

The
virgin's
name
was
Mary.

Luke 1:27



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2023 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Cooper Aldridge • Crucifer: Ryan Friel

Cantor: Andrew Baker • Lector: Chloe Monroe

Communion Assistants: Nicole Amos,

Sarah Fesperman, Bonnie Hinson

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “Angels from the Realms of Glory” Anna Laura Page

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

73

Hymn: "Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel"

103

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.

Please be seated.

A - men.

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

¹When the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, ‘Why have you not built me a house of cedar?’”

⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

¹⁶“And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

The word of the Lord.

Psalms 89:1-5; 19-29

¹Your love, O LORD, forever | will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will pro- | claim
your faithfulness.

**²For I am persuaded that your love is estab- | lished forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly | in the heavens.**

**³I have made a covenant with my | chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to Da- | vid my servant:**

**⁴I will establish your | line forever,
and preserve your throne for all | generations.”**

**⁵The heavens bear witness to your won- | ders, O LORD,
and to your faithfulness in the assembly of the | holy ones;**

**¹⁹You spoke once in a vision and said to your | faithful people:
“I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one
chosen out | of the people.**

**²⁰I have found Da- | vid my servant;
with my holy oil have I a- | nointed him.**

**²¹My hand will | hold him fast
and my arm will | make him strong.**

**²²No enemy | shall deceive him,
nor any wicked man | bring him down.**

**²³I will crush his | foes before him
and strike down | those who hate him.”**

**²⁴My faithfulness and love shall | be with him,
and he shall be victorious | through my name.**

**²⁵I shall make his domin- | ion extend
from the Great Sea | to the River.**

**²⁶He will say to me, ‘You | are my Father,
my God, and the rock of | my salvation.’**

**²⁷I will make | him my firstborn
and higher than the kings | of the earth.**

**²⁸I will keep my love for | him forever,
and my covenant will stand | firm for him.**

**²⁹I will establish his | line forever
and his throne as the | days of heaven.”**

Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has

been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith — ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Offering: Scan the QR code to the right to be taken directly to the giving page on your phone or tablet. Ushers will also pass the offering plates along each row.



Anthem: “Creation Will Be at Peace”

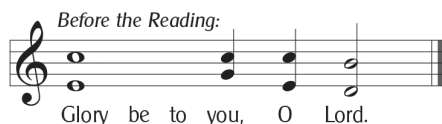
Adult Choir

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand for the Gospel.*

78



The Holy Gospel is written in the first chapter of Luke.



Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Apostles Creed

81

**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**

Children's Chat

Sermon: “Where Everybody Knows Your Name”

Hymn: “Savior of the Nations, Come”

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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

85

Preface and Sanctus

86-88

Leader *Congregation*

The Lord be with you. And with your spir - it

Leader

Lift up your hearts.

Congregation

We lift them to the Lord.

Leader

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God—through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, our Lord and Savior, who ascending above the heavens and sitting at your right hand, poured out the Holy Spirit upon the chosen disciples as he had promised, causing the whole earth to rejoice.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you, and saying:



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

Remain seated after the distribution.

92

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

Thanksgiving

We thank and praise you, almighty and loving Father, for feeding us with the body and blood of your beloved son, Jesus Christ. Having received this holy Sacrament with our mouths, may our faith in you apprehend and enjoy your grace, the forgiveness of sins, unity with Christ and his Church, and everlasting life. Send your Holy Spirit to remind us of these promises throughout the week, and keep us in the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Nunc Dimittus

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

Benedicamus

93

Leader: Congregation:

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Leader: Congregation:

Bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Mary McDonald

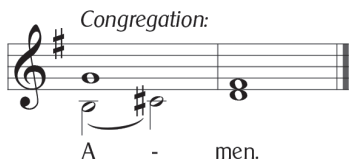
*We remain seated, worshiping silently during the postlude,
standing at the end of the postlude to face the processional cross,
now at the rear of the sanctuary.*

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.

Congregation:



A - men.



2024 Offering Envelopes are in the Narthex. Please be sure to pick up your envelopes to save the church the cost of postage. Do not use these until 2024, as your number may not be the same as in 2023.

2023/2024 Offerings—With the end of the year approaching, we remind everyone that the deadline for donations to be posted for 2023, is December 27th. Donations received December 28th and after will be posted for 2024.

Stewardship

General Fund Offering (12/17)	\$11,974
Other Offering (12/17)	\$1,013
Sunday School Attendance (12/17)	88
Worship Attendance (12/17)	187
Children’s Mission (4th quarter–Lutheran Military Veterans)	
\$109.50 last Sunday; quarter so far: \$1,612.00	

Sunday, December 24

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship Service, 10:30am
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is tonight at 7pm in the sanctuary. Invite your family and friends for this special Christmas service.

Monday, December 25

- The church office is closed Monday. Merry Christmas!

Tuesday, December 26

- The church office is closed Tuesday.

Wednesday, December 27

- Last day for donations to be counted for 2023. Offerings received after this day will be posted for 2024.

Sunday, December 31

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship Service, 10:30am

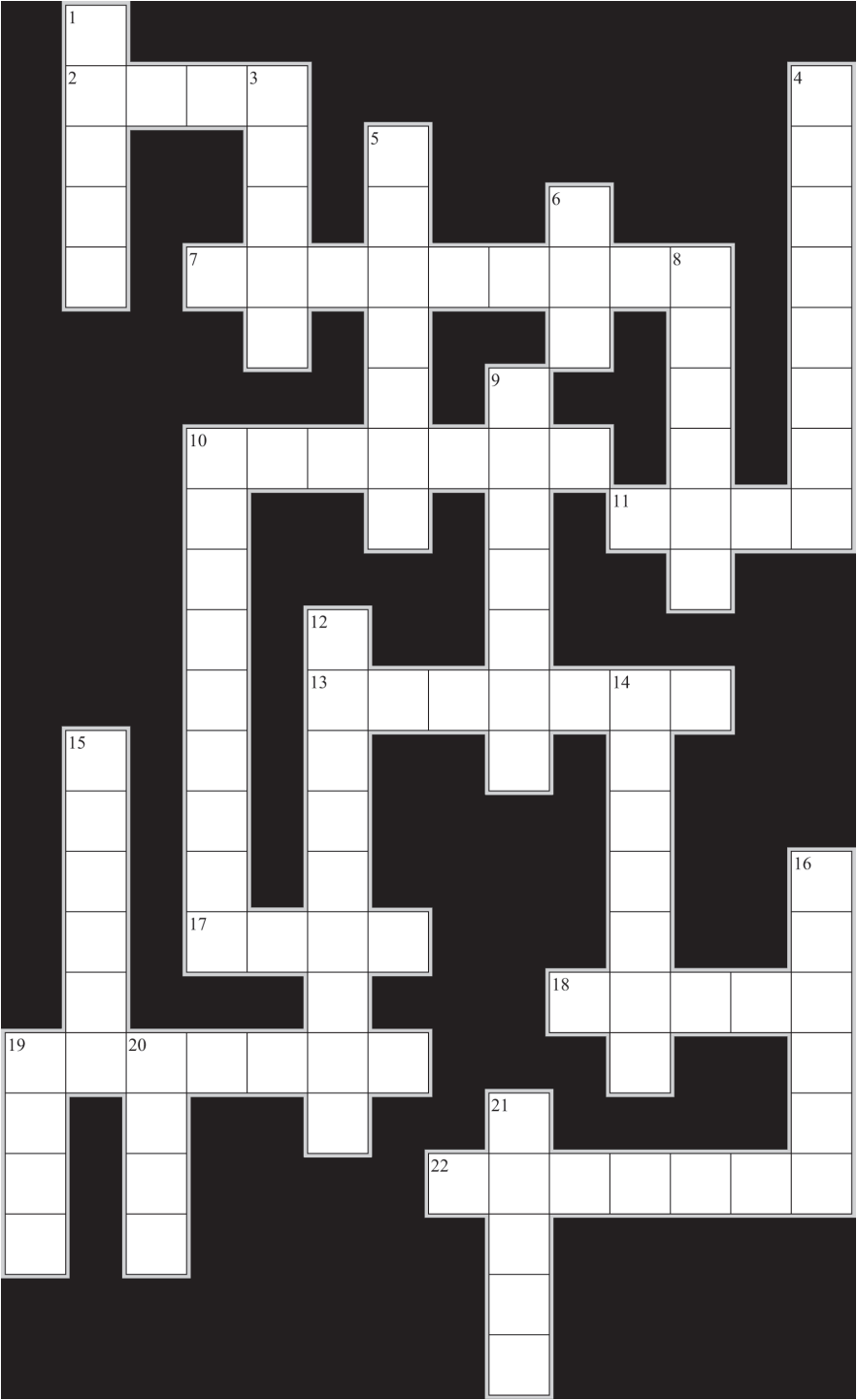
Monday, January 1, 2024

- Happy New Year! The church office will be closed.

Recent Prayer Needs

- Cindy Alligood – Recovering from surgery at home
- Betty Camerlin – Health Concerns
- Donald Camerlin – Recovering from surgery at home
- Carolyn Cress – Autumn Care
- Michael Goodman – Recovering at home
- Johnny Jenkins (property brother) – Recovering at home
- Michelle Linker – Recovering from surgery at home
- Christine Maloney – Recovering from surgery at home
- George Reese – Recovering from surgery at home
- April Simmons – Health concerns
- Jane Wilhelm – Recovering from fall

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Find the answers in today's four Scripture lessons.

It may help with the Psalm if you use the English Standard Version instead of the old Psalter in the bulletin.

ACROSS

2. Do all that is in your heart because he is with you.
7. God will make David's offspring be this, as well as the highest of the kings of the earth.
10. God is described as this, meaning he is without beginning or end.
11. She is called "favored one."
13. How long will the psalmist sing of the steadfast love of the LORD?
17. What of David's will be exalted in the Lord's name?
18. Mary was to give her son this name.
19. The Lord's faithfulness will be established there.
22. He was sent to Nazareth.

DOWN

1. This agricultural metaphor is used to declare what God will do with Israel in the promised land.
3. Who did God take from the pasture to be prince over Israel?
4. This section of Paul's epistle is called a...
5. It was considered this in the Old Testament but now the gospel is clear.
6. Nothing will be impossible with him.
8. In the Old Testament lesson, the word of the LORD came to him.
9. Where is Nazareth?
10. This relative of Mary had also conceived a son.
12. The Lord will establish David's what forever?
14. The Lord will provide rest from all them.
15. David's house, kingdom, and what else will be established forever?
16. We are strengthened according to the...
19. God anointed David with this kind of oil.
20. The revelation of the mystery was kept secret for long...
21. The gospel is proclaimed in order to produce the obedience of what?

Light in the Darkness

Find the 25 bold words from Matthew 4:12–17.

K I N G D O M V D L J R J N S
G M T H D Y O E P Q J R K U S
A A Z E W I T H D R E W L L E
D E L K D S S N D I S H E U N
Z E S I E D A A L F U E A B K
T M A R L Z R A I J S A V E R
J N R T A E T A O A Q V I Z A
I A E R H H E R E Y H E N U D
I O E P P E D C K H E N G I I
D T Y A E A M U A N R E P A C
H X N E N R T T F H P M V K T
F U L F I L L E D O W J L H P
N S E L I T N E G J A W G T P
S H A D O W D J K U Y I P D S
H C A E R P O G K W L L F H W

Now when he **heard** that **John** was **arrested**, he **withdrew** into **Galilee**. After **leaving Nazareth**, he went and settled in **Capernaum** by the **sea**, in the land of **Zebulun** and **Naphtali**, so that what was spoken might be **fulfilled** through **Isaiah** the prophet, saying, “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the **way** of the sea, beyond the **Jordan**, Galilee of the **Gentiles**. The people dwelling in **darkness** have seen a great **light**. And to those who sat inhabiting the region and **shadow** of **death**, on them light has risen.” From that time, **Jesus** began to **preach**, saying, “**Repent**, for the **kingdom** of **heaven** is at hand.”

Unscramble the verse:

Lolwof em nda I lilw kame oyw shiresf fo enm.



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: secretary@stpaulslutheran.church

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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Next Sunday's Lessons: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 111; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40