me/jtptbr> to see who is helping in worship.

***HAPPY NEW YEAR!***