

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Baptism of Our Lord
First Sunday after Epiphany
January 11/12, 2025



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
The People of St. Paul's, the Ministers
474 Yalick Road - PO Box 802 – Dallas, PA 18612
Phone: 570-675-3859; email: stpaul@epix.net
Website: www.stpaulsdallaspa.org

Rev. Charles H. Grube, Pastor
Margaret Quintanar, Director of Music/Organist
Senior Choir & Chimes
Jean Grube, Youth Choir Director

Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday: 9:30 am till 4:00 pm

TODAY'S WORSHIP

WELCOME. May you experience the love of Jesus in the midst of this congregation.

TODAY'S FESTIVAL rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the water...the rivers...fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

WORSHIP BEGINS in our gathering. Please enjoy greeting and conversation in the Narthex, and respect those who have entered the Sanctuary to pray, meditate, and listen to the prelude with silence and an atmosphere of reverence and peace as we all prepare to hear God's word.

HEARING ASSISTANCE devices are available; please ask an usher for help.

THE BLUE WELCOME PAD in the pew rack is our record of your attendance and communion (or you may leave a message for Pastor Grube, note a new address or phone number). Please take a moment to complete it.

LEAVING THE SANCTUARY during worship, please use the side doors with the panic bar latches; they open and close silently. **TURNING OFF** cell phone and other electronic devices is greatly appreciated.

IF YOU'D LIKE someone's name to be added to our prayer list spoken in worship and printed in the bulletin, please be sure to contact the church office or complete the prayer request card on the table in the Narthex before worship. Cards added after worship will be included in the following week's prayer list. In either case you will continue to have the opportunity to say aloud or remember silently that person's name during the intercessory prayers.

SCRIPTURE READINGS for next weekend are: Romans 12:6-16, John 2:1-11.

GATHERING

Please note: Parts of this service are omitted for Saturday's worship.

PRELUDE

Shall We Gather at the River

Robert A. Hobby

BELL, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand as you are able and turn to face the font for the Confession.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Merciful God,

You speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN #423

Shall We Gather at the River

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Sit.

WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON [SUNDAY]

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God love them.

A reading from Isaiah:

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons

from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

A reading from Acts:

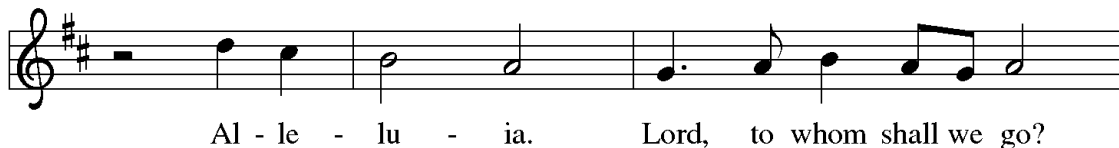
Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead, he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Now when all the people were baptized and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit.

SERMON

Stand as you are able for the Hymn

HYMN OF THE DAY #304 *Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say Peace be with you or similar words.

Sit.

ANTHEM

Carol of the Baptism
Senior Choir

Arr. George Brandon

Please sign the blue pew pads as you listen to the anthem.

MEAL

Stand as you are able as the offering is presented.

OFFERTORY #184

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. 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 dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

The assisting minister leads the prayer.

Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING


The presiding minister unveils the paten and chalice and prepares for the communion.




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



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



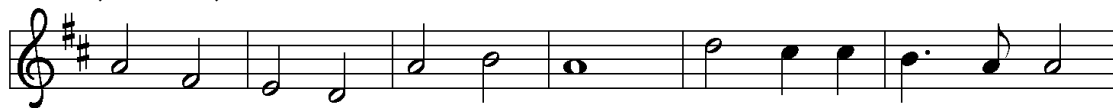
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:...we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Join our prayers with those of your servants...almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Break the bread.

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

The bread is broken for the communion and the assembly is seated. Online worshipers receive the word The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

Distribution around the predella step

We invite you to come forward to stand on the floor at the predella step beginning with the person seated closest to the ambo. The communion ministers will come to you, beginning with the bread. Then, take an empty glass from the tray to be filled with wine from the pouring chalice or a prefilled glass of juice for those who cannot or prefer not to receive wine. When you have communed, return to your seat by the opposite end.

We invite all Baptized Christians and those who commune in their own churches to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Small children and those not communing may come forward for a blessing. If you are unable to come forward to receive Holy Communion, please inform an usher or neighbor of your desire to commune so they can inform the communion ministers, and they will bring the sacrament to you in your seat.

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say,
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond Amen.*

During the distribution, Lamb of God is sung:

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, grant us peace.

When all have communed and the ministers have communed, the table is re-dressed and the assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads the prayer.

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

SENDING

The service concludes with the blessing and the dismissal.

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN # 445

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

Gordon Young

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SERVING AS WORSHIP LEADERS

Greeter:	John Thomas
Acolyte:	Ava Brezvoski
Lector:	Melissa Janoski
Assisting Minister:	Gail Smallwood
Communion Bread:	In Memory of Jan Martinchak
Saturday Altar Set Up:	Cookie Fetterman
Sunday Altar Clean Up:	Julie Miller
Minister of Technology:	Marissa Miller

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. PAUL'S MISSION STATEMENT: St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family called together by God and united by a common faith. Our mission is to share with all people God's Love and Grace through Word and Sacrament. Through the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to witness and serve, treating one another with love, compassion, forgiveness, and understanding. By our commitments, actions, deeds, and resources, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ, reaching out to our community, nation and world.

— Adopted, May 1993

+ + +

SANCTUARY FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God, in Loving Memory of Neil James Kaiser, by Jim & Rhonda Kaiser.

THE WHITE ROSE is given in Memory of William (Bill) Smith, who passed away on Tuesday, January 7, 2025. We thank God for Bill's life and commend him to His care. May God comfort all who mourn.

ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP: St. Paul's will use the weekend of January 18-19 as an opportunity to kick off our year of events to mark our 100th Anniversary with a special historic worship setting. The *Common Service Book*, published in 1917 and used exclusively by the United Lutheran Church in America until 1958, was the resource St. Paul's would have used at its founding in 1925, and we have adapted that service for our worship next weekend. While the congregation sang nearly everything in four-part Anglican-style chant in those days, you will speak your parts this time, but be prepared for the classic King James language the service uses. It will be an interesting and effective way to get us into an historic mindset and help us appreciate the history of St. Paul's and those who went before us.

THE DEADLINE to submit articles for the February newsletter is Sunday, January 19; information for the Sunday bulletins should be submitted by Noon on Thursdays.

COUNCIL UPDATE: The following is a recap of the January 7, 2025 church council meeting. **Christian Education Committee:** Working on plans for the upcoming Bible Bowl. **Long Range Planning:** Council Vice President Frank Mariano and Linda Keck are working with Deacon Barbara Gessner of Prince of Peace Episcopal Church and Funeral Director Ted Horn to form a grief support group. The group will hold its first session on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's. This support group is open to everyone in the community who is in need of support due to a loss, and will meet on the third Thursday of every month. **Evangelism:** Twenty-one people walked the labyrinth during 2024. Excavation for the new meditation garden has begun. **Finance:** Finishing year-end financial reports; general fund checkbook stands at (\$3,900) – all federal, state & local taxes paid. **Property:** At least two crows have been seen and heard on the church roof around the bell tower. The noise they make sounds like a roofing crew working on the roof! **Old Business:** 100th Anniversary Update: Anniversary events will begin on the weekend of January 18-19, when a liturgy reminiscent of the worship service used in 1925 will be offered; a Spaghetti Dinner and Newlywed game will be held Saturday, February 8, beginning at 4:00 pm; reviving a bygone St. Paul's activity, the Fasnacht Day Talent Show, which will be held Tuesday, March 4 - Keith and Trish Brosious are organizing the event. **New Business:** Carol Fett was re-elected Congregation Treasurer.

ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER – The Anniversary Committee is selling shirts and sweatshirts featuring the Rose Window logo; the sale will run through Sunday, January 19. The cost will range from \$15.00 to \$30.00 depending on the item purchased. There will be a variety of colors to choose from and sizes for purchase include Youth Extra Small to Youth Extra Large and Adult Small to Adult 3XL. Look for a table in the Narthex; payments can be made in cash or checks made payable to St. Paul's. If you have any question, please feel free to contact Julie Holbrook at je3765@gmail.com or call 570.332.5894.

OUR WEEKLY Bible Study class will resume this week on Tuesday, January 14, at 10:30 am; the Dorcas Society will hold its January meeting also on Tuesday, January 14 at 1:00 pm in the Social Hall; and our monthly Labyrinth Walk will be held in the Narthex from 3:00-6:00 pm on January 15. This walk is free and open to the public.

THE RETIRED RAMBLERS will meet at 8:32 am at the Lakeside Skillet at Harveys Lake on Thursday, January 16, for their monthly breakfast meeting. The Ramblers will not meet if the weather is snowy or icy, or if there are local school delays or cancellations. Everyone, retired or not, is welcome to join the Ramblers for breakfast!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held on Sunday, January 19; a covered dish dinner at 11:45 am followed by the business meeting at 1:00 pm [please bring a covered dish to share; beverages and place settings will be provided]. Copies of the annual report are available in the Narthex; please bring a copy to the meeting. A sign-up poster has been placed in the Narthex for you to indicate if you will be attending.

SPAGHETTI DINNER and NEWLYWED GAME – The 100th Anniversary Committee will be sponsoring a Spaghetti Dinner and Newlywed Game in the Social Hall on February 8, from 4 to 6 pm. Dinner includes spaghetti with meat balls, salad, rolls, dessert and beverages, all for just \$5.00! The Newlywed Game will begin at 6:30 pm and will feature three couples who will be quizzed on their knowledge of their spouses; sure to be an enlightening event! There is a sign-up poster in the Narthex or call the church office at 570.675.3859/email at stpaul@epix.net; deadline to sign-up is February 2.

UNDERWEAR COLLECTION – Pyramid Health Care in Dallas houses men and women who are making an effort to rehabilitate their lives. The administrator told us that some of their clients come to the facility with very little clothing or personal items and sometimes with only the clothes they are wearing. Many of the clients have helped St. Paul's by assisting with our Rummage Sales and Landscaping and we would like to show our appreciation and help them out in turn. Presently we are asking our members to purchase men's and women's socks and underwear in various sizes. Clean new undergarments make people feel fresh and comfortable. There will be a basket in the Narthex to accept your gifts. This project will run throughout the month of January. If you have any questions, please call Karen Mertz at 570.255.4065. Thank you for your support of this Social Ministry Project.

MAKE SOUP & BUY SOUP - Support Bear Creek Campers with Soup! Our annual Soup Sale is approaching. Now is the time to decide what soup you'd like to make and donate. Soon you'll get to decide what type of soup you want to eat. Here are some important dates for St. Paul's upcoming Soup Sale: **Starting on January 25 & 26** ~ Empty Soup Containers will be available for pick up after worship services. **February 8 to 15** ~ Place your frozen and labeled containers of soup in the white freezer just inside the pantry of the church's kitchen; **February 15 & 16 until Sold Out** ~ Soup is Available after worship services. Take Home to enjoy! This fundraiser helps to send interested children from St Paul's Sunday School to Bear Creek Camp for a week of outdoor fun and spiritual growth.

NEW GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: The congregations of St. Paul's and Prince of Peace Episcopal Church are entering into a shared ministry to offer a grief support group to people who have recently experienced a loss. The group will be led by Frank Mariano and Lida Keck, from St. Paul's, and Deacon Barbara Gessner from Prince of Peace; local funeral director Ted Horn also will be a group facilitator. The group's first meeting will be held on **Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6:30 pm** at St. Paul's, and will meet on the third Thursday of each month at St. Paul's. This group is an on-going group and is not time-limited; it is open to everyone in the community in need of support following a loss. Sessions also will be available on Zoom. For more information, please contact Frank at fmm329@gmail.com.

MESSAGE FROM THE MEADOWS--Are you currently struggling to live at home independently? The Meadows is here to help. Join us for a community **OPEN HOUSE** on **THURSDAY, JANUARY 23** from **3 - 5 pm**. Meet our healthcare team, tour our facilities and learn more about our services including skilled nursing, short term rehab, long term care and assisted living. Locations: Nursing & Rehab Center (4 E Center Hill Rd, Dallas) / Manor-Assisted Living (200 Lake St, Dallas). Kindly RSVP to (570) 675-8600 by January 21; www.themeadowsdallas.com

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING: This event is celebrated the same day that Super Bowl LIX is played. It is a time to enjoy the game while also thinking of those who do not have enough to eat. On February 8/9, two soup pots will be in the Narthex, one marked with the logo of the AFC champion and the other for the NFC Champion. Please place your monetary gift in the pot representing the team for who you are cheering. You may also bring a can or two of soup and place them in the grocery cart. Donations received will be given to the Back Mountain Food Pantry.

PRAYER LIST - Please remember to ask permission from the person you are placing on the prayer list. **Pray for the Congregation of St. Luke, Archbald.**

Pray for those suffering illness: *Members:* Jim Bellezza, Annie & Marty Bisher, Mary Lou Button, Pam Cyphers, Margaret Edwards, Cheryl Everhart, Marge Fritzinger, Robert Kline, Marissa Miller, Rachele Pryor, Betty Schray, Carol Swanson, John Thomas, Anita Weiss, Alyson Wood, Justin Yost.

Please note: Those people listed as Family and Friends will be listed here for a four-week period. Please contact the church office at 570-675-3859 or stpaul@epix.net if you desire a name to remain on the list beyond that time.

Family & Friends: Robert Binger, Kathy Boston, Judy C., Marjorie Catania, Larry Carroll, Mike D., Janice DeFebo, Manfred Diel, Gene Eyerman, Rich Fufaro, Lori H., Tom Hubbard, Jenn Hubbard, Christine Ide, Frances Jenkins, Linda Johnson, Jack Jones, Michael Kaminski, Bradley Kessler, Jacqueline Kretz, Alice Laskowski, Carl London, Todd Lozo, Audrey Mace, Carol Marker, Wanda McCall, Sue & Dan McConnell, Dwight McKee, Rob Merritt, Carl Miers, Baby Miles, Patty N., Tim Nulton, Helen O'Brien, Peg O'Brien, Alice O'Neil, Megan Ortega, Nancy Ott, Pastor Mary Owens, Sarah P., Megan Sheehan Palmer, Ryleigh Phillips, Coleman Plecker, Paul Pryor, Febe Quintanar, Lloyd and Bonnie Ryman, Marilyn Roll Shaver, Nancy Shymanski, Wally Skurski, Sandy Sprau, Sandra Stankiewicz, Joe Stephanovich, Stevens Family, Joseph Stochla, Benjamin Szostak, Raymah Tasco, Abigail Thomas, Arnold Thompson, Tabitha Walters, Bill Ward, Karen Wise, Woody Wolfe, Peg Wyda, Mary Z., Paul Zawadzki, Ashley, Bethann, Bruce, Cindy, Keith, Kim, Diane, Mark, Mary, Rosemary, Morgan, Lori, Lisa, David & Deanna, Josh, Lisa, Greg, Judi and Jere and family, Megan, Rob, Josh (no last names given).

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Today: 8:30 am Chime Choir Practice
9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Sunday School

Tuesday: 10:30 am Bible Study
1:00 pm Dorcas meeting

Wednesday: 3:00-6:00 pm Labyrinth Walk
6:30 pm Back Mountain Railroad Club Board Meeting

Thursday: 8:32 am Retired Ramblers Breakfast at Skillet
6:30 pm Grief Support Group meeting
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Saturday: 5:30 pm Worship

Sunday: 8:30 am Chime Practice
9:30 am Worship; 100th Anniversary service
10:45 am Sunday School
11:45 am Annual Congregational Dinner
1:00 pm Annual Congregational Meeting