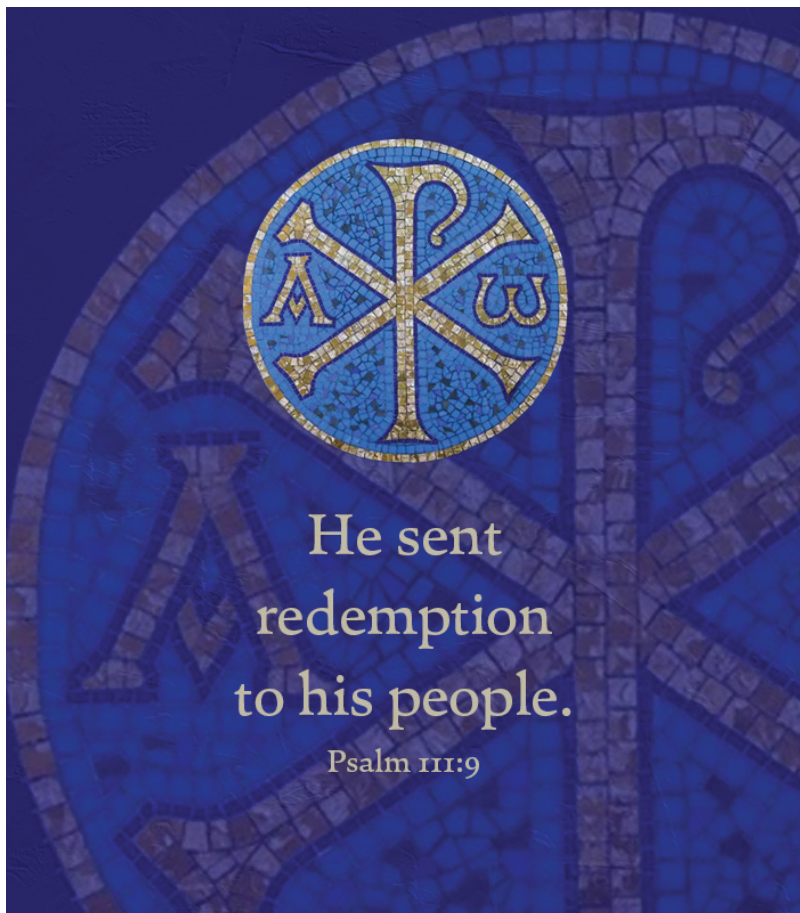




He sent
redemption
to his people.

Psalm 111:9

First Sunday after Christmas
December 31, 2023 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Elin Wells • Crucifer: Zoe Wells

Cantor/Liturgist: Stan McConnell

Lector: Zoe Wells • Guest Preacher: Matt Cottingham

Communion Assistants: Nicole Amos,
Sarah Fesperman, Bonnie Hinson

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “In the Bleak Midwinter”

Albin Whitworth

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: "Angels From the Realms of Glory"

126

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

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, forever one God.

A - men.

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the LORD God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

¹For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The word of the Lord.

Psalm III

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: Galatians 4:4-7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son,
born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were
under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And
because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our
hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a
son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

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.



Offertory: “Star of the East”

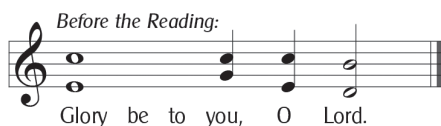
Vance Goodman

Gospel Acclamation *Please stand for the Gospel.*

78



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



Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

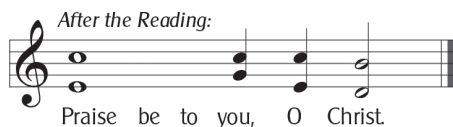
²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for 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 in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” ³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so 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, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

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

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: "Sacrifice"

Matthew Cottingham

Hymn: "What Child is This?"

113

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



The Lord be with you.

Congregation



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 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

Benedicamus

93

The musical notation for the Benedicamus section is presented in two systems. Each system features a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first system shows the Leader's part with a whole note followed by a half note, and the Congregation's part with a half note followed by two quarter notes. The second system shows the Leader's part with a whole note followed by a half note, and the Congregation's part with a half note followed by two quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

Leader: Bless the Lord. *Congregation:* Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “Fanfare on ‘The Boar’s Head Carol’”

John Dixon

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.

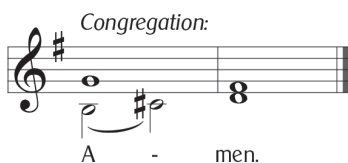
Benediction

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.



Recent Prayer Needs

- Paul Canup – Recovering from a fall
- Christine Maloney – Recovering from surgery at home
- George Reese – Recovering from surgery at home
- Jane Wilhelm – Recovering from a fall

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

For those who use the white, numbered offering envelopes— **your 2024 envelopes are in the Narthex.** Please be sure to get yours today to help us save on the cost of postage.

Monday, January 1, 2024

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

Tuesday, January 2

- Bible Study Classes, 10am and 6pm
- Extension Club, 1pm

Wednesday, January 3

- Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am

Saturday, January 6

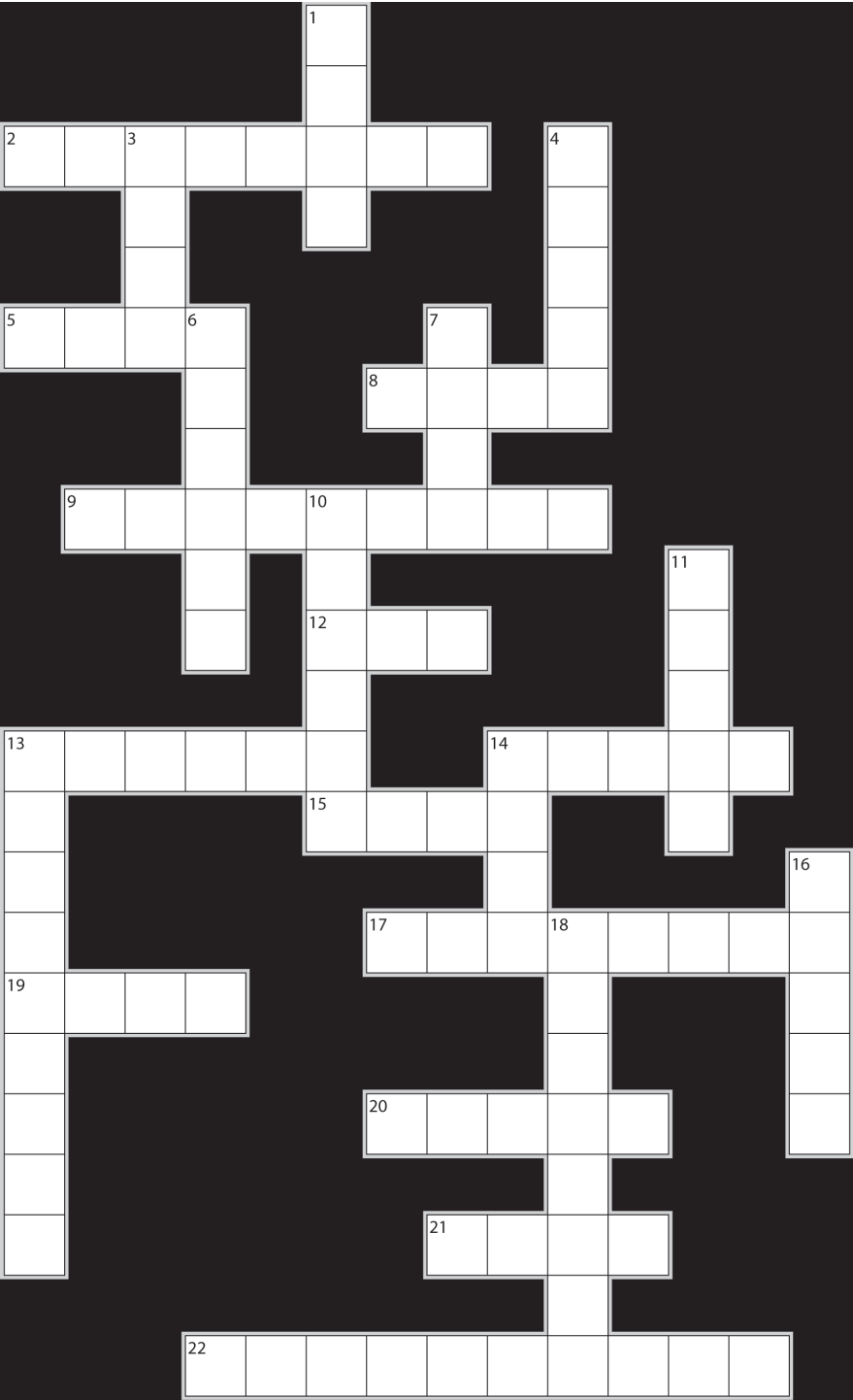
- Packing up Christmas decorations, beginning at 9am

Sunday, January 7

- Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30am
- Christian Education Committee, conference room, 2pm
- Outreach Committee, 2pm
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell practice, 5pm
- Vespers at the Parsonage—fellowship at 6pm; prayer at 6:30pm

Stewardship

General Fund Offering (12/24)	\$22,063
Other Offering (12/24)	\$483,517
Sunday School Attendance (12/24)	63
Worship Attendance (12/24)	196
Candlelight Service Attendance (12/24)	161
Children's Mission (4th quarter—Lutheran Military Veterans)	
\$165 last Sunday; quarter so far: \$1,777	



First Sunday after Christmas

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. Jesus is a revelation to them.
5. Simeon's what saw God's salvation?
8. Jesus was sent that we might be adopted as...
9. For her sake, the prophet will not be quiet.
12. Jesus was born under this.
13. He was allowed to die in peace.
14. David will thank the Lord with his whole...
15. God sent his Son when the fulness of this had come.
17. The Lord is gracious and...
19. She did not depart from the temple, night or day.
20. The Prophetess Anna was from this tribe.
21. This is the beginning of wisdom.
22. The Lord sent this for his people.

DOWN

1. Every firstborn male is considered...
3. You will be called by a new one.
4. Great are God's... (Ps 111:2)
6. God has sent him into our hearts.
7. Isaiah's what will exult in God?
10. For Zion's sake, Isaiah will not keep...
11. All nations will see God's...
13. God has dressed us in these garments.
14. Because you are a son of God, you are an...
16. You are no longer one of these.
18. The Lord remembers this forever.

An Official's Dream

Find the 23 **bold** words from Genesis 40:9–14.

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

And the **official cupbearer told** his **dream** to **Joseph**, and said to him, “In my dream, behold, a **vine** was before me, and in the vine were **three branches**. And it was as though it **budded**, and its **blossoms** shot forth, and the **clusters ripened** into **grapes**. Pharaoh’s **cup** was in my **hand**; and I took the grapes, and **pressed** them into Pharaoh’s cup, and I placed the cup in Pharaoh’s hand.” And Joseph said unto him, “This is the **interpretation**: the three branches are three **days**. In three days, **Pharaoh** will lift up your head and **restore** you to your **office**, and you will put Pharaoh’s cup into his **hand** as **formerly** when you were his cupbearer.”



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

CHURCH STAFF

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Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjlw63@gmail.com

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

Next Sunday's Lessons: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Romans 6:1-11; Mark 1:4-11