

A close-up, artistic photograph of a person's nose and mouth. The skin is warm-toned and slightly textured. The text is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

**He will save
his people
from their
sins.**

Matthew 1:21

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

205 St. Paul's Church Road, Salisbury, NC

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Hila Canup • Crucifer: German Jaramillo

Lector: German Jaramillo

Communion Assistants: Nicole Amos,

Sarah Fesperman, Bonnie Hinson

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “O Come Christmas Joy” St. Paul’s Handbell Choir

The Ten Commandments *Please stand.*

The Lord is God, our God, and has brought us out of bondage to sin and death, commanding us to observe our conduct before him and our neighbor.

¹You shall have no other gods before me.

**²You shall not take the name
of the Lord your God in vain;
for the Lord will not hold guiltless
those who take his name in vain.**

**³Remember the Sabbath day
to keep it holy.**

**⁴Honor your father
and your mother,
that your days may be long
in the land which the Lord
your God is giving you.**

⁵You shall not kill.

⁶You shall not commit adultery.

⁷You shall not steal.

**⁸You shall not bear false witness
against your neighbor.**

**⁹You shall not covet
your neighbor’s house.**

**¹⁰You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife,
his workers, his livestock,
or anything that is your neighbor’s.**

Confession and Absolution

Hymn: “Savior of the Nations, Come”

97

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Gina, George, Hannah, and Luke Barringer

Greeting and Kyrie Eleison

74

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.



Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Christ, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

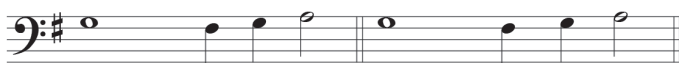


Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Gloria in Excelsis

75

Leader:

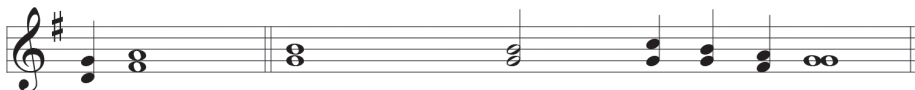


Glory be to God on high!

Congregation:



And on earth peace, good will toward all. We praise you, we bless you,



we worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory,



O Lord God, heaven - ly King, God the Father Al - mighty.



O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father: You take away the sin of the world, have mercy
on us. You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.
You sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us.
For you are holy; you on - ly are the Lord; You only, O Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

77

Leader: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And with your spirit.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

A - men.

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted.

¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah — the king of Assyria!”

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 24

¹The earth is the LORD’s and all | that is in it,
the world and all who | dwell therein.

²**For it is he who founded it up- | on the seas
and made it firm upon the rivers | of the deep.**

³“Who can ascend the hill | of the LORD?
and who can stand in his | holy place?”

⁴**“Those who have clean hands and | a pure heart,
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,
nor sworn by what | is a fraud.**

⁵They shall receive a blessing | from the LORD
and a just reward from the God of | their salvation.”

⁶**Such is the generation of | those who seek him,
of those who seek your face, O | God of Jacob.**

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high,
O ever- | lasting doors;
and the King of glory | shall come in.

⁸“Who is this | King of glory?”

**“The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD,
migh- | ty in battle.”**

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high,
O ever- | lasting doors;
and the King of glory | shall come in.

¹⁰“Who is he, this | King of glory?”

“The LORD of hosts, he is the | King of glory.”

Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷to all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Offering

Anthem: “Still, Still, Still”

St. Paul’s Handbell Choir

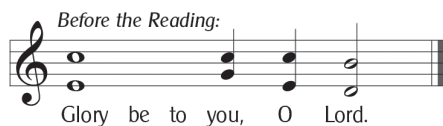
Please stand for the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

78



The Gospel is written in the first chapter of Matthew.



79

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

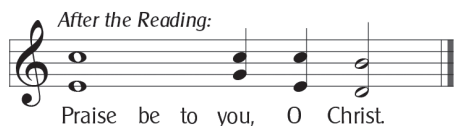
¹⁸The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles Creed

81

We confess our faith with the Apostles Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father, the 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.

Children's Chat

Sermon: "A Sign for Faith"

Hymn: "Lo, How a Rose E'r Blooming"

116

Prayers of the Church

Following each prayer:

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

Exhortation

Leader *Congregation*

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, 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'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.

The Lord's Prayer

90

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,

¹hallowed be thy name,

²thy kingdom come,

³thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

⁴Give us this day our daily bread;

⁵and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

⁶and lead us not into temptation,

⁷but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: Take, and drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Agnus Dei

91



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

Distribution of Communion

92

Remain seated after the distribution.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen and preserve you in true faith to everlasting life.

Nunc Dimittis

92

Lord, now let your servant de- | part in | peace,
ac- | cording to | your | word.
For my eyes have | seen your sal- | vation,
which you have prepared before the | face of | all | people:
A light to | lighten the | Gentiles
and the | glory of your | people | Israel.
Glory | be to the | Father,
and to the | Son, and to the | Holy | Spirit,
As it | was in the be- | ginning,
is now, and ever shall be, | world without | end. | A- | men

Thanksgiving

Almighty God, you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Benedicamus

93

Leader: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Leader: *Congregation:*

Bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “Savior of the Nations, Come”

J.S. Bach

We remain seated, worshiping silently during the postlude, standing at the end of the postlude to face the processional cross, now at the rear of the sanctuary.

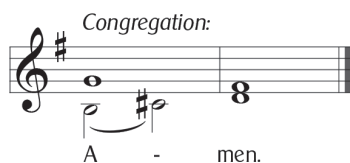
Benediction

93

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift his countenance upon you, and give you peace.



Special prayers for members and friends of St. Paul’s:

- Teresa Peeler – Health concerns
- Lynn Proice – Health concerns
(daughter of Betty and Don Camerlin)
- George Reese – Recovering from surgery
- Dottie Stancil – Health concerns
- Amy Watson – Cancer (friend of Greg Wilhelm)
- Jane Wilhelm – Health concerns

Please see the monthly Epistle for a complete list of prayer needs for members, homebound, family, and friends.

2023 offering envelopes are in the narthex. You may pick up your envelopes before or after service. Those that remain after Christmas Day will need to be mailed. Please help us save on postage cost.



“In One Word”

is a Christmas play that tells the story of the nativity in the fictionalized format of a first century game show, and will be performed by the children and youth of St. Paul’s Sunday School, and led by their teachers.

Sunday, December 18th
4:00PM on-stage
in the Fellowship Hall

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors.
Refreshments will be served following the play.

Stewardship

General Fund Offering (12/11).....	\$11,171
Other Offering(12/11)	\$7,955
Sunday School Attendance (12/11)	65

*This does not reflect exact attendance as not everyone signs the registers,
and not all Sunday school classes turn in attendance slips.*

Worship Attendance (12/11)	199
General Fund YTD Receipts as of 12/11..	\$393,723
General Fund YTD Budget as of 12/11	\$456,592

Sunday, December 18

- Children's play practice, 9:30am
- Children's Christmas Play, 4pm
- Vespers—finger foods at 6pm; Vespers at 6:30pm are also live-streamed on our Facebook page.

Monday, December 19

- Council meeting, *including newly elected members*, 6:30pm
- Articles for January newsletter are due this week.

Tuesday, December 20

- No adult Confirmation Class until January
- Friendship Club, 10:30am
- Staff Christmas party, 5pm

Wednesday, December 21

- No Call Committee meetings until January
- No Confirmation Class until January
- Adult choir practice, 6:30pm

Thursday, December 22

- No Bible study until January

Saturday, December 24

- Christmas Eve Service, 7pm

Sunday, December 25

- No Sunday School Christmas morning
- Christmas Worship Service, 10:30am

*The church office will be closed
Monday, December 26, and Tuesday, December 27.*



A Christmas Eve with Martin Luther

Our children will help Pastor Luther tell the Christmas Story
through sacred Scripture, carols, and candle lighting.

Saturday, December 24

7:00PM in the sanctuary

Christmas Day

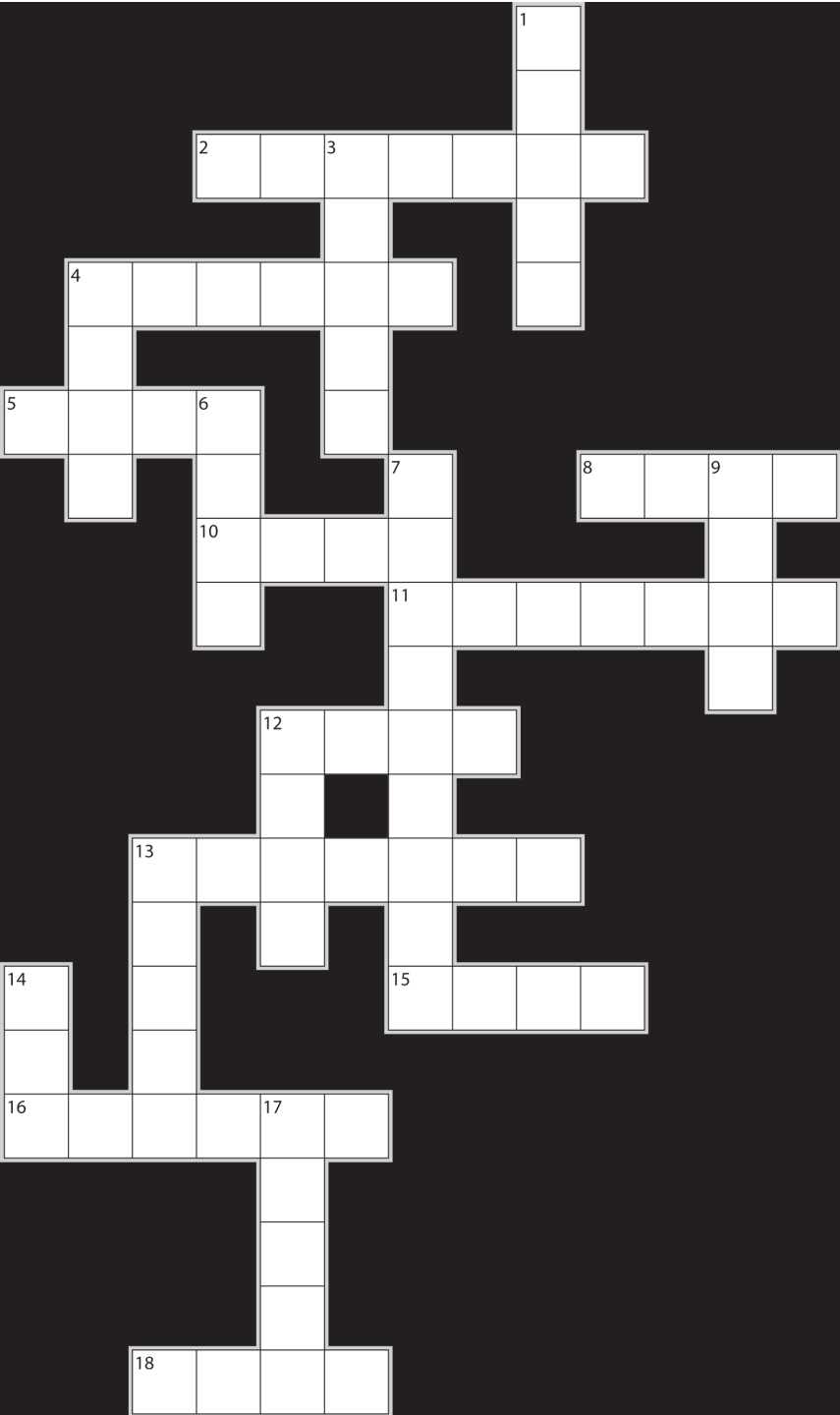
We will worship at St. Paul's on Christmas Day.

Holy Communion will be served. Please take note
that Communion will not be served at our Christmas Eve service
as it will be administered on Christmas morning.

There is no Sunday School on Christmas Day.

Sunday, December 25

10:30AM in the sanctuary



Two Year Daily Lectionary

Advent 4, Year 1

Sunday – Isaiah 11:1–9; Ephesians 6:10–20; John 3:16–21

Monday – Isaiah 11:10–16; Revelation 20:1–10; John 5:30–47

Tuesday – Isaiah 28:9–22; Revelation 20:11–21:8; Luke 1:5–25

Wednesday – Isaiah 29:9–24; Revelation 21:9–21; Luke 1:26–38

Thursday – Isaiah 31:1–9; Revelation 21:22–22:5; Luke 1:39–56

Friday – Isaiah 33:17–22; Revelation 22:6–11, 18–20; Luke 1:57–66

Saturday – Isaiah 35:1–10; Revelation 22:12–17, 21; Luke 1:67–80

ACROSS

2. Whose birth is foretold here? (Luke 1:5–25)
4. The root will become a sign or... (Isaiah 11:10–16)
5. “Blessed is the fruit of your...” (Luke 1:39–56)
8. The Lord is our judge, lawgiver, and... (Isaiah 33:17–22)
10. You will be thrown into the lake of fire unless your name is in this book. (Revelation 20:11–21:8)
11. God did not send his Son to do this. (John 3:16–21)
12. Be strong and do not... (Isaiah 35:1–10)
13. What kind of bright star is Jesus? (Revelation 22:12–17, 21)
15. The deaf shall... (Isaiah 29:9–24)
16. The cornerstone will be what kind of stone? (Isaiah 28:9–22)
18. What was coming down from heaven? (Revelation 21:9–21)

DOWN

1. Whose birth is foretold here? (Luke 1:26–38)
3. The sunrise will guide us in this way. (Luke 1:67–80)
4. When is he coming? (Revelation 22:6–11, 18–20)
6. Righteousness will become a what? (Isaiah 11:1–9)
7. What they were going to call John (Luke 1:57–66)
9. What will be on their foreheads? (Revelation 21:22–22:5)
12. Stand... (Ephesians 6:10–20)
13. The accuser (John 5:30–47)
14. The angel had a key to this place. (Revelation 20:1–10)
17. Woe to those who go there. (Isaiah 31:1–9)

Unscramble the verse:

Hte gaecr of het dorl seujs eb htiw lal



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

Phone: 704-633-0922

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

CHURCH STAFF

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gsbarringer@carolina.rr.com

Alison Moore, Girl Scout Coordinator, 704-467-9191

Alison and Aaron Moore, Boy Scout Coordinators, 704-467-9191

Next Sunday's Lessons: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 2; Hebrews 1:1-12; John 1:1-18