

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



January 12, 2025

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:15am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave
9:00am | Choir Practice
9:30am | Education Hour with Sunday School, Confirmation and Adult Forum
10:30am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave and Online
11:30am | Coffee Hour

LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Sign up for Weekly Update newsletter by going to our website at www.stpaularlington.org and clicking on SUBSCRIBE.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:

Jennifer Parker and Taryn Walsh, *Altar Guild*
Jordan M.C. and Lucas S., *Acolytes*
Josh Davis, *Lector*
Sandy Walker, *Deacon*
Peter Schmidt, *Cantor*
Andy Airasian, *Usher*
Hollie Schmidt, *Livestream Broadcast*
Peter and Hollie Schmidt and Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*

Thank you to guest musician, Chris Porter.

*When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable. At the ☩, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism. The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star – 2. Aria"

Emily Maxson Porter

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
alive in the world,
reviving creation,
arriving soon.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth:
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.
By the power of the Holy Spirit,
receive the grace and forgiveness of God
through † Christ Jesus,
whose day draws near.
Amen.

* GATHERING HYMN

"Shall We Gather at the River"

ELW 423

1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;

with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

*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.

*KYRIE



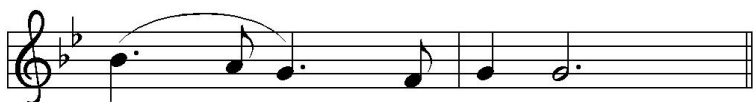
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



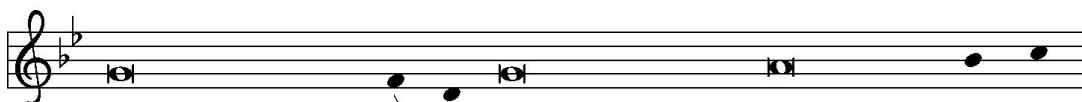
Lord, have mer - cy.



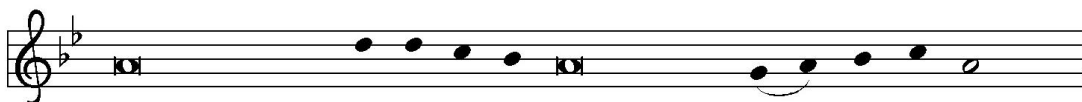
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



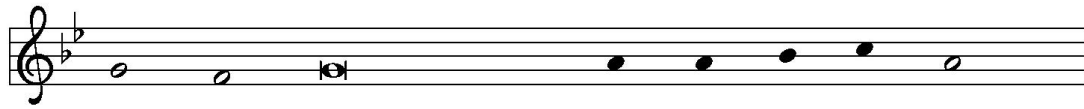
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



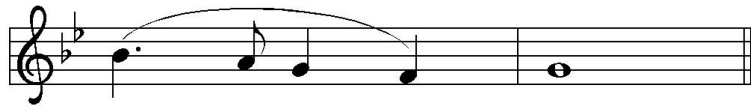
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



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



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



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



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



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

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the hymn of
all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,

I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you;

I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;

I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;

bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM (*read responsively 8:15 am service*)

Psalm 29



Ascribe to the ¹ Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glo- ¹ ry and strength.

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory ¹ due God's name;
worship the Lord in the beau- ¹ ty of holiness.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of ¹ glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the ¹ mighty waters.

**The voice of the Lord is a pow- ¹ erful voice;
the voice of the Lord is a ¹ voice of splendor.**

The voice of the Lord breaks the ¹ cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the ce- ¹ dars of Lebanon;

**the Lord makes Lebanon skip ¹ like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a ¹ young wild ox.**

The voice ¹ of the Lord
bursts forth in ¹ lightning flashes.

**The voice of the Lord ¹ shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilder- ¹ ness of Kadesh.**

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the ¹ forests bare.

And in the temple of the Lord all are ¹ crying, "Glory!"

**The Lord sits enthroned a- ¹ bove the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for- ¹ evermore.**

O Lord, give strength ¹ to your people;
give them, O Lord, the bless- ¹ ings of peace.

SECOND READING

Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.


The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.


* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (10:30 service)



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.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So with many other exhortations he proclaimed the good news to the people. But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME

Vicar Sam Menapace

SERMON “No Expectations”

Vicar Sam Menapace



* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Take Me to the Water”

ACS 957

1 Take me to the wa - ter, take me to the wa - ter,
2 I . . . love . . Je - sus, I . . . love . . Je - sus,
3 He's . . my . . Sav - ior, he's . . my . . Sav - ior,
4 Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah. Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah.

take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
I . . . love . . Je - sus, oh, yes, I do.
he's . . my . . Sav - ior, oh, yes, he is.
Glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Take Me to the Water". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The first system contains four lines of lyrics. The second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is in a 4/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor).

Text: African American spiritual

Music: TAKE ME TO THE WATER, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, 1935–2009

APOSTLE'S CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

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 into hell. 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 leader will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read aloud the other prayers as they feel called.

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

You call us by name and form us. We give thanks for the gift of baptism. Nurture the baptized and equip people sent to proclaim the good news, especially Young Adults in Global Mission and international congregations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your voice sounds over the waters. Speak words of healing over the rivers and lakes, seas and oceans. Heeding your voice, lead us to care for water, and the land and creatures it nourishes. Send your healing waters upon the fires in Los Angeles. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You give strength to your people. Uphold all who serve the common good. Guide federal and state legislators, city and county officials, judges and juries. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. Shower your peace upon places in conflict, especially Syria, Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan, and Haiti. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are with us in challenging times. Draw near to all who are ill, undergoing treatment, or recovering from surgery, especially Dan, Lynn, Meredith, Owen, Paul, and Susan. Accompany individuals and families affected by addiction or mental health challenges. Uphold each person as your beloved. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You draw us into community. Embolden ministries of racial reconciliation, nurture work on behalf of immigrants and refugees, and equip each to use their gifts for the sake of neighbors near and far. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You grant us peace. Comfort all who grieve. Dwell with us in this life and, at the last, join us with the saints whom you have created, formed, and named. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

* PEACE

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

Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.

ANTHEM

"This Little Light of Mine"

ELW 677

MEAL

* OFFERING PRAYER

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.

OFFERING



You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code.

* 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.

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.
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory,
that beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.
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:

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, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water, by night and day, across the wilderness, out of exile, into the future.

We praise you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

We praise you, O God.

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 his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering, within this meal, among your people, throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

* 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.**

COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request.
Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available in each tray.*

Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.

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 HYMN (10:30 service)

“O Living Breath of God”

ELW 407



- 1 O liv-ing Breath of God, wind at the be-gin - ning up-on the wa - ters;
- 2 O liv-ing Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth a - mong us;
- 3 O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing us to life through bap-tis-mal wa - ters;



- O liv-ing Breath of God, bear-ing the cre - a - tion to won-drous birth:
O liv-ing Breath of God, who to the cre - a - tion gives life a - new:
O liv-ing Breath of God, sigh-ing with cre - a - tion for free-dom's birth:

Refrain



Come now, and fill our spir - its; pour out your gifts a - bun - dant.



O liv-ing Breath of God, Ho-ly Spir-it, breathe in us as we pray.

Text: Osvaldo Catena, 1920-1986; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: VÄRVINDAR FRISKA, Swedish folk tune

* TABLE BLESSING

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

Amen.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful God,
we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food.
Strengthened by the goodness,
Send us forth to announce your peace,
comfort the afflicted,
and share the good news of great joy.
Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

The God of love,
Father, † Son and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“Go my Children with my Blessing”

1 “Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 “Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 “Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.

In my love’s bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son’s sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it’s pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.”
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.”

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
 Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word of God dwell in you richly.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“How Brightly Shines the Morning Star – 1. Prelude”

Emily Maxson Porter

ANNOUNCEMENTS *and* UPCOMING HAPPENINGS
at **SAINT PAUL**



ANNUAL MEETING | January 26, after the 10:30 service.

ADULT FORUMS IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

January 2, 12, 19

Bonhoeffer Series with Clifford Green

January 5: Being a Disciple in the Community of Jesus.

January 12: Bonhoeffer's Peace Ethic

January 19: Worldly Christianity

January 26: Pastoral Transition Process

February 2, 9, 16

Sharing Our Faith led by Vicar Sam - in this three-part Adult Forum series, we'll explore what it means to share our faith. We'll practice sharing our stories with one another and consider how we each relate to the call to "go and make disciples." First session will focus on spiritual practices and deepening our faith. Second session will examine what it means to proclaim our faith within our church community. Third session will turn to the world and ask questions about evangelism outside of the walls of the church. We'll look at the term evangelism and consider what it means for ELCA Lutherans in the twenty-first century.

GATHER GROUPS FORMING | Starting in January 2025



We are once again forming Gather Groups. This is a great way to get to know other people in the church. These groups meet January through June at members' homes, outdoor spaces, or anywhere that you can think of! All of our members are encouraged to participate! Sign up with QR code.

SEEKING NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

We are looking to revive our nursery program at St. Paul. While we look for a regular attendant, please consider helping out by volunteering during one of the Advent Services. Talk to Sarah or Signup here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAFAA2DA4FE3-53555701-nursery>. This is open to our adult and teen members of our congregation.



SAINT PAUL
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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Staff

The Reverend Ross Goodman, *Pastor*
Samantha Menapace, *Vicar*
Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music*
Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*
Sarah Carter, *Children, Youth and
Families Director*
Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*
Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

Church Council and Officers

Elizabeth Heichler, *President*
Monique Airasian, *Vice-President*
Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*
Kerri Frick, *Secretary*
Norma Ofsthun, *Financial Secretary*
Mark Olson, *Financial Secretary*
Kristen Anderson
Eric Carlson
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Bob Sniffen
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