



First Sunday of Christmas
December 26, 2021

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
205 St. Paul's Church Road • Salisbury, NC 28146
Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Hila Canup • Crucifer: Ryan Friel
Lector: German Jaramillo

Prelude: “Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head”

R. Wilson

Welcome and Announcements

You are invited to stand.

Hymn: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

60

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are in bondage 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**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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. **Amen**

The 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.

The Kyrie



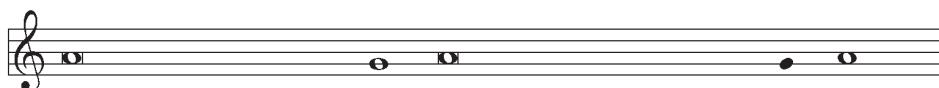
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



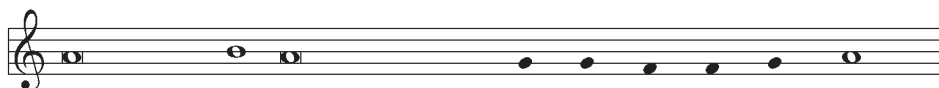
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

Hymn of Praise



A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men



P The Lord be with you. **B** And al-so with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature and be born of the Virgin Mary. Grant that we, having been redeemed and made your children by grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

¹Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ²“Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the firstborn of every womb among the sons of Israel, among people and animals alike; it belongs to Me.” ³And Moses said to the people, “Remember this day in which you departed from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the Lord brought you out from this place.

¹¹“Now when the Lord brings you to the land of the Canaanite, as He swore to you and to your fathers, and gives it to you, ¹²you shall devote to the Lord every firstborn of a womb, and every firstborn offspring of an animal that you own; the males belong to the Lord. ¹³But every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem it, then you shall break its neck; and every firstborn among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What is this?’ then you shall say to him, ‘With a powerful hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

¹⁵And it came about, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the Lord put to death every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human firstborns to animal firstborns. Therefore, I sacrifice to the Lord the males, every firstborn of a womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.’

Here ends the lesson.

Psalm 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

²**Great are the deeds | of the Lord!**

they are studied by all who de- | light in them.

³His work is full of majes- | ty and splendor,
and his righteousness en- | dures forever.

⁴**He makes his marvelous works to | be remembered;**
the Lord is gracious and full | of compassion.

⁵He gives food to | those who fear him;
he is ever mindful | of his covenant.

⁶**He has shown his people the power | of his works**
in giving them the lands | of the nations.

⁷The works of his hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all his command- | ments are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,**
because they are done in | truth and equity.

⁹He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is his Name.

¹⁰**The fear of the Lord is the begin- | ning of wisdom;**
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise en- | dures forever.

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17

¹²So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so must you do also. ¹⁴In addition to all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. ¹⁵Let the peace of Christ, to which you were indeed called in one body, rule in your hearts; and be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷Whatever you do in word or deed, do

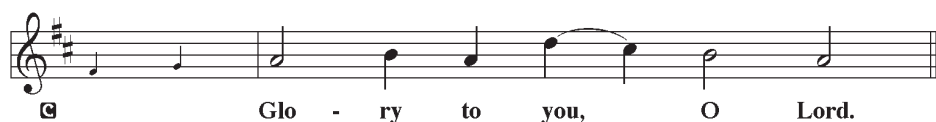
everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

Here ends the lesson.

Please stand for the Gospel.



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



Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

²²And when the days for their purification according to the Law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord: "Every firstborn male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what has been stated in the Law of the Lord: "A pair of turtledoves or two young doves."

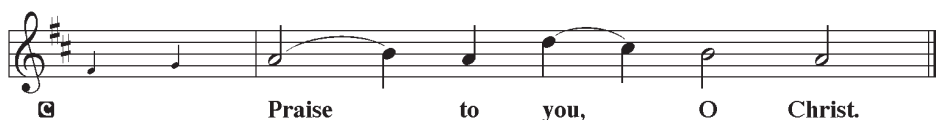
²⁵And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came by the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, ²⁸then he took Him in his arms, and blessed God, and said, ²⁹"Now, Lord, You are letting Your bond-servant depart in peace, according to Your

word; ³⁰For my eyes have seen Your salvation, ³¹which You have prepared in the presence of all the peoples: ³²a light for revelation for the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.” ³³And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to His mother Mary, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and as a sign to be opposed—³⁵and a sword will pierce your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She did not leave the temple grounds, serving night and day with fasts and prayers. ³⁸And at that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak about Him to all those who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹And when His parents had completed everything in accordance with the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. ⁴⁰Now the Child continued to grow and to become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

Children's Chat

Sermon: “The Redemption of the Firstborn”

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn: “Angels From the Realms of Glory”

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary. He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

Please be seated.

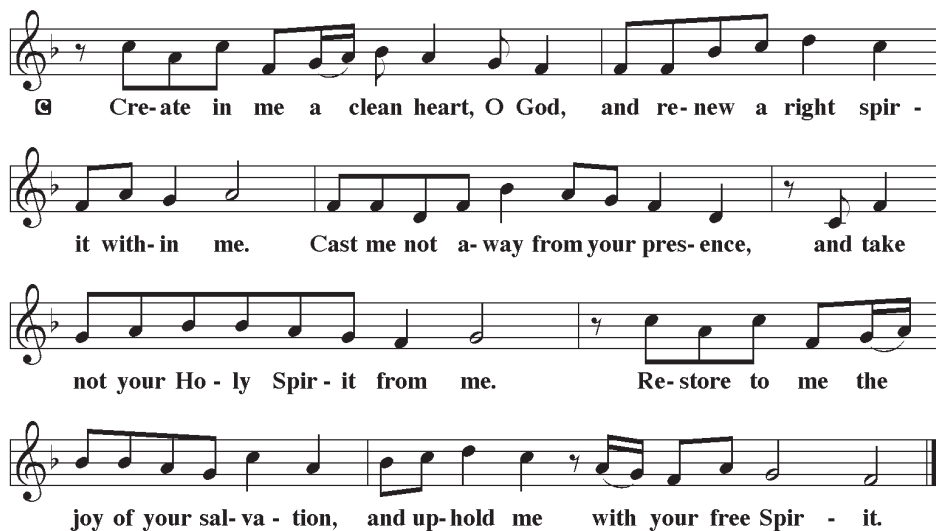
Offering

Offertory: “One Small Child”

Soloist, John Brock

Please stand as you are able.

Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you
have first given us — ourselves, 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



Prayers of the Church

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people, according to their needs.

Following each of 4 prayers:

Lord in your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

The Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you, and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

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

Amen

Postlude: “Joy to the World”

M. Burkhardt

Announcements

Our sympathy is extended to Russell Bingham and family on the death of Russell’s mother, Dorothy Powell Bingham. Ms. Bingham died Thursday, December 16, 2021.

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Paul’s:

Danny and I would like to say “thank you” for giving us the opportunity to visit you on Sunday, November 7th, during Sunday School and church service with the children.

We enjoyed so many wonderful times of sharing with all of you about Naomi’s Heart Mission throughout our stay with Pastor Mark and Susan. The Old Timey Stew, Vespers, Bible studies, and even a drive to see the Christmas lights at the Canup’s! We truly felt welcomed and loved by all of you at St. Paul’s.

During our time with you, 13 children were sponsored to attend Naomi’s Heart Mission Christian Academy, and we were blessed with many gifts of money for “Lugaw” feedings, rice, school supplies, and general needs.

Again, thank you for having the love and desire to walk beside us as we serve a great and mighty God.

Blessings,

Kristie Ward

Founder of Naomi’s Heart Mission

2022 Offering Envelopes

2022 offering envelopes are in the narthex in alphabetical order by last name. Envelopes not picked up today will be mailed. Please pick up your envelopes to help save on postage.

2022 Preparations

The deadline for 2021 offerings is December 29th. **Please be sure your offering is in Pam's hand before 3:30pm on the 29th in order to be posted for this year.**

Offerings that arrive after that (mail, online, the red drop-box, or in person) will be posted as 2022 offerings. This allows time for the treasurer to close the books for the year.

Statements for 2021 will be mailed out during the first week of January, 2022.

Also, in preparation for 2022, we are updating information for the 2022 yearbook. If you have changes in any of your contact information or your mailing address, please call the church office so we will have the correct information for the yearbook.

Upcoming Events

Dec. 31 – Office closed

Jan. 2 – Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am

Jan. 8 – Removal of Christmas decorations beginning at 9am

Adult Choir practice will resume on January 5th at 6:30pm

Handbell practice will resume on January 9th, at 4pm

Men's Choir practice will resume on January 9th, at 5pm

Girl Scouts will resume in January on Tuesdays at 6:45pm

Confirmation Class will resume on Jan. 12th at 7:30pm

Thursday Bible Study will resume on Jan. 6th at 10am and 6pm

Vespers at the Parsonage *each Sunday* – finger foods at 6pm,

Vespers at 6:30pm

Stewardship

General Fund Offering (12/19)..... \$15,144

Other Offering (12/19) \$2,802

Worship Attendance (12/19) 192

General Fund YTD Receipts as of 12/19 \$382,266

General Fund YTD Budget as of 12/19 \$391,741

Special Prayers for members of St. Paul's:

Franklin and Ashley Bowles - loss of home

Grady Earnhardt - Health concerns

Sonya Eller - Health concerns

Terry Eller - Recovering at home

Bishop Goodman - Aplastic anemia

Peyton Holland - Blood disorder

Emerson Holder - Health concerns

Shirley Hoosier - Health concerns

Alan Lyerly - Recovering at home

James Lyerly - Recovering at home

Mike Morris - Health concerns

Teresa Peeler - Health concerns

Jane Wilhelm - Health concerns

Steve Yost - Health concerns

Please let us know if any corrections to this list of concerns are needed. In an effort to keep the list current, we will try to update/remove prayer requests on a monthly basis, with the exception of known, prolonged issues.

Homebound and Long-Term Care:

Autumn Care: Walter Smith

Citadel: Mary Sherrill

Elmcroft: Helen Howe

Trinity Oaks: Barbara Whisnant

Home: Ray Beattie, Judy Bernhardt, Iverson and Gayle Brendle, John and Louise Cornelison, Barbara Deese, Ruby Heilig, Chuck and Linda Hess, Shirley Hoosier, Susan Lyerly, Carrie Reavis, Dottie Stancil, Barbara Upright, Polly Webb

Friends of St. Paul's:

Catie Critchfield - Great-granddaughter of Ed and Betty Niedens, health concerns

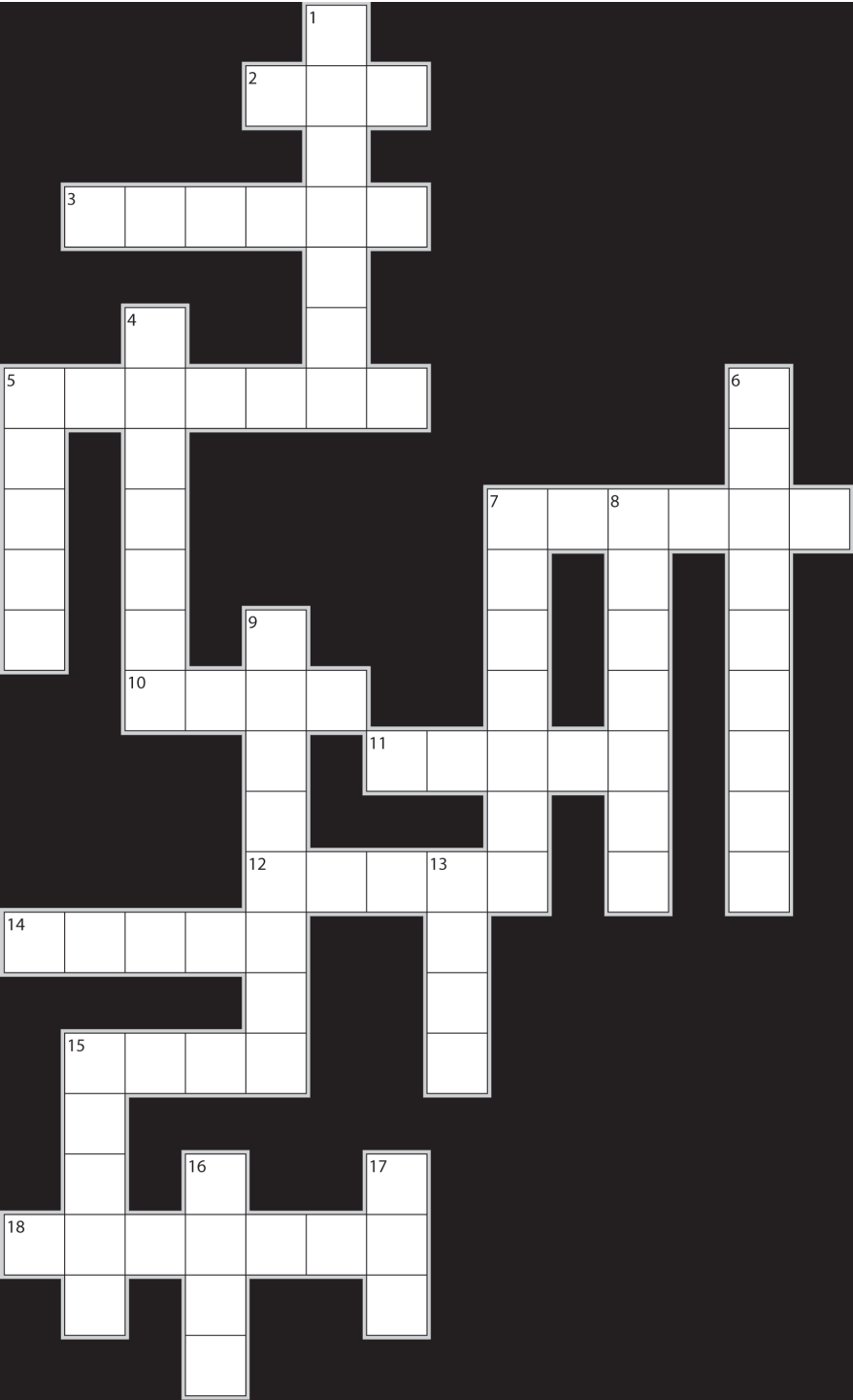
Ashley Fink - granddaughter of Larry and Leilani Watson, health concerns

Linda Jaramillo - Mother of Julie Jaramillo, health concerns

Chad, Terri, Maddy and Ella McConnell - Son, daughter-in-law, grandchildren of Stan McConnell, health concerns

Elizabeth Tancordo - Niece of Bill and Linda Behrendt, health concerns

Leslie Ryman - Sister of Pastor Ryman, cancer



Two Year Daily Lectionary

Christmas Day and Following, Year B

December 25 – Micah 4:1–5; 5:2–4; 1 John 4:7–16; John 3:31–36

December 26 – 2 Chronicles 24:17–22; Acts 6:1–7; Acts 7:59–8:8

December 27 Proverbs 8:22–30; 1 John 5:1–12; John 13:20–35

December 28 – Isaiah 49:13–23; Isaiah 54:1–13; Matthew 18:1–14

December 29 – 2 Samuel 23:13–17b; 2 John 1–13; John 2:1–11

December 30 – 1 Kings 17:17–24; 3 John 1–15; John 4:46–54

December 31 – 1 Kings 3:5–14; James 4:13–17; 5:7–11; John 5:1–15

ACROSS

2. Elijah was his man. (1 Kings 17:17–24)
3. Who was present when God created the heavens?
(Proverbs 8:22–30)
5. What should we be until Jesus returns? (James 4:13–17; 5:7–11)
7. John prayed for his disciples'... (3 John 1–15)
10. Whose hands were inscribed with the name "Israel"?
(Isaiah 49:13–23)
11. Who forgot the kindness of Jehoiada? (2 Chronicles 24:17–22)
12. Be this to enter the kingdom. (Matthew 18:1–14)
14. What is it that overcomes the world? (1 John 5:1–12)
15. The apostles devoted themselves to this ministry. (Acts 6:1–7)
18. Unless the people saw signs and wonders you would not...
(John 4:46–54)

DOWN

1. Who was promised wisdom? (1 Kings 3:5–14)
4. Whoever believes in the Son has this life. (John 3:31–36)
5. God's grace, mercy, and what else will be with us? (2 John 1–13)
6. Where will the Ancient of Days come forth? (Micah 4:1–5; 5:2–4)
7. Our maker is our... (Isaiah 54:1–13)
8. Who are we to love? (1 John 4:7–16)
9. The scattered did what with the Word? (Acts 7:59–8:8)
13. The new commandment (John 13:20–35)
15. What did David pour out? (2 Samuel 23:13–17b)
16. The good stuff (John 2:1–11)
17. Pick this up and walk. (John 5:1–15)



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

OUR MISSION

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

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Email: splchurch@att.net

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon

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