to St. Paul Lutheran Church Clay Center, KS

Thank you for joining us for worship on the:

Thírd Sunday ín Advent December 14 & 15, 2024



Worship Folder

St. Paul Lutheran Communion Statement:

COMMUNION WELCOME-God calls upon His people to exercise care in the use of His Supper because harm results when Communion is received without repentance or a right understanding (1 Corinthians 11:23-30) and when fellowship is practiced without agreement in God's Word (Galatians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:14). In Communion Jesus gives us His true Body and Blood, in with and under the bread and wine, to forgive our sins (Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 10:16-21). We also profess agreement in the teachings of the church at whose altar we commune. Thus, we cannot offer this Supper to those who have not received instruction per the mysteries of this meal. We do invite fellow members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to join our members as we receive the Sacrament today. Others are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who desire to come forward for a blessing are invited to do so, indicating their intent to receive a blessing by crossing their arms in front.

Distribution of the bread is to the hand of the communicant. "Gluten Free" wafers are available. Please let the ushers know PRIOR to service if you are needing this substitution.

Distribution of the wine is by choice of individual cup or common chalice. If you receive with the individual cup, please keep the small cup visible to the minister with the common cup. Individual cups of unfermented grape juice will be provided at the center of each of the trays for those who prefer grape juice over wine. Both are "fruit of the vine" and in the sacrament become means by which Christ grants us his blood to assure us of forgiveness, life and salvation. The unfermented grape juice is light in color.

ANNOUCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

LSB 803

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

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

G who made heaven and earth.

If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
 But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

- Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ++ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit

P Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

Blessèd is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God,

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;

• who executes justice for the oppressed,

who gives food to the hungry.

■ The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

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 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.





Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion: let not your hands arow weak. ¹⁷The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸ will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. ¹⁹Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes," says the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

 $[\mathbf{P}]^{1}$ LORD, you were favorable to your land; vou restored the fortunes of Jacob. ²You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. **P**³You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger. • 4Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us! **P** ⁵Will you be anary with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations? **G** ⁶Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you? **P**⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and arant us your salvation. ⁸Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly. P⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. ¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness meet: righteousness and peace kiss each other. \mathbf{P}^{11} Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky. **G**¹²Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. P¹³Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.

Epistle

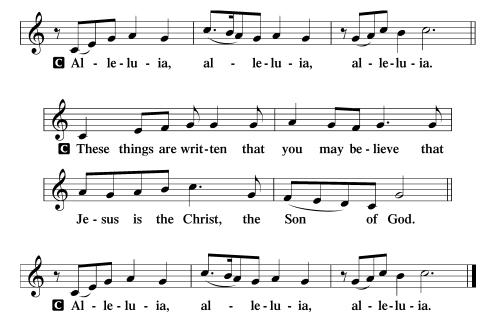
Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Luke 7:18–28

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventh chapter.
Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁸The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, ¹⁹calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ²⁰And when the men had come to him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, 'Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?'" ²¹In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind he bestowed sight. ²²And he answered them, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. ²³And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

²⁴When John's messengers had gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ²⁵What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings' courts. ²⁶What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷This is he of whom it is written,

"'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

²⁸I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

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.

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

LSB 345

Sermon

Offering

1 John 3:17 "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him."







Prayer of the Church P Let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord have mercy.

+ Service of the Sacrament +

Preface

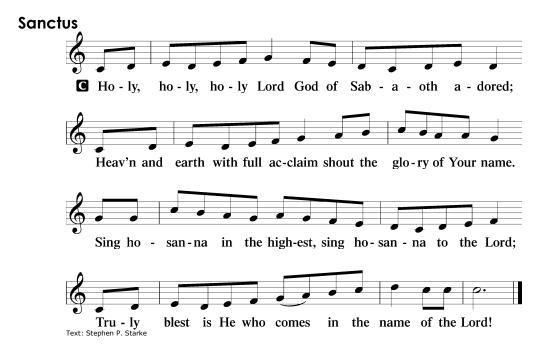
P The Lord be with you.

- C And also with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

- **G** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the

company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

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

Lord's Prayer

 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

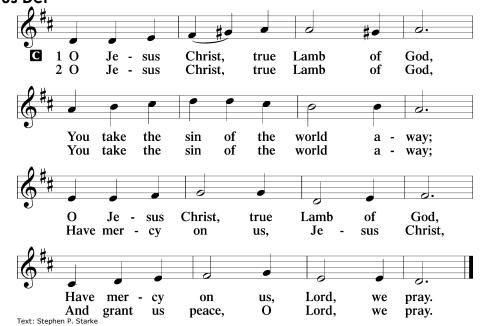
Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

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.



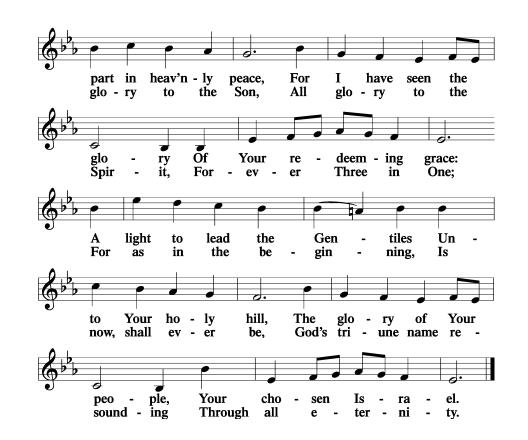


+ Distribution Hymns +

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name	LSB 549
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	LSB 621
What Wondrous Love Is This	LSB 543
Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice	LSB 556

Nunc Dimittis





Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in 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.

Benedicamus

P Let us bless the Lord.C Thanks be to God.

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.

On What Has Now Been Sown

LSB 921

ents Divine Service, Serting Four from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordin Publishing House.