



My eyes have seen your salvation.

Luke 2:30

First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2024 • 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: Lindsey Whisnant • Lector: Perry Bernhardt
Communion Assistants: Nicole Amos,
Gina Barringer, Sarah Fesperman

Welcome and Announcements

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

Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness *Stand* 56

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. By Christ's authority alone, 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

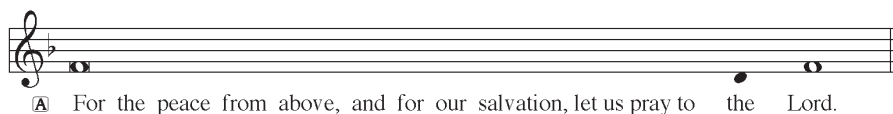
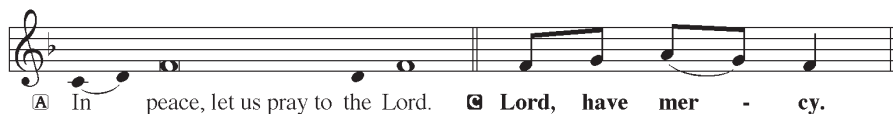
Hymn: "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

50

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

57







Ⓐ 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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Hymn of Praise

58

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



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.

Amen

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

¹The LORD said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.” ³Then Moses said to the people, ⁴“When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD’s. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore, I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.”

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: Colossians 3:12-17

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in

word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.

62



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

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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.



Please be seated.

Children's Chat

Sermon

Hymn: "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

70

Confession of Faith

65

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

**I 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

65

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

66

Anthem: "To Hear the Angels Sing"

Adult Choir

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G-clef, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the anthem, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

Thanksgiving

68

☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

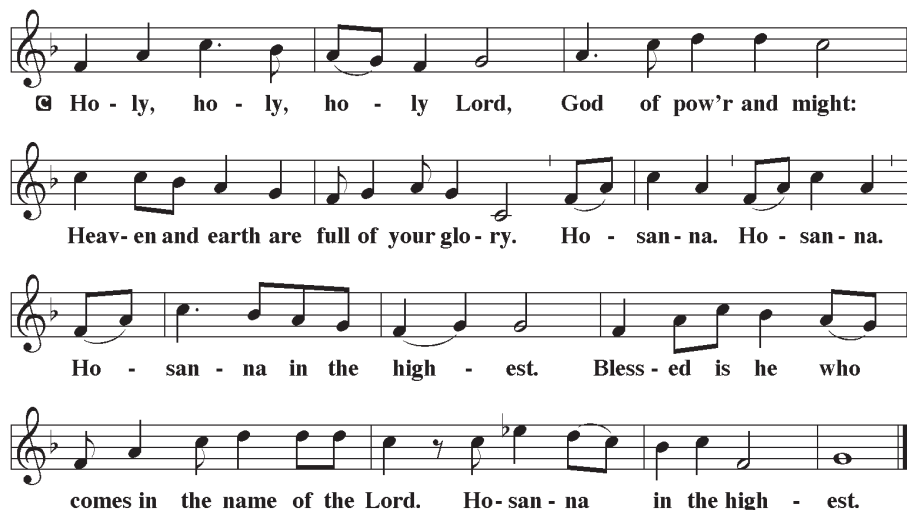
☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.

☐ 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, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word

made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory—that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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

71

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

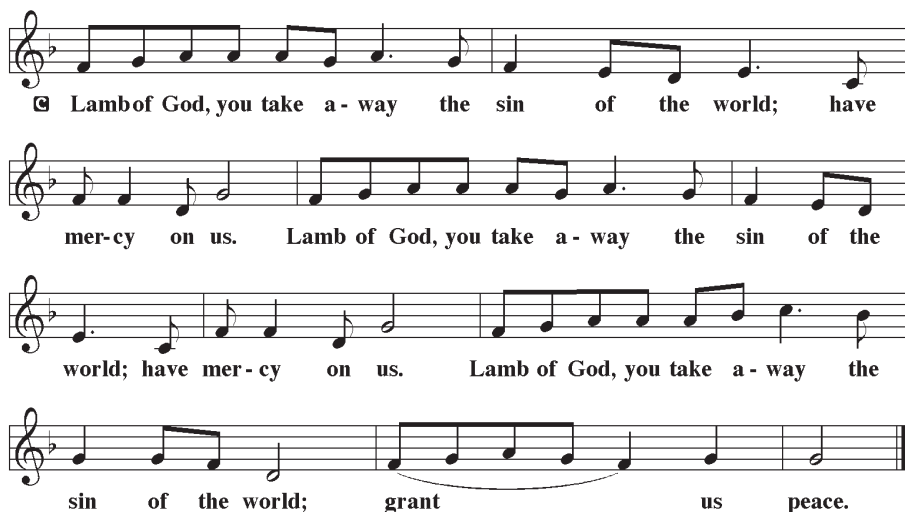
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

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

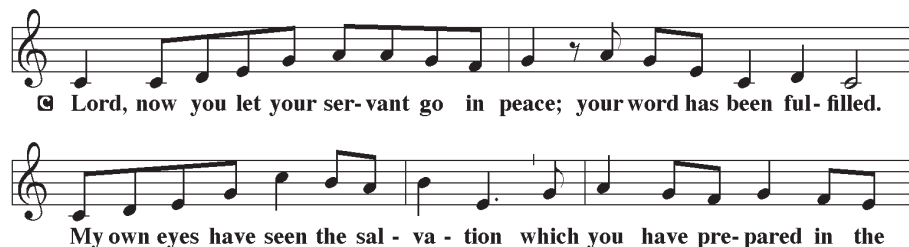
71

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.

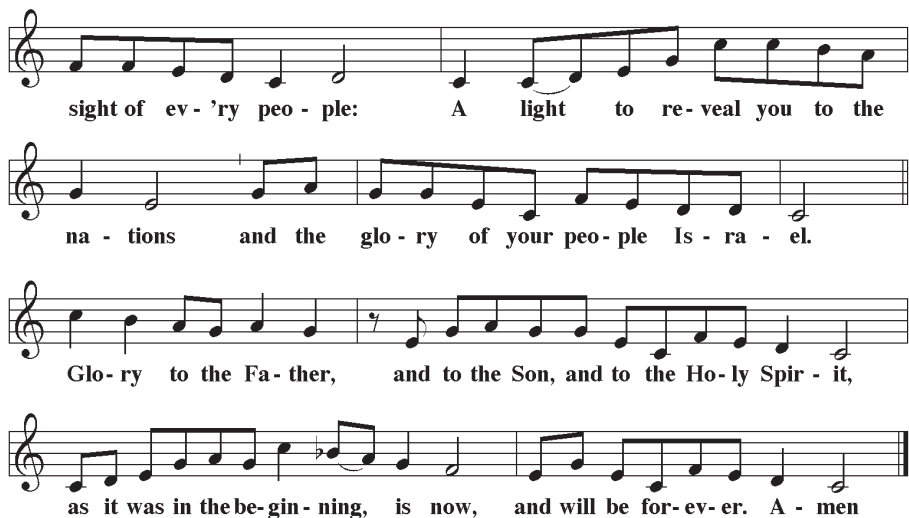


☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

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



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: “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.

The Benediction

74

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

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.

Tuesday, December 31

- Bible Study class, 10am and 6pm

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

- The office is closed today.

Sunday, January 5

- Breakfast before Sunday School, 8:30pm
- Autumn Care worship, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- Lutheran Women’s quarterly meeting, 5pm
- Vespers, 6pm



General Fund Offering (12/22)	\$11,506
Other Offering (12/22)	\$8,809
Sunday School Attendance (12/22)	75
Worship Attendance (12/22)	204

Total Last Sunday: \$164 Total so far: \$1,813

The children’s change collections this quarter will benefit
 Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries (LMVFM).

LMVFM representatives, including Patrick Dooley, will be with us on December 8th for worship.

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
- Tom Huffman – 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 – Liberty Commons Rehab
- 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



First Sunday after Christmas, Year C

Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from

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

The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.

ACROSS

3. As the Lord has forgiven you, you must do this.
5. The Lord brought Israel out of Egypt with this kind of hand.
6. Let this dwell in you richly.
8. A man saw this in the Spirit in the temple one day.
10. He was allowed to depart this life in peace.
14. The Lord would bring Israel into their land.
16. The Lord is gracious and...
19. She never left the temple.
20. Moses told the people to do this about the day the Lord brought them out of Egypt.
21. The works of the Lord's hands are faithful and...
22. Sing psalms and spiritual songs and...

DOWN

1. God's salvation would be a light to them.
2. They are trustworthy.
3. The Lord provides this for all who fear him.
4. The Lord sent this to his people.
5. Every firstborn male is to be this offering.
7. Whatever you do, do it with this.
9. The psalmist gave the Lord thanks with all of it.
11. They were to be consecrated to the Lord.
12. After Mary and Joseph presented Jesus at the temple, they returned to...
13. Simeon told her that her son would be the fall and rising of many in Israel.
15. The Lord brought Israel out of this house.
17. Let his peace rule in your heart.
18. Above all things, put on this.



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: 1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97-104; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

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