

Welcome to  
**SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

***Epiphany***

January 4, 2026

"In Nomine Iesu"

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**Welcome** to the Lord's House this morning for Divine Service. Rejoice, for the Lord comes to you here in this place to give you His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation through His precious means of grace – His Holy Word and Sacraments. We pray the Lord's richest blessings upon you as you receive these Divine gifts.

**If you are visiting** with us this morning, we want you to know that we are overjoyed that you are here. Please make your visit known to us by introducing yourself to us after the Service and by filling out a registration card found in the pew rack. Please just jot down the names of those in attendance.

**Guests and members** are also asked to fill out a registration card found in the pew rack and hand it to an usher as you leave.

In the celebration of Holy Communion we joyfully receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. This is also a sign of our common confession of faith. We welcome to the Lord's Supper all those who are presently confirmed members of a congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. Speak to Pastor or an usher if you would like to commune at St. Paul's for the first time.

## **Prelude**

## **Welcome and Announcements**

## **Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bell**

### **The Order of Worship**

Lutheran Service Book – page 151  
Divine Service Setting One with Communion

**Invocation** (*please stand*)

P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

**Confession**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,  
and the truth is not in us.

C **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.*

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

All **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**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

**Service of the Word**

**Introit***Ps. 45:6-8a; antiphon: 45:17*

- P I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
- C **therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.**
- P Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.  
The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;
- C **you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.**
- P Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
- C **your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.**
- All Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;
- C **therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.**

**Kyrie**

- P In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P 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.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**
- P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
- C **Lord, have mercy.**

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  
C Amen.

### Hymn of Praise ~ This Is the Feast

*Refrain*

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. *Refrain*  
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are His. *Refrain*  
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: *Stanza 4*  
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*  
gun His reign. Al - le - lu - ia. *Final Refrain*

*Final Refrain*

This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### Salutation

P The Lord be with you.  
C And also with you.

### Collect of the Day

P Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness

of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C      Amen.**

*(be seated)*

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. <sup>2</sup>For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. <sup>3</sup>And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

<sup>4</sup> Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. <sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. <sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

**L      This is the Word of the Lord.**

**C      Thanks be to God.**

### **Epistle**

*Ephesians 3:1-12*

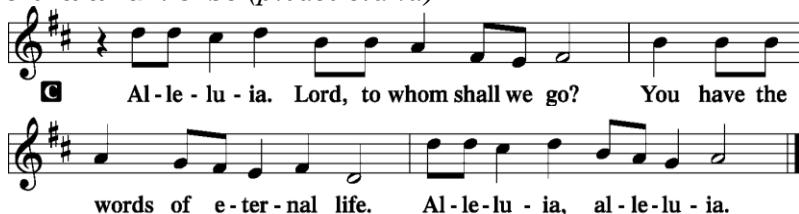
<sup>1</sup>For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— <sup>2</sup> assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup> When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia and Verse (please stand)**



C 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.

**Holy Gospel**

*Matthew 2:1-12*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*(be seated)*

## **Children’s Message**

### **Hymn of the Day**

*“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”* LSB #395 vs 1-4

### **Sermon**

#### **Nicene Creed (please stand)**

All I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us

men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*(be seated)*

### **Presentation of the Offering**

#### **Prayers of the Church**

(After each portion of the prayers)

**P** Lord, in your mercy, **C** Hear our prayer.

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:
- P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

#### **Service of the Sacrament**

##### **Preface (please stand)**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

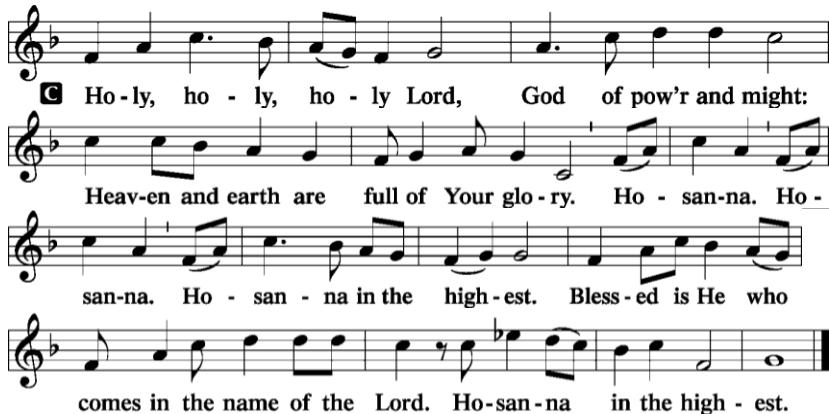
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P 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; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your 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



C 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.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**P** Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:  
**All** **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**

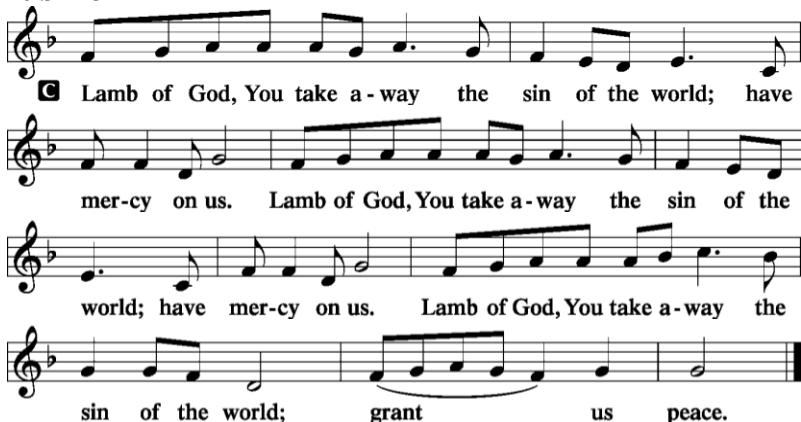
**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My (+) body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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 (+) 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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C Amen.

## Agnus Dei



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

## Distribution (be seated)

*(All members of our St. Paul's family are invited to meet the Lord in this Sacrament. When at the table, please indicate your preference of common or individual cup.)*

*The CENTER RING of the individual communion cup tray contains white grape juice. The OUTER RINGS contain red wine. Gluten free wafers are available from a communion assistant.)*

## Distribution Hymns

“The People that in Darkness Sat”

LSB #412

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

LSB #621

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

LSB #527

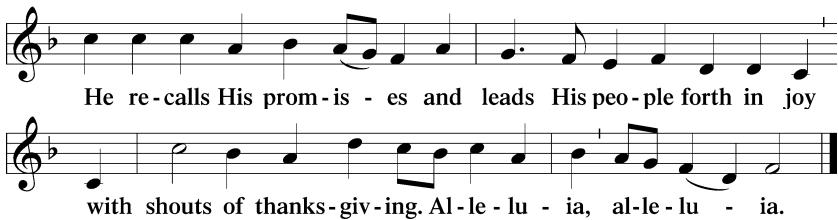
## Thank the Lord (please stand)



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



## Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this precious gift, and we ask You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## Benediction

P 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.

C **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

*“O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright”* LSB #395 vs 5-6

## Silent Prayer

*(be seated)*

## Postlude

“Soli Deo Gloria”

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