



My soul magnifies the Lord!

Luke 1:46

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 22, 2024 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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

Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Clara Canup • Crucifer: Sophie Hoffner

Cantor: Laura Brock

Lector: Crystal Bost

Communion Assistants: Nicole Amos & Sarah Fesperman

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “A Festive Christmas Voluntary”

Phil Lehenbauer

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**

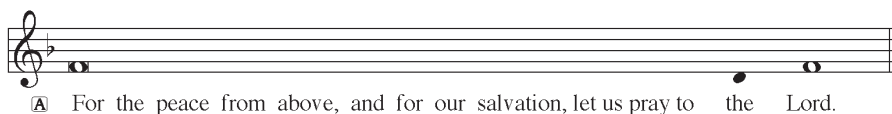
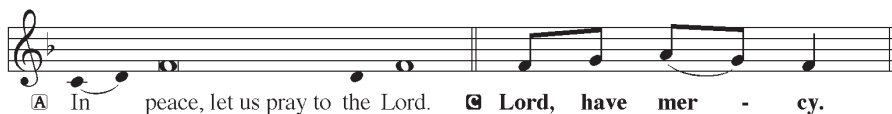
Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Hymn: “Savior of the Nations, Come”

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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



Lord, have mer - cy.



A 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.

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.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

Musical notation for the vocal line of 'Amen'. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody starts with a whole rest, followed by a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note Bb4. A double bar line follows. The melody then continues with a quarter note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. A slur covers the last four notes. The piece ends with a double bar line.

[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. ① Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was

slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.





Prayer of the Day



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.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

²But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵And he shall be their peace.

The word of the Lord.

Psalms 80:1-7

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.

²**In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.**

³Restore us, O | God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

**⁴O LORD | God of hosts,
how long will you be angered despite the
prayers | of your people?**

⁵You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.

**⁶You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.**

⁷Restore us, O | God of hosts;
show the light of your countenance, and we | shall be saved.

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure.

⁷Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’” ⁸When he said above, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.” He does away with the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.



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



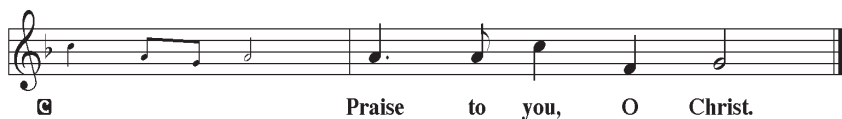
Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

Order for Holy Baptism

121

A hymnal in honor of Walker's baptism will be placed in the sanctuary.

The Baptism of Walker Jefferson Smith

Confession of Faith

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

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Cindy, Spencer, Otto,
Oliver, and Alexandria Newsome

Children's Chat

Sermon: "A Better Way"

Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway"

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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

Anthem: "Song for Advent"

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

C The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

C Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

C Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C 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:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

C Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

C Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



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,

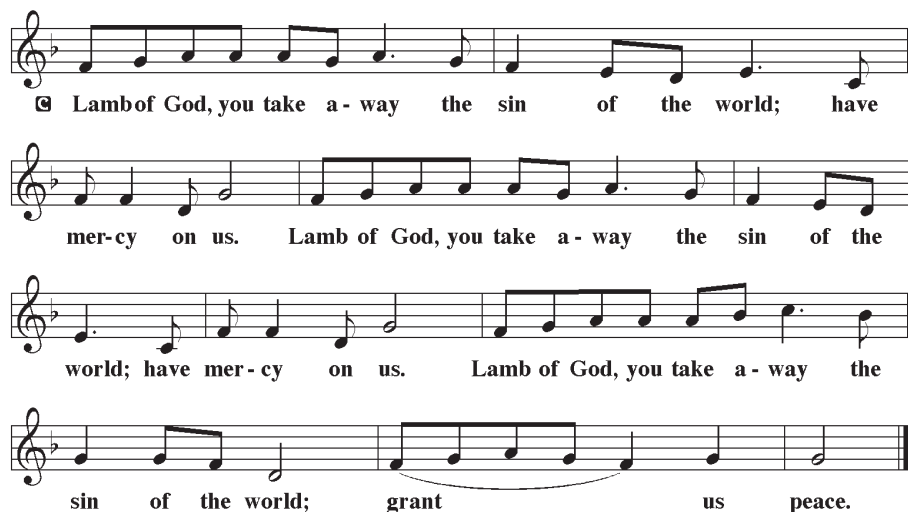
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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

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: “Postlude on ‘Gloria’”

Jason Payne

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

O

Flowers, Buds, and Hymnal

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Wayne and Bonnie Hinson in honor of their children, grandsons, and great granddaughters.

The white rose bud on the rail is in honor of Walker Jefferson Smith's baptism. A new Lutheran Book of Worship has been placed in sanctuary in honor of Walker's baptism.

Candlelight Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight and Gemütlichkeit Service will be at 7pm on Tuesday, December 24th, in the sanctuary. Gemütlichkeit [guh MŪT lich keit) is a German word that conveys the idea of a sense of warmth, friendliness, and good cheer.

Christmas Holiday

The church office will be closed Wednesday, December 25th – Friday, December 27th.

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.

Sunday, December 22

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

Tuesday, December 24

- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7pm

Wednesday, December 25

The office is closed Christmas Day, and for the rest of the week.

Sunday, December 29

- Men's Choir, 4pm
- Handbell Choir, 5pm
- No Vespers

g

General Fund Offering (12/15)	\$14,936
Other Offering (12/15)	\$35,805
Sunday School Attendance (12/15)	50
Worship Attendance (12/15)	188

Total Last Sunday: \$128.50

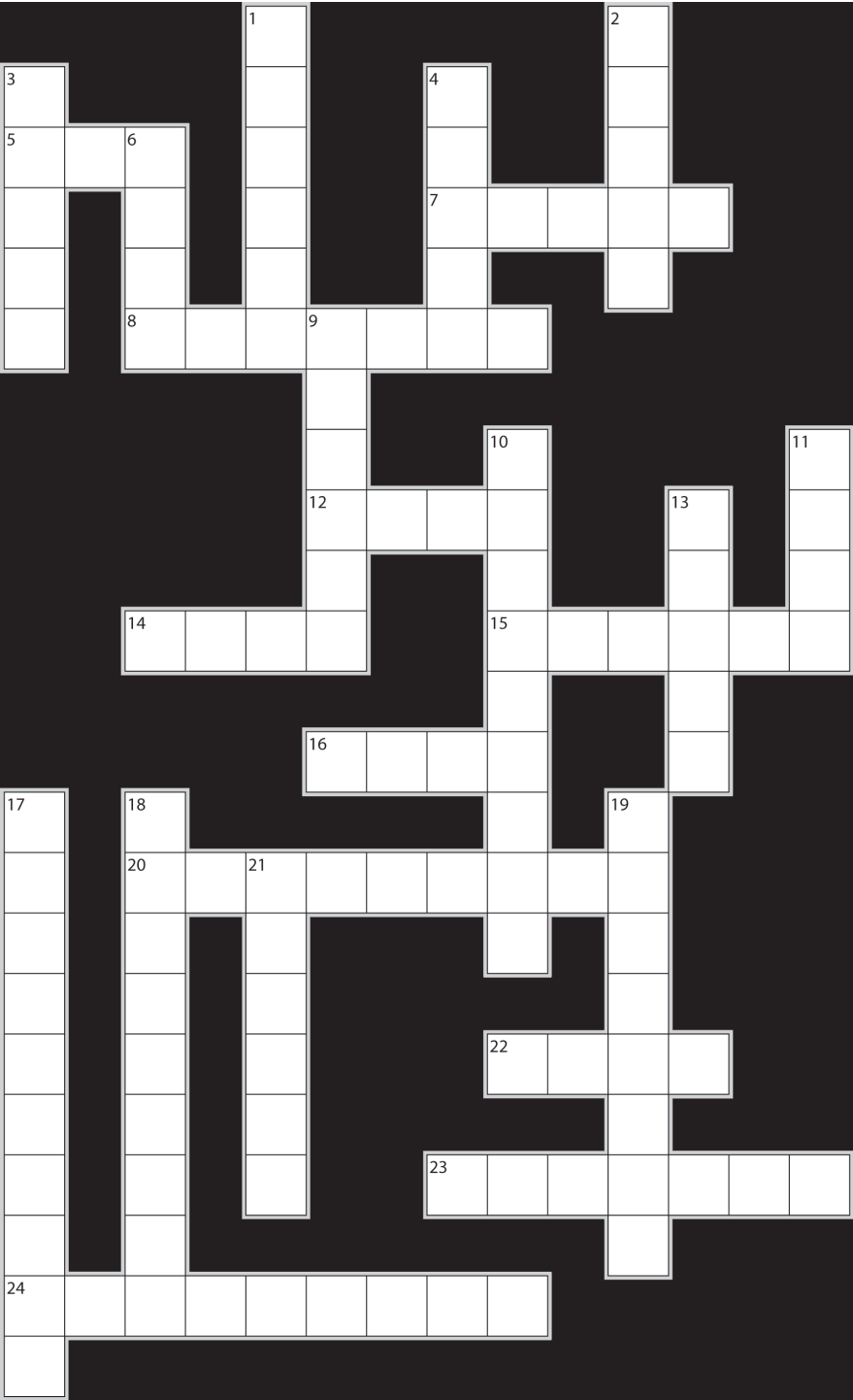
Total so far: \$1,649.00

The children's change collections this quarter will benefit
Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries.

<https://lmvfm.org>

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
- Terry Eller – recovering from surgery
- Wayne Hinson – recovering from surgery
- Matt Holland – health concerns
- Ray Kubitz – recovering from surgery
- Tammy Leazer – 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 – recovering from surgery
- Scott Watson, son of Larry & Leilani Watson – health concerns
- Rick Walker – health concerns
- Robert Weed – Piedmont Health and Rehab, room 207
- Jane Wilhelm – health concerns



Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Micah 5:2–5a; Psalm 80:1–7; Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–56
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.*

ACROSS

5. Burnt offerings and sin offerings were offered according to the....
7. How long will God be this way toward his people?
8. All generations will call Mary...
12. How many times does Christ need to offer his body?
14. Christ came to do God's...
15. The Savior has filled them with good things.
16. God, let this shine.
20. A baby leaped in her womb.
22. Mary's magnified the Lord.
23. The Messiah was foretold from these days.
24. But you, O Bethlehem...

DOWN

1. Because of the Shepherd, the sheep would dwell...
2. The Lord has fed his people with this bread.
3. The Shepherd of Israel leads Joseph like a...
4. The Shepherd would be the flock's... (a state of mind and heart).
6. Blessed is the fruit of Mary's...
9. The prophecies of the Christ were written there.
10. Considered too little to be among the clans of Judah
11. We have been sanctified through the offering of Christ's...
13. Stir it up, Shepherd of Israel, so that we may be saved.
17. Christ does not desire them.
18. Mary greeted Elizabeth in his house.
19. The Shepherd of Israel is enthroned upon these angels.
21. A ruler would come from Bethlehem to be their ruler.



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

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Next weeks lessons: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15; Psalm 111; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:22-40

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