



**THE WORD
OF THE CROSS
IS FOLLY TO THOSE
WHO ARE PERISHING,
BUT TO US WHO
ARE BEING SAVED
IT IS THE POWER
OF GOD.**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 1, 2026 • 10:30AM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

205 St. Paul's Church Road, Salisbury, NC
Website: StPaulsLutheran.Church

Acolyte: Clara Canup • Crucifer: Alexander Canup
Cantor: Heather Canup • Lector: Crystal Bost
Communion Assistants: Susan Ryman & Andrew Baker

This Week's Memory Verse

Let the one
who boasts,
boast in the Lord.
1 Corinthians 1:31



Memory Verse Aid

LTO
WB
BITL.
1C131

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Special thanks to Rob Durocher for being our organist this month.

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

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

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: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

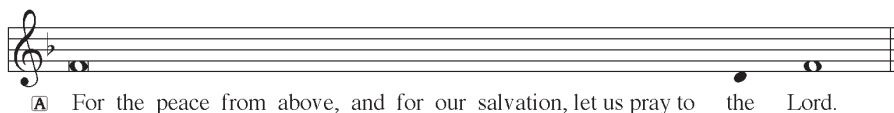
551

Greeting

57

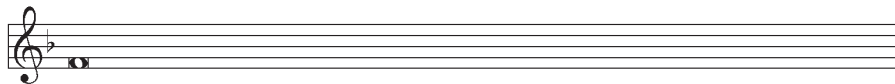
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The Kyrie

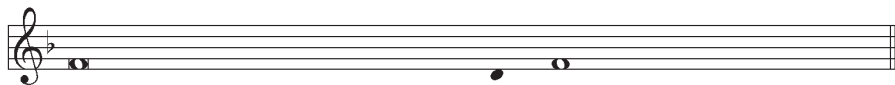




☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



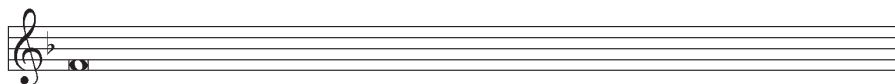
☐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



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



☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.

☐ Lord, have mer - cy.



☐ Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. ☐ 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. ☐ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was



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



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



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and



strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.



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



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



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



al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. II For the Lamb who was



slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.



III This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.



O God, you know the perilous choices we are prone to make that fall short of your desire for human faithfulness and obedience. Without you, our fragile nature cannot survive. Support us with your Word of truth, that we may grow in faith in the midst of our trials. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever one God. **Amen**

Please be seated.

First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.” ⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

The word of the Lord.

¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Whoever leads a blameless life and does | what is right,
who speaks the truth | from his heart.**

³There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil | to his friend;
he does not heap contempt up- | on his neighbor.

⁴**In his sight the wicked | is rejected,
but he honors those who | fear the LORD.**

⁵He has sworn to | do no wrong
and does not take | back his word.

⁶**He does not give his money in | hope of gain,
nor does he take a bribe a- | gainst the innocent.**

⁷Whoever | does these things
shall never be | overthrown.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” ²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the

in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The word of the Lord.

Please stand for the Gospel.

63

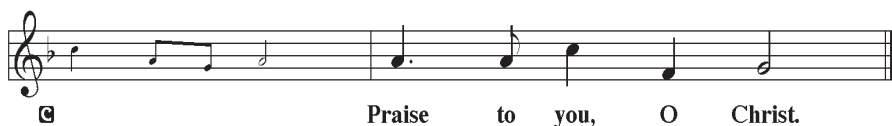


The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the fifth chapter.



Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” *The Gospel of our Lord.*



Confession of Faith

64

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

Please be seated.

Children's Chat

Sermon: "The Word of the Cross"

Hymn: "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

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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

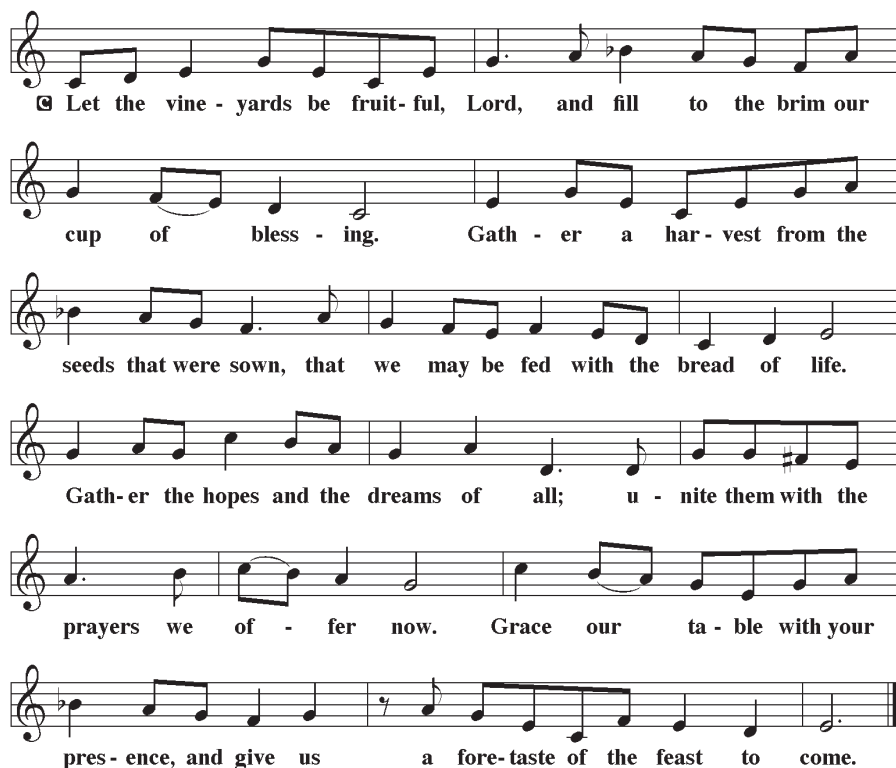
Anthem: “More About Jesus”

Men’s Choir

Please stand.

Offertory

66



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.

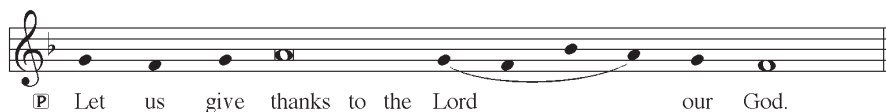
Let us Pray...

67

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 Great Thanksgiving

68



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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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**

Holy Communion *Please be seated. An usher will direct you to the Table.*

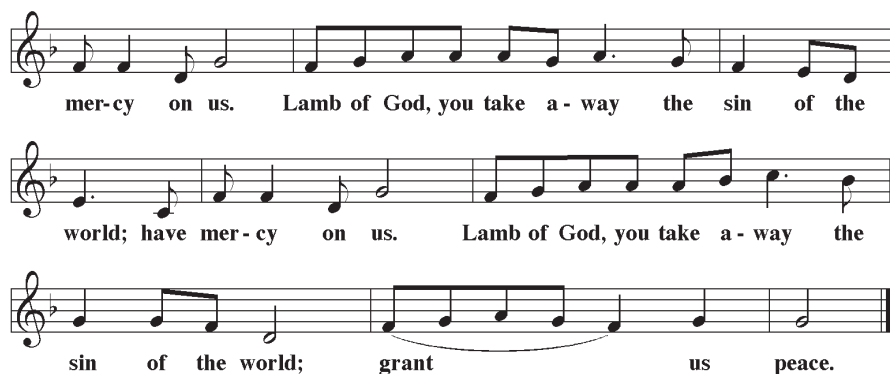
Distribution

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 altar rail. A pastor will bring communion to the pews for those who are unable to come to the rail. Please raise your hand so he doesn't miss you.

Agnus Dei

72





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

Nunc Dimittis

73

☐ 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

Prayer

74

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

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.

Amen



Youth and Family Museum Trip

The Youth and Family committee is planning a three-day, two-night trip to Kentucky to attend the Creation Museum and the Ark Museum. We will be leaving Friday, March 13th at 4am, and returning Sunday, March 15th in the evening. We will be attending the Creation Museum Friday afternoon, the Ark Museum Saturday, and doing a morning prayer service on Sunday before returning to Salisbury. **At least one parent must go with your child on this trip.** If you are interested in going, please fill out the form in the link or the QR code. <https://forms.gle/6WnaR6whe2QGZXjR8>



Contact Information

As we make progress on the 2026 yearbook, we want to remind you to contact the church office if your mailing address, email address, or phone number has changed since the last yearbook. If you have already contacted us, thank you!

Sunday, February 1

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Autumn Care worship, 2pm
- Youth & Family Committee, 2pm
- Acolyte & Crucifer training, 3pm
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Ensemble practice, 5pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm

Join us at 8:30am, Monday–Friday in the chapel for morning prayer.

Monday, February 2

- Homeschool dance class, 10am
- Facility Accessibility Committee, 6:30pm
- Hama Lingle Circle, 7pm

Tuesday, February 3

- Bible Study classes, 10am and 6pm
- Girl Scouts, 6:30pm
- Grace Ridenhour Circle, 6:30pm

Wednesday, February 4

- Classical Conversations Homeschool, 8:30am–3pm
- Ellen Bumgarner Circle, 10am
- Adult Choir practice, 6:30pm
- Youth Confirmation Class, 7pm

Thursday, February 5

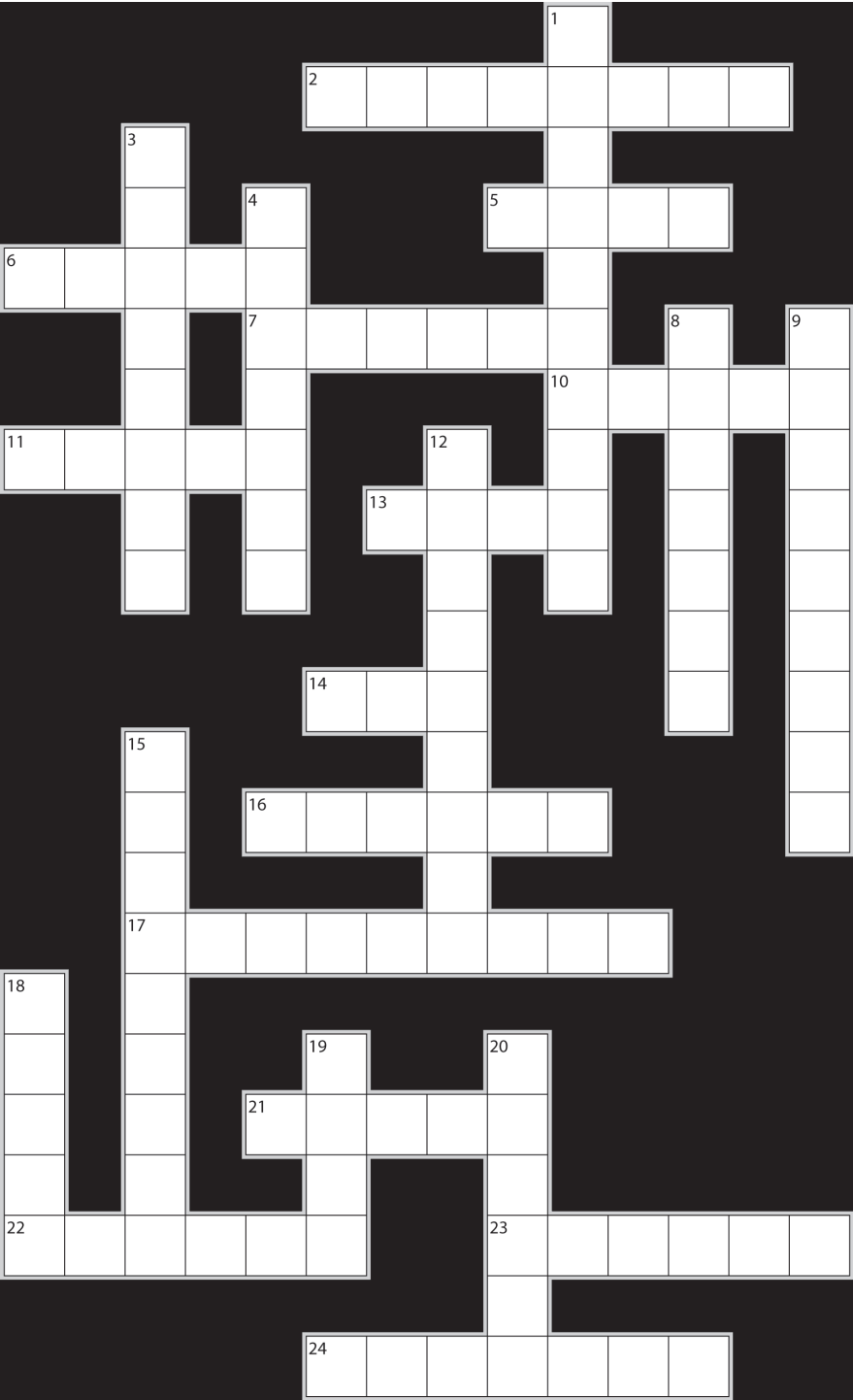
- Rowan Smart Start, 10am–12pm

Saturday, February 7

- Brunswick Stew pickup, 1pm – 3pm

Sunday, February 8

- Sunday School, 9:30am
- Worship, 10:30am
- Kathy Ketchie Circle, following worship
- Christian Education Committee, 2pm
- Worship & Music Committee, 3pm
- Men's Choir practice, 4pm
- Handbell Ensemble practice, 5pm
- Vespers in the parsonage, 6pm



Epiphany 3A

*Find the answers in the lectionary readings for January 25th, from
Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-14; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-25.*

The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.

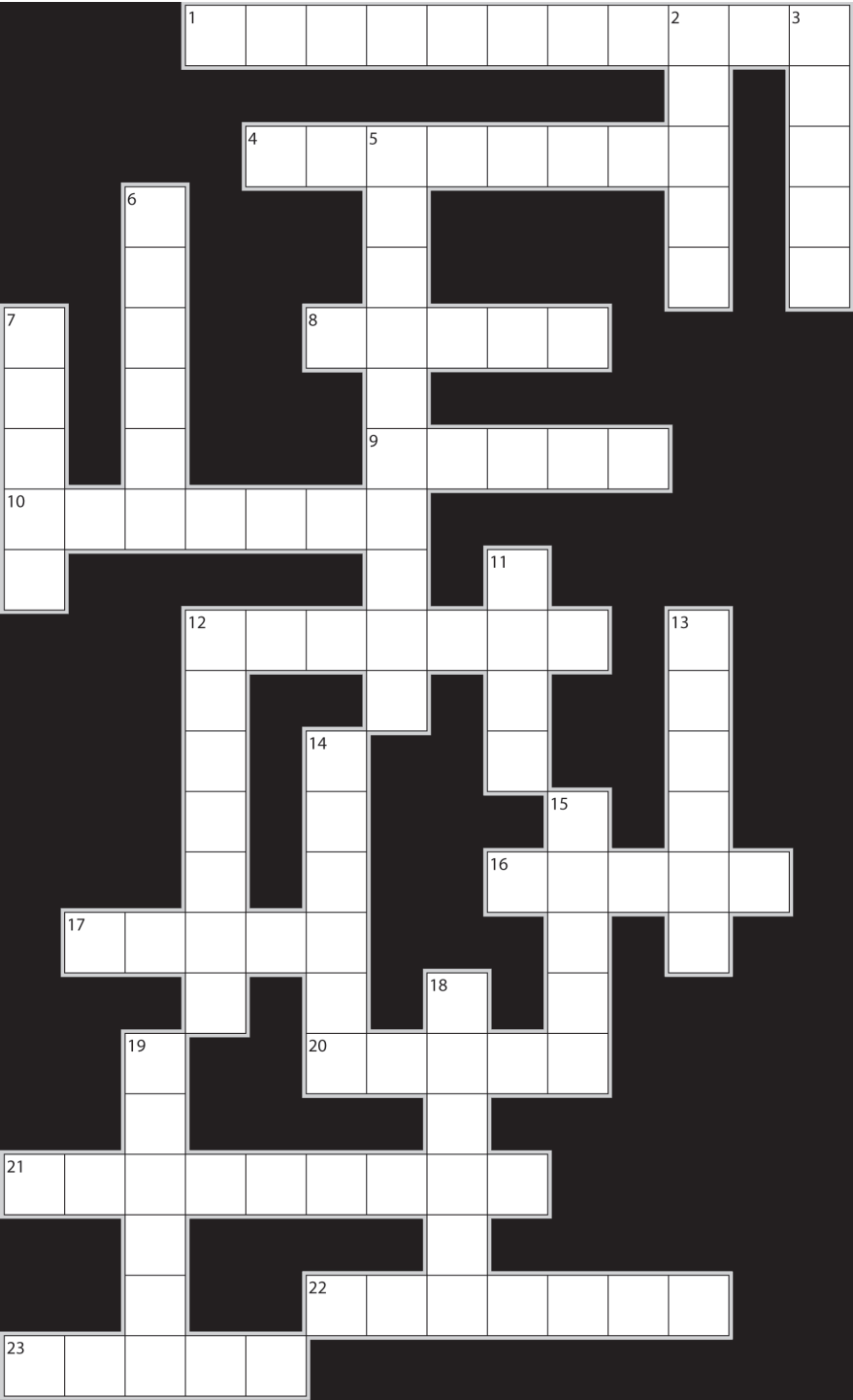
Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/Epiphany3Acrossword>

ACROSS

2. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and....
5. The Lord will lift me high upon a....
6. The gospel reading says that Jesus' fame spread throughout this land.
7. I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the...
10. Though an army encamps against me, it shall not fear.
11. One thing have I asked of the Lord, that I may _____ in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.
13. Were you baptized in the name of...?
14. In the latter time he has made glorious the way of the...
16. Paul asked if _____ is divided.
17. After leaving Nazareth, Jesus went to live there by the sea.
21. Paul did not preach with eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its...
22. The Lord has broken the yoke of his burden as on the day of...
23. Jesus saw two brothers casting a net into the sea. Their names were Peter and...
24. Jesus promised the first disciples that if they followed him, he would make them...

DOWN

1. The Lord is the _____ of my life.
3. The people who walk in this have seen a great light.
4. After the Baptist's arrest, Jesus withdrew into there.
8. The nation rejoiced before the Lord as with joy at the...
9. Paul baptized Crispus and Gaius and the household of...
12. The Lord is my light and my...
15. Paul asked the Corinthian Church if he was _____ for them.
18. There will be none of this for her who was in anguish.
19. Jesus withdrew when he heard that _____ had been arrested.
20. Christ did not send Paul to baptize but to...



Epiphany 4A

*Find the answers in today's lectionary readings from
Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12.
The English Standard Version is used to build this puzzle.
Solve online: <https://tinyurl.com/Epiphany4Acrossword>*

ACROSS

1. Blessed are they, for they shall be called sons of God.
4. The one who does no evil to this person may be with the Lord.
8. The one who shall sojourn in the Lord's tent is the one who does...
9. The one who may sojourn with the Lord speaks this in his heart.
10. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the...
12. The one who may dwell on God's holy hill does not do this with his tongue.
16. The one who honors those who fear the Lord will never be...
17. God has made its wisdom foolish.
20. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive this.
21. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be...
22. What does the Lord require of you but to do this?
23. The Lord brought his people up from this land.

DOWN

2. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit what?
3. The word of the cross is the power of God for those who are being...
5. Hear this from the Lord, you mountains.
6. When you are persecuted for Jesus, great is your reward there.
7. The one who will dwell with God does this blamelessly.
11. They demand signs.
12. The Lord redeemed his people from this house.
13. The Lord has an indictment against them.
14. God will destroy the wise person's what?
15. The word of the cross is this to those who are perishing.
18. They seek wisdom.
19. What does the Lord require of you but to walk this way with God?

Recent Prayer Needs

Please notify the church office when a prayer request should be removed from this list or updated.

- Shiela Barringer – cancer
- Samantha Clark – health concerns (*friend of Cottingham family*)
- Sandy Corley – Hospice Care
- Dot Goodman – health concerns
- Jerry Hilliard – health concerns
- Bill Kief – health concerns (*cousin of Carolyn Canup*)
- Gary Hinson – recovering from surgery
(*Bonnie and Wayne Hinson's son*)
- Tammy Leazer – recovering from surgery
- Sharon McBride – health concerns
- Irene Miller – health concerns
- Melinda Redding – recovering from surgery
- Carol Reese – health concerns (*George Reese's brother*)
- Jenny Smith – health concerns (*Bonnie Hinson's sister-in-law*)
- Johnsie Taylor – health concerns
- Ashley Powlas Young – recovering from surgery

For a longer list of prayer needs, please consult The Monthly Epistle.

This page in the bulletin is to make you aware of the most recent prayer needs.

Typically, after one month on this list the name and request will have migrated to The Monthly Epistle.

*He will not leave you
or forsake you.*

Deuteronomy 31:6

Stats

General Fund offering 1/18	\$7,844
Other offering 1/18.....	\$1,332
Worship attendance 1/18	154
Sunday School attendance reported 1/18	68
<i>There were no services Sunday, January 25, due to weather.</i>	

Children's Change Collection

Last week's (1/18) total: \$131.50 Total so far: \$483.50
Children's change collections this quarter
will support the Small Catechism Project.

In the last two+ years, the children have collected
\$24,189.62 for missions.

The total collected for
Lutheran Military Veterans and Families
during the fourth quarter of 2025 was \$2,396.

The total collected for Friends of Madagascar Mission
during the third quarter of 2025 was \$2,248.50.

The total collected for The Table Ministry
during the second quarter of 2025 was \$2,022.

The total collected for Lutherans for Life
during the first quarter of 2025 was \$1,951.00.

More information about
St. Paul's Missions may be found at
StPaulsLutheran.Church/Missionaries



Reminder: Information for weekly bulletins should be turned in to the church office by Wednesday morning before Noon. Information for monthly newsletters needs to be in during the 3rd week of each month or earlier. You may email, call, or bring information. **Also, please be sure your and your family member's names are written in the friendship register each Sunday.**



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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Judy Lowman, Treasurer
splcjwl63@gmail.com

Amy Barringer, Girl Scout Coordinator, abarringer@bellsouth.net

Next weeks lessons: Isaiah 58:3-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

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