



**We played the flute for you,
and you did not dance.**

Luke 7:32

Third Sunday in Advent
December 15, 2024 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Grace Walker • Crucifer: Alexander Canup
Cantor: Andrew Baker • Lector: Brenda Bass
Communion Assistants: Sarah Feserman, Terri Powlas

Welcome and Announcements

Installation of 2025 Council

Prelude: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Hal Hopson

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness *Stand*

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.

Reflection and self-examination

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.**

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**

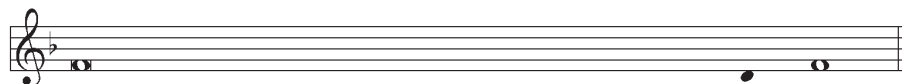
Hymn: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

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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

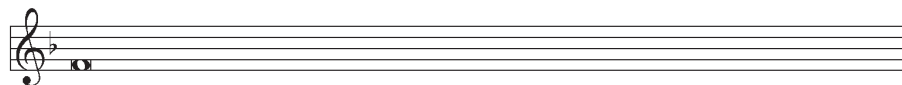




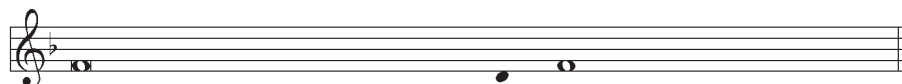
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



☞ Lord, have mer - cy.



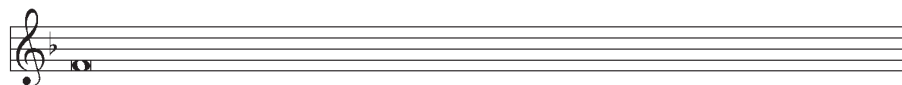
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



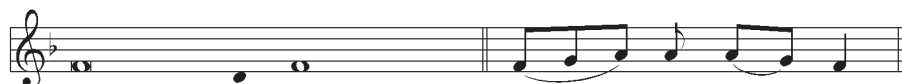
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Q Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

☞ Lord, have mer - cy.



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

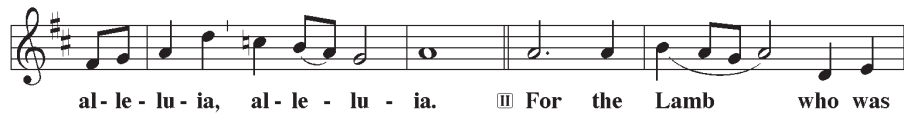
Hymn of Praise



☩ This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,



al- le- lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. [I] Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was





Prayer of the Day



Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation—for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14–20

¹⁴“Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Psalm 85

¹You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD,
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

²**You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people
and blotted out | all their sins.**

³You have withdrawn | all your fury
and turned yourself from your wrathful | indignation.

⁴**Restore us then, O | God our Savior;
let your anger de- | part from us.**

⁵Will you be displeased with | us forever?
will you prolong your anger from | age to age?

⁶**Will you not give us | life again,
that your people may re- | joice in you?**

⁷Show us your mer- | cy, O LORD,
and grant us | your salvation.

⁸**I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those
who turn their | hearts to him.**

⁹Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰**Mercy and truth have | met together;
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.**

¹¹Truth shall spring up | from the earth,
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

¹²**The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,
and our land will | yield its increase.**

¹³Righteousness shall | go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.



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



Gospel: Luke 7:18–35

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” ²⁴When John’s messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ ²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is

The Gospel of the Lord. *Please be seated.*



Children's Chat

Sermon: “You Can’t Make Some People Happy”

Hymn: “When Peace Like a River”

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Confession of Faith

Let us together profess our faith in God using the words of the Apostles Creed.

**¹I believe in God the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

²I 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.

³I 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

The 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 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

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: “Advent Supplication”

Adult Choir

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
 cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the



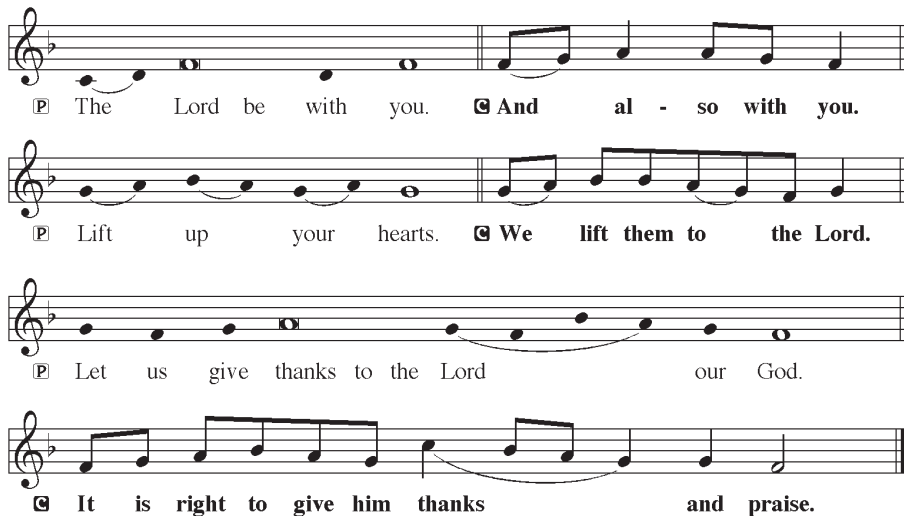
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the

prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your

pres - ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

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



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

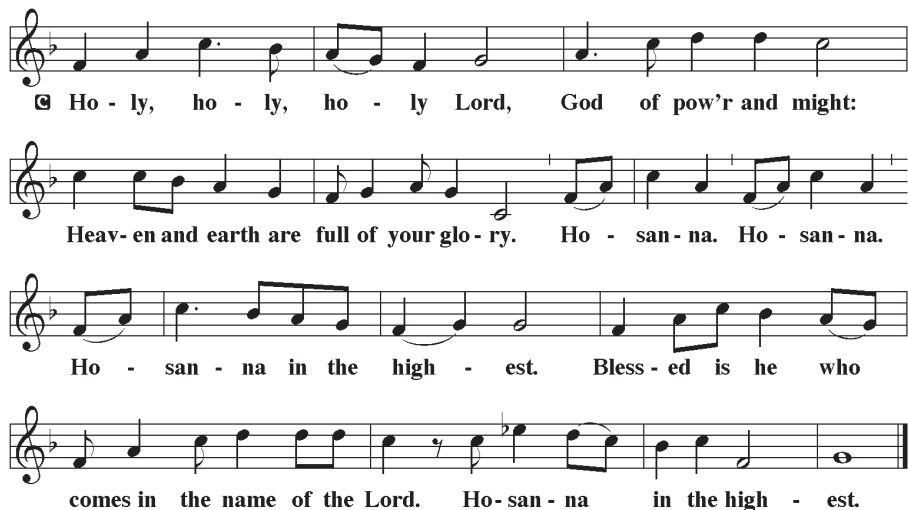
Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☩ It is right to give 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 ever-living 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 - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
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.

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."

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,

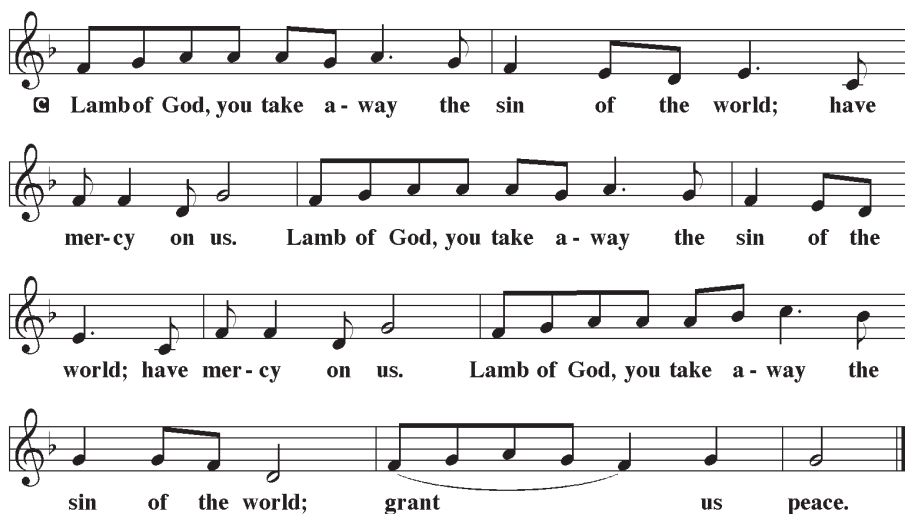
on earth as it is in heaven.

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

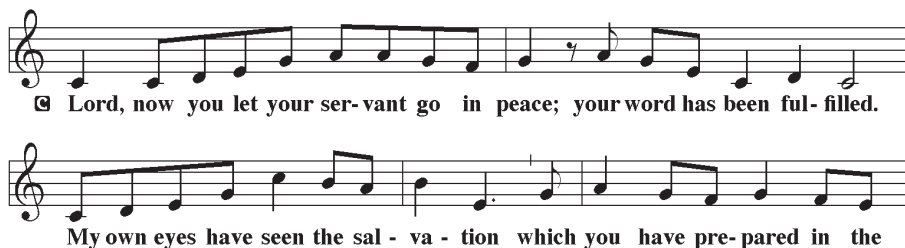
Distribution of Holy Communion

If you need a gluten-free wafer or juice, please hold up your index finger in front of you as the server approaches you at the rail.



☐ 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.

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



☐ Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful- filled.
My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

Let us pray. Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food—through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Postlude: “An Advent Postlude”

Charles Callahan

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.

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

New Luminaries

The Youth & Family Committee has purchased new luminaries. You may sponsor luminaries for \$10 each. We are offering plaques to be placed by them on the lawn with your loved one's name on the plaque. Donations this year will help cover the cost of our new luminaries.

Mid-week Advent Supper and Service

Mid-week Advent supper and service will be Wednesday, December 18th. Supper is at **6pm** in the fellowship hall, followed by a short service in the sanctuary. In order to help us plan, please let us know if you will be attending by putting "**A**" by your name in the friendship register.

Candlelight Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight and Gemütlichkeit* Service will be at 7pm on Tuesday, December 24th, in the sanctuary.

Christmas Holiday

The church office will be closed Wednesday, December 25th – Friday, December 27th. Information you have for the December 29th bulletin must be turned in by Friday, December 20th.

Winter Weather Policy

Monday through Friday, if schools are closed, activities at St. Paul's are cancelled. For Sundays, consult the church website, WBTV, WCCB, WCNC, or WSOC.

Children's Christmas Program

The Children's Christmas program will be **today at 4pm** in the sanctuary. Please come and enjoy their presentation of "Live from the First Century," a first century newscast based on the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke.

* Gemütlichkeit [guh müt lich keit] is a German-language word used to convey the idea of a state or feeling of warmth, friendliness, and good cheer.

A Way to Walk

Find the 30 **bold** words from Psalm 85:7–13 ERV.

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

Shew us thy **mercy**, O **LORD**, and **grant** us thy **salvation**. I will **hear** what God the **LORD** will speak: For he will **speak peace** unto his people, and to his **saints**: But let them not turn again to **folly**. Surely his salvation is **nigh** them that **fear** him; that **glory** may **dwell** in our **land**. **Mercy** and truth are **met** together; **Righteousness** and **peace** have **kissed** each other. Truth **springeth** out of the earth; And righteousness hath looked down from **heaven**. Yea, the **LORD** shall give that which is **good**; and our land shall **yield** her **increase**. Righteousness shall go before him; And shall make **his footsteps** a **way** to **walk** in.

Unscramble the verse:

het rldo yht ogd si ni teh itmsd fo heet.

Recent Prayer Needs

- Cassie Bass, daughter of Brenda Bass – health concerns
- Linda Behrendt – recovering from surgery
- Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Michael Corley, Sandy's son – health concerns
- Nancy Crapster, friend of Sandy Corley – health concerns
- Jean Deal – recovering from surgery
- Grady Earnhardt – health concerns
- Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Sonya Eller – health concerns
- Wayne Hinson – recovering from surgery
- Matt Holland – health concerns
- Ray Kubitz – recovering from surgery
- Alan Lyerly – recovering from surgery
- Andrea Lyerly – health concerns
- Phyllis Lynch, mother of Sherry Barringer – health concerns
- Bob McCanless – health concerns
- Stan McConnell – recovering from surgery
- Griffin Morneau, 13-year-old family friend of Amy Barringer – health concerns
- Michelle Orbison – recovering from surgery
- Franda Raymer – health concerns
- Gail Reese – recovering from surgery
- Jimmy Dean Rouse, brother of Linda Shirley – health concerns
- Ashton Smith, family member of Susan Ryman – health concerns
- Gail Spry, cousin of Mary Lee Earnhardt – health concerns
- Dottie Stancil – health concerns
- Barbara Upright – upcoming surgery
- Scott Watson, son of Larry & Leilani Watson – health concerns
- Robert Weed – Piedmont Health and Rehab, room 207
- Jane Wilhelm – health concerns

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

Sunday, December 15

- Children’s play practice, 9am
- Installation of 2025 Council
- Autumn Care worship service, 2pm
- Children’s Christmas play, 4pm
- Vespers, 6pm

Monday, December 16

- Newsletter articles are due this week
- Council meeting, 6:30pm

Tuesday, December 17

- Bible Study class, 10am and 6pm
- Staff meeting, 5pm
- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm

Wednesday, December 18

- Faith Academy culinary students baking, 7:30am
- Mid-week supper and Advent service, 6pm
- Adult Choir practice following the Advent service

Thursday, December 19

- Friendship Club, 10:30am – Christmas music by “Y Wonders”

Friday, December 20

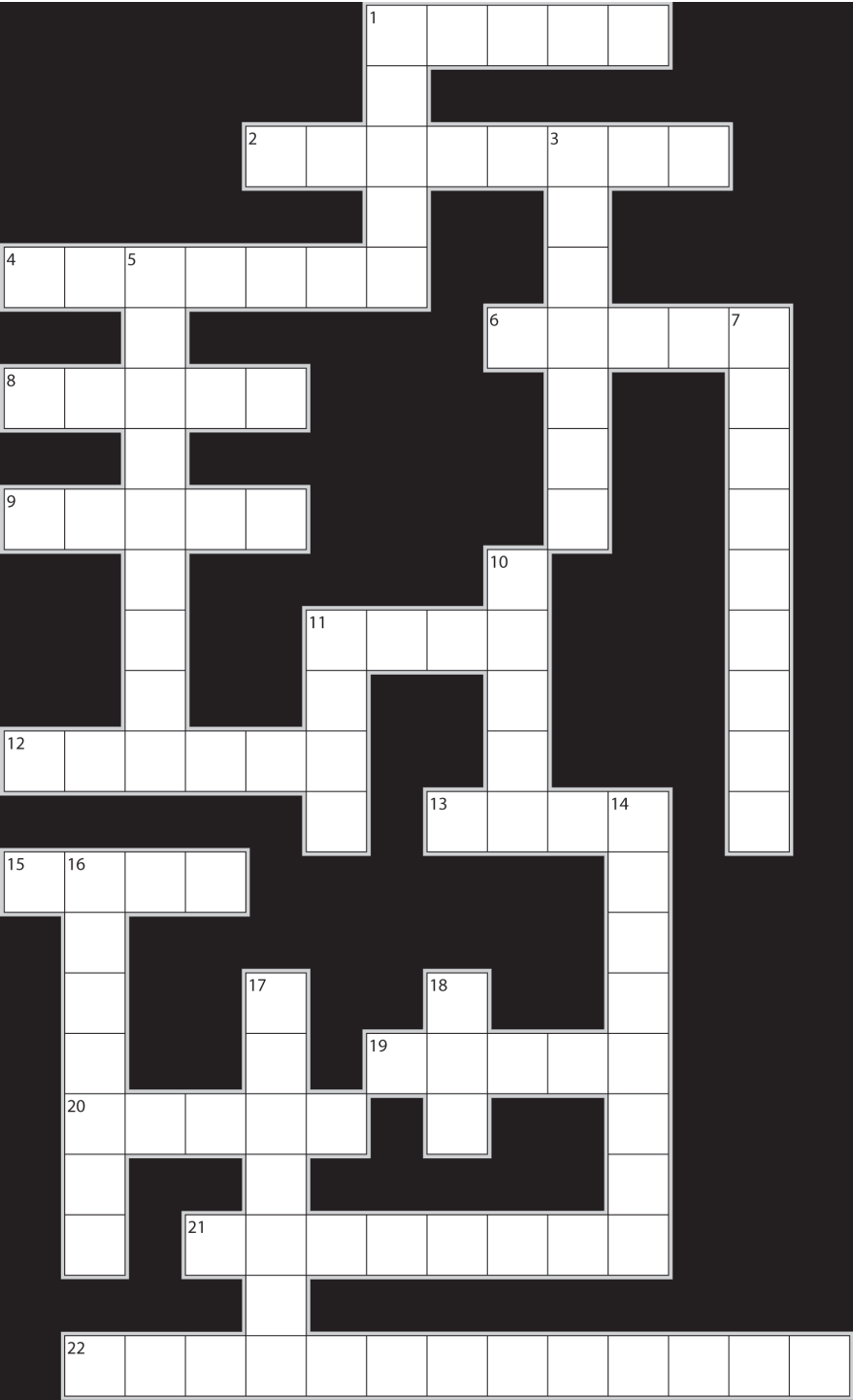
- Bulletin articles for December 29th are due

Sunday, December 22

- Baptism of Walker Jefferson Smith, 10:30am
- Men’s Choir, 4pm
- Handbell Choir, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm

General Fund Offering (12/08)	\$5,586
Other Offering (12/08)	\$14,813
Sunday School Attendance (12/08)	55
Worship Attendance (12/08)	210

Total Last Sunday: \$154.00 Total so far: \$1,520.50
The children's change collections this quarter will benefit
Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries (LMVFM).



Third Sunday of Advent, Year C

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Zephaniah 3:14-20; Psalm 85; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 7:18-35
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.*

ACROSS

1. Do not turn back to this.
2. The people slandered Jesus as being one of these heavy drinkers.
4. Do this always.
6. The peace of God will guard your hearts and...
8. Where the Lord your God is.
9. The people said John the Baptist had one of these.
11. God will quiet you with this.
12. This is justified by her children.
13. The psalmist would do this with what the Lord speaks.
15. He is at hand.
19. The people of that generation were like children who sang one of these songs.
20. The psalmist asked if God would be this way forever.
21. God will restore them.
22. The peace of God surpasses all of this.

DOWN

1. The people of that generation were like children who played this instrument.
3. Do not be this way about anything.
5. The Lord has taken them away.
7. The psalmist desired this kind of love from God.
10. The Lord spoke this to his people.
11. God will save them.
14. Make them known to God.
16. God will gather them.
17. The Pharisees and the lawyers rejected God's...
18. The Lord has covered all of this.

The Peace of God

Find the 20 **bold** words from *Philippians 4:4–7 ERV*.

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

Rejoice in the **Lord alway**: again I will say, Rejoice. Let your **forbearance** be **known** unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

In nothing be **anxious**; but in everything by **prayer** and **supplication** with **thanksgiving** let your **requests** be made known unto **God**. And the **peace** of God, which **passeth all understanding**, shall **guard** your **hearts** and your **thoughts** in **Christ Jesus**.

Unscramble the verse:

eyht era kile dhnicerl stitgni ni eth alrepeactkm
and cgialln ot neo tehnoar.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

A family of faith sharing the gospel and love of Christ

Phone: 704-633-0922

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPaulsLCMC

Wi-Fi: splcguest – pass: SavedbyGrace

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

Next weeks lessons: Micah 5:2-5a; Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-56

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