

St. Paul Lutheran Church, LCMS

503 S. State Street, Caro, MI 48723

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Rev. Richard Boshoven, Interim Pastor

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 4, 2026, 8:30 AM

Contemporary Service



AS WE GATHER

We can't figure God out. Mary and Joseph must have been completely confused about Jesus' desire to stay in the temple, but it was obvious to Him. There was a long list of blessings God was able to give to Solomon; fortunately, the king chose the right one. The Epistle tells us what God wants and what He has done for us, regardless of if we have understood His plan. He has chosen us, given us the Holy Spirit, and included us in a gracious inheritance. And it all revolves around our Savior—His birth, suffering, death, and resurrection. Jesus did all that was necessary for grace to be poured out on us, thanks be to God. It is all certainly beyond our understanding.



FOR THOSE DESIRING HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor. For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.)

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“This is Amazing Grace”

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Bridge, Chorus)

**Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory, the King above all kings
Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of Glory, the King above all kings**

Chorus

**This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You lay down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me**

**Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory, the King of Glory
Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory, the King above all kings Chorus**

Bridge

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Worthy is the King who conquered the grave

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Worthy is the King who conquered the grave

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Worthy is the King who conquered the grave

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

Worthy, worthy, worthy Chorus

WELCOME

INVOCATION *(Please stand)*

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

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.

**But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his
glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

(Please be seated)

SONG OF PRAISE

“Cry of My Heart”

(Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus)

Chorus:

**It is the cry of my heart to follow You
It is the cry of my heart to be close to You
It is the cry of my heart to follow
All the days of my life (repeat Chorus)**

**Teach me Your holy ways O Lord
So I can walk in Your truth
Teach me Your holy ways O Lord
And make me wholly devoted to You (chorus)**

**Open my eyes so I can see
The wonderful things that You do
Open my heart up more and more
And make it wholly devoted to You (chorus)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: 1 Kings 3:4-15

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:40-52

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his

understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.” ⁴⁹And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG OF THE MONTH:

“Fishers of Men”

**I will make you fishers of men, fishers of men, fishers of men.
I will make you fishers of men if you follow Me.
If you follow Me, if you follow Me;
I will make you fishers of men if you follow Me.**

**Hear Christ calling, “Come unto Me. Come unto Me, Come unto Me.”
Hear Christ calling, “Come unto Me; I will give you rest.
I will give you rest; I will give you rest.”
Hear Christ calling, “Come unto Me; I will give you rest.”**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

“Love the Lord”

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Verse, Chorus, Verse)

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength. (2x)**

**With all your heart. With all your soul.
With all your mind. With all your strength.**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

**I will serve the Lord with all my heart
with all my soul, with all my mind,
and with all my strength. (2x)**

**With all my heart. With all my soul.
With all my mind. With all my strength.**

**I will love You Lord, with all my heart,
with all my soul, with all my mind,
and with all my strength.**

MESSAGE

OFFERING *(Please fill out the fellowship pad beside you)*

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS & BOARD CHAIRMEN

President

Dennis Sattelberg

Vice-President

Jamison LeBlanc

Secretary

Lynn LeBlanc

Treasurer

Pam Weidman

Financial Secretary

Melissa Koehler

Board of Education

Jody Barrigar

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Board of Evangelism

Cindy Morley

Board of Finance

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Board of Stewardship

Vacant

Board of Trustees

Ray Stec

Board of Worship

Lisa Graf

Trustee – Robyn Blasius

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I install you as officers of St. Paul Lutheran Church in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The almighty and most merciful God enlighten and strengthen you in your offices that you may be good and faithful stewards to the glory of His name and the good of His people.

Amen.

(Please stand)

PRAYERS

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.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

HOLY COMMUNION

(Visitors, please read the statement at the beginning of this service folder.)

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

(Please be seated)

RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“Take My Life”

(Verse, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Chorus)

**Holiness, holiness is what I long for
Holiness is what I need
Holiness, holiness is what You want from me.**

**Faithfulness, Faithfulness is what I long for.
Faithfulness is what I need
Faithfulness, Faithfulness is what You want from me.**

**Chorus:
So take my heart; and form it
Take my mind; transform it
Take my will; conform it
To Yours, to Yours, Oh Lord.**

Righteousness... Chorus twice

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“Know Me”

(5 verses)

Oh God, know me

Oh God, know me

For your holiness is all I desire

For your righteousness is all I desire

Your unending love is all I desire

Oh God know me.

2. Oh God, hold me...

3. Oh God, forgive me...

4. Oh God, heal me...

5. Oh God, speak to me...

(Please stand)

PRAYER OF THANKS

Amen

BLESSING

(Please be seated)

SONG TO DEPART “To the Only God”

(repeat once, then ending)

To the Only God

Who is able to keep us

Able to keep us from falling

To the Only God

Be all glory and honor

Majesty and power

For all ages now and forevermore.

Ending:

**Forevermore. Be all glory, and honor,
majesty and power.**

For all ages now, and forevermore.

Forevermore

LEAVING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 1.

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St. Paul Lutheran Church LCMS, 503 S. State St., Caro, Michigan

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