



**8:00 AM WORSHIP**

**DECEMBER 22, 2024**

PASTOR ROB GOODWIN

PASTOR MARK GEARIG

PASTOR BILL GRUENINGER

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN IS A CHURCH WHERE  
THOSE LONGING FOR A *DIFFERENT* LIFE  
FIND A *GRACE-FILLED* LIFE IN JESUS.



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## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

#### 348 THE KING SHALL COME WHEN MORNING DAWNS *sts. 1-2, 4-5*



1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, To bear and fight and die,  
4 Oh, bright-er than that glo - rious morn Shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns And light and beau - ty brings.



When beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills And life to joy a-wakes.  
But crowned with glo - ry like the sun That lights the morn-ing sky.  
The day when Christ in splen-dor comes And we shall see His face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo-ple pray: Come quick-ly, King of kings!

Text: John Brownlie, 1859-1925, alt.  
Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth  
Text and tune: Public domain

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

### INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Congregation **Amen.**

### EXHORTATION

*LSB 151*

Pastor If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
Congregation **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

### CONFESSION OF SINS

*LSB 151*

Pastor Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
Congregation **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.**

### ABSOLUTION

*LSB 151*

Pastor Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
Congregation **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### KYRIE

Assistant In peace let us pray to the Lord.  
Congregation **Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.  
Congregation **Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant 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.  
Congregation **Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.  
**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Assistant Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
**Congregation Amen.**

Sit

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** *Micah 5:2-5a*

Assistant This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

**NEW TESTAMENT READING** *Hebrews 10:5-10*

Assistant This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

Stand

**ALLELUIA AND VERSE** *LSB 156*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**GOSPEL READING**

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.  
**Congregation Glory to You, O Lord.**

Reading *Luke 1:39-56*

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.**

**349 HARK THE GLAD SOUND**

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Thy wel - come  
prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare a  
soul to cure, And with the trea - sures of His  
shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal arch - es  
throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51  
Tunes: Thomas Hawes, 1734-1820  
Text and tune: Public domain

Sit

**SPL KIDS WORD**

**SERMON**

## APOSTLES' CREED

## OFFERING

Stand

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

## PREFACE

*LSB 160*

Pastor The Lord be with you.  
Congregation **And also with you.**

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

Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
Congregation **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE (FULL)

Pastor It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS

*LSB 161*

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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

*LSB 162*

Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
Congregation **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.

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

Pastor Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\dagger$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\dagger$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**PAX DOMINI**

*LSB 163*

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
Congregation Amen.

**AGNUS DEI**

*LSB 163*

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.

Sit

**JESUS NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES**

*US 1-3*

**361 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And, gath - ered all a - bove  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The won - drous gift is giv'n!  
4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;  
A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep The si - lent stars go by;  
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won-d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heav'n.  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.  
Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear His com - ing; But in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!  
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Stand

### THE DISMISSAL

Pastor The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart † in peace.

Congregation Amen.

### 357 O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL *sts. 1, ref, 6*



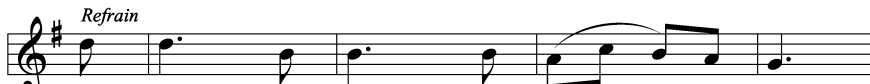
1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som  
6 O come, Thou Day - spring from on high, And cheer us



cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly  
by Thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the gloom - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ows put to flight.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.  
Tune: French, 15th cent.  
Text and tune: Public domain

### BENEDICTION

LSB 166

Pastor 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.

Congregation Amen.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR

Flowers on the Altar and the Sanctuary are placed to the glory of God by the congregation of St. Paul's Lutheran Church to rejoice at the conclusion of Advent and the arrival of Christmas.

## OPERATIONS

### ATTENDANCE

Last weekend attendance in person:	398
Last weekend attendance online:	82
Average attendance for the last 4 weeks:	479

### GIVING 2024

2024 Budget Goal:	\$2,170,000
YTD Giving:	\$1,724,723.70 (79.48% of budget goal)
Last Week's Offering:	\$28,232.09
Amount needed to meet 2024 budget goal:	<b>\$445,276.30</b>
Amount needed weekly through 12/29:	\$445,276.30

## SPL & ELC HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The St. Paul's Lutheran **Church Office** will be closed  
December 24-25, and December 30-January 3.

The **Early Learning Center** will be closed  
December 24-25, and January 1.

## **DATES AVAILABLE FOR 2025 FLOWERS CALENDAR**

The 2025 Flowers on the Altar calendar is beginning to fill up but there are still plenty of dates available. Claim yours now and when it approaches, you will get a call to remind you. Look for the calendar in the Fellowship Area and sign up now. Questions? Contact Scott Powers, 217-423-6955, [spowers@spldecatour.org](mailto:spowers@spldecatour.org)

## **END OF YEAR DONATIONS**

We are thankful for the offerings and donations given by the St. Paul's family throughout the year. Just a reminder that all offerings and donations to St. Paul's that you intend for 2024 must be in (or postmarked) by December 31, 2024. The Church Office will be closed from Monday, December 30-Friday, January 3. For your convenience during that time, there will be a drop box inside the Early Learning Center doors on the east side of the building available from 8 AM to 4 PM. Please note: the ELC is also closed on January 1 and all doors will be locked that day.

## **A SIMPLE WAY TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE**

Are you ready to make a difference and share God's love? We need YOU to join our Upwards Hospitality Team! Whether you can greet guests, serve at concessions, or lead devotions, your time and energy will help us create a welcoming and uplifting experience for everyone beginning this January. Sign up today by scanning the QR code or clicking on the Upwards logo at the bottom of our website's homepage. Let's come together to show Christ's love in action—your help makes all the difference!



## **ROOTED EXPERIENCE RETURNS IN JANUARY**

Plan on starting off the new year with something unique and powerful: the Rooted Experience. This impactful 10-week experience is an opportunity to have a fresh encounter with Jesus and His purpose for your life and it will begin the week of January 19. Watch for registration opening soon.

## **PREPARING FOR F3: FAMILY-FAITH-FORMATION**

Get set because we are putting together a variety of opportunities to connect and grow in January 2025! The new 6-week session of F3 will begin Wednesday, January 22, with multiple class options including Membership @SPL. There's something for all ages! Save yourself cooking and dishes - come for the dinner at 5:30 PM; classes start at 6:30 PM. Put it in your calendar now and watch for registration to open after the holidays.

## **SERVE FAMILIES BY HELPING SPL KIDS WITH F3**

SPL Kids is looking for help during F3 in January 2025. We will need volunteers to team up and supervise play in the Field House and oversee kids upstairs as they play board games, socialize, etc. from 6:20-7:30. Contact Erica Davies [edavies@spldecatour.org](mailto:edavies@spldecatour.org) 217-423-6955.

## **COMING UP AT SPL**

**DECEMBER 24** - CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP 4 PM & 7 PM

**DECEMBER 25** - CHRISTMAS WORSHIP 10 AM

**JANUARY 1** - NEW YEARS DAY Church and ELC Offices Closed

**JANUARY 4** - UPWARD Team & Parent Meeting Day

**JANUARY 11** - UPWARD Game Day at SPL, 3rd-8th grade

**JANUARY 18-19** - CONFIRMATION RETREAT

**JANUARY 22** - F3 BEGINS