# St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville





If you are a guest with us today, we extend a special welcome in the name of Jesus! If you have questions or prayer requests or want to get in touch with us, please sign the guest book in the lobby (or use this QR code) or email or call.



Children's Bulletins are available in the lobby.

**Service Live-streamed In The Learning Center** Turn right when you leave the sanctuary and follow the hall around to The Learning Center if you need a break during the service.

**Prelude:** Please use the prelude as a time for quiet prayer and meditation before worship.

**Prayer before Worship:** O Lord, creator, redeemer, and comforter, I come to worship You in spirit and in truth. Open my heart to the preaching of Your Word so that I may repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. In Jesus name. Amen.

### For Those Who Desire to Receive the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. Paul in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. (Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion trays.)

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School 2001 Old Frederick Road Catonsville, Maryland 21228 Church: 410-747-1897 School: 410-747-1924 www.stpaulcatonsville.org email: secretary@stpaulcatonsville.org Pastor Gregory Alms Renata O'Reilly, Organist & Choir Director

# First Sunday in Advent December 3, 2023

# **Prelude:** Light One Candle To Watch for Messiah Yiddish Folk Tune: *Tif in Veldele*

#### Children's Message

#### Prepare the Royal Highway LSB 343 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near! 2 God's peo-ple, see Him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king! 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom-ised king! no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove. 4 His is Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear! Palm branch-es strew be-fore Him! Spread gar-ments! Shout and sing! Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring. His rule is peace and free - dom And ius - tice, truth, and love. Then greet the King of Glo - ry Fore-told in sa - cred sto - ry: God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore vou! a - dore Him! So let your praise be sound-ing For kind-ness so a - bound-ing: Refrain For He ful - fills God's Word! the Lord. Ho - san - na to Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt. Tune: Swedish, 17th cent. Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320 Tune: Public domain

# Confession and Absolution

### Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

setting, Robert J. Powell

(b. 1932)

- P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

### Exhortation

#### Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

- P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

#### Kneel/Sit Confession of Sins

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

# Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

# Stand

# Service of the Word



Note: Hymn of Praise is omitted during Advent.

# Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.
- C Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit Anthem: From Messiah

Carol Taylor, Clarinet

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill made low, The crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

### **Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 64:1–9

<sup>1</sup>Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence-<sup>2</sup> as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boilto make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! <sup>3</sup>When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains guaked at your presence. <sup>4</sup>From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup>You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, and shall we be saved? <sup>6</sup>We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf. and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. <sup>7</sup>There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. <sup>8</sup>But now, O LORD, you are our Father;

we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup>Be not so terribly angry, O LORD, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm (spoken responsively)

Psalm 25:1–3; antiphon: Zechariah 9:9b, alt.

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation.

To you, O Lord,

I lift up my soul.

O my God, in you I trust; let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

# 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.

Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation.

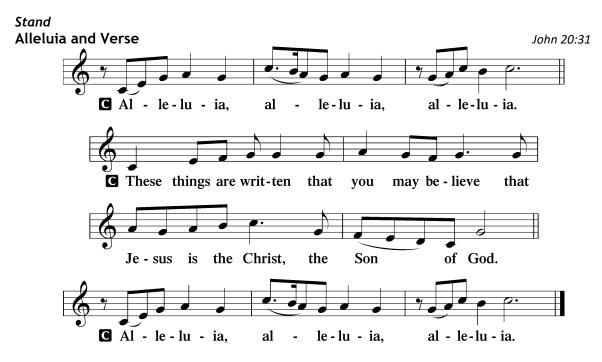
### Epistle

#### 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

<sup>3</sup>Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup>I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge—<sup>6</sup>even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—<sup>7</sup>so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



#### Holy Gospel

Mark 13:24–37

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the thirteenth chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus said:] "In those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup>and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. <sup>26</sup>And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup>And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup>"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup>So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup>Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. <sup>31</sup>Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup>"But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup>Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup>It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. <sup>35</sup>Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will

come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the cock crows, or in the morning—<sup>36</sup>lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. <sup>37</sup>And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake."

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

#### Sit

#### Peace Came to Earth

LSB 922

Verse 1 - soloist, v. 2 - congregation, v. 3 - choir, v. 4 - congregation 1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night 2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held 3 You show the Fa ther has none ev er seen, 4 How else could I have known you, 0 my God! when an - gels clove the sky with song and light and the in - fant in their arms and lat er felt the in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain. in How else could I have loved you, 0 my God! How God em bod ied love and sheathed his mightwound hands ed and side, doubts all dis pelledbread and wine you vis it us а gainelse could I em brace you, 0 my God! Who could but gasp: Im man 11 el! Who could but sigh: Im man u el! Who could but see: Im man el! u Who could but pray: Im man u el! 0 Who could but sing: Im man u el! Who could but shout: Im man el! u Who could thrill: but Im man el! u Who could but praise: Im man u el!

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#### Sermon

#### Stand Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

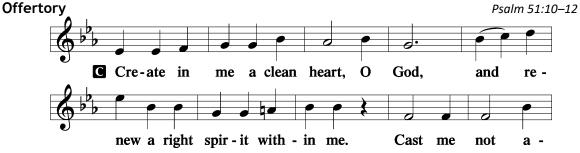
> And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I 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 T everlasting. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church

#### Offering

(An offering plate is available in the narthex. You may also give electronically through our website at stpaulcatonsville.org/donation. If you would like to send in an electronic offering via text, text the dollar amount you would like to give to 410-888-0161.)



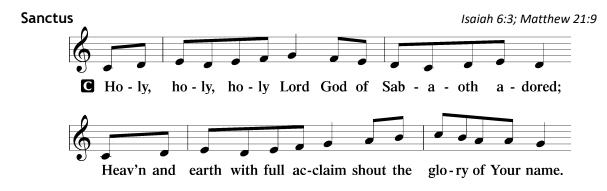


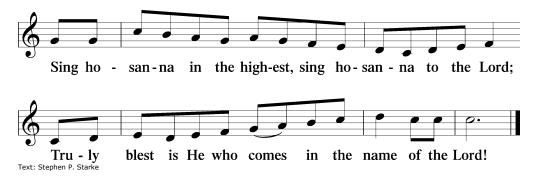
2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

# Service of the Sacrament

#### Preface

- 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 .... evermore praising You and saying:





### Prayer of Thanksgiving

P 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

 C 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.

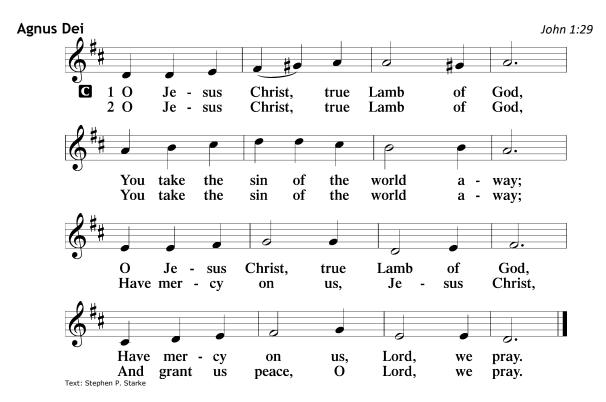
### The Words of Our Lord

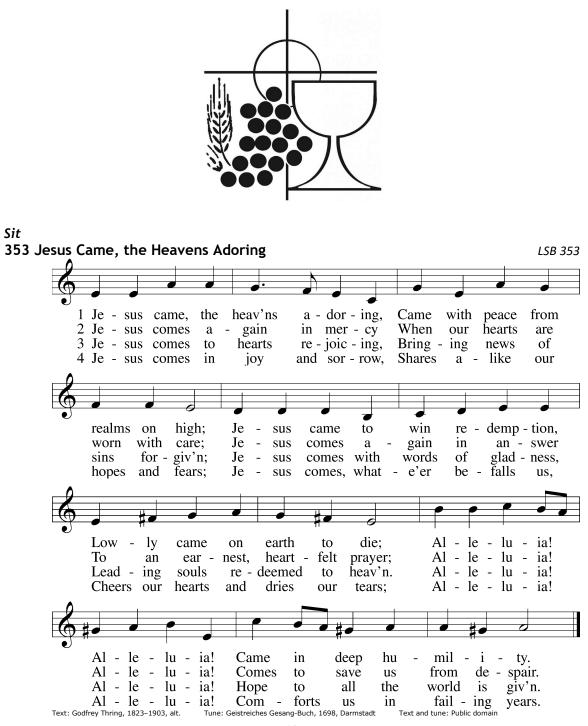
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

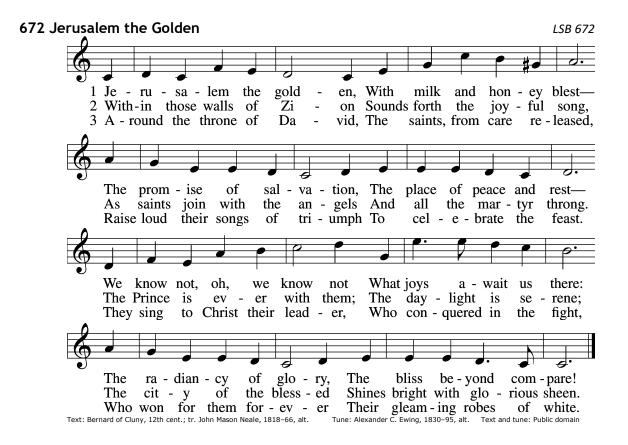
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

#### Pax Domini

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

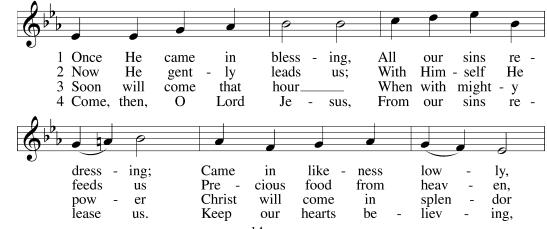


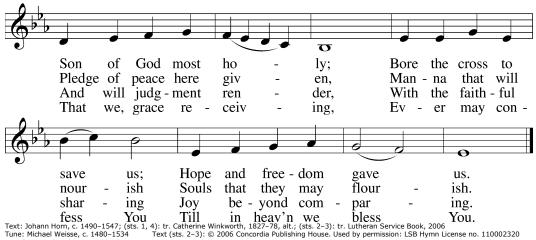




333 Once He Came in Blessing

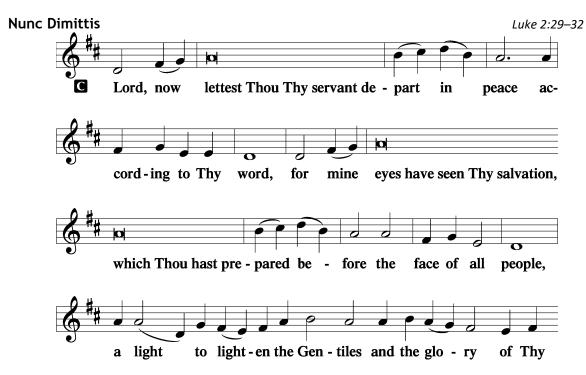






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# Post-Communion Collect

- A Let us pray....
- C Amen.

#### **Benedicamus**

- A Let us bless the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

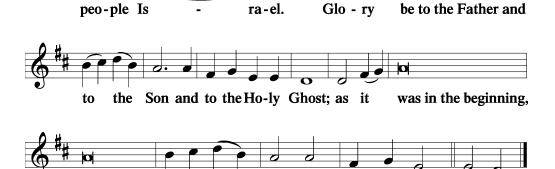
#### Benediction

- 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 T give you peace.
- C Amen.

- is now, and ev er shall be, world with out end.

Psalm 103:1

A-men.



O

Savior of the Nations, Come LSB 332 of Vir gin's Sav ior the tions, come, Son. 1 na make 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood. By Spir it the \_ Yet 3 Here maid was found with child. re - mained а а 4 Then stepped forth the Lord of all From His pure and Your home! Mar vel 0 heav'n and earth. here now. of God. Was the Word of God made fleshour vir gin mild. In her womb this truth shown: was king ly hall; God of God, vet ful ly man, That the Lord chose birth. such а Wom off fresh. an's spring, and pure God was His throne. there up on His he ic course be ro gan. 5 (women) 7 (all) God the Father was His source, From the manger newborn light Back to God He ran His course. Shines in glory through the night. Into hell His road went down, Darkness there no more resides; In this light faith now abides. Back then to His throne and crown. 6 (men) 8 Glory to the Father sing, For You are the Father's Son Glory to the Son, our king, Who in flesh the vict'ry won. Glory to the Spirit be By Your mighty pow'r make whole Now and through eternity. All our ills of flesh and soul. Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan, 340-397; German version, Martin Luther, 1483-1546; (sts. 1-2): tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812-76; (sts. 3, 6): tr. Lutheran

Service Book, 2006; (sts. 4-5, 8): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913-2001; (st. 7): tr. Gifford A. Grobien, 1973 Tune: Geystiche gesangk Buchleyn, 1524, Wittenberg, ed. Johann Walter Text (sts. 3, 6–7): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House; (sts. 4–5, 8): © 1978 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no.

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#### Dismissal

**Postlude:** Von Himmel hoch, da komm<sup>4</sup> ich her: From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

# News & Notes

# Altar Flowers

Flowers on the altar today are given by Jim & LaVerne Kyne in celebration of granddaughter Allison Braatz's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and daughter and son-in-law, Krissy and Jimmy Doyle's anniversary. The flower chart for 2024 has been posted on the bulletin board.



### Kid's Christmas Morning

*THIS* Saturday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. <u>Candy is still needed!</u> Please take a list from the box in the foyer, and drop off your donations any time this week. It's a great way to help us share the true meaning of Christmas with the community!

# Angel Tree

Angel Tree is set up in the narthex and angels are still available. Each angel lists a gift to be purchased for a family in need. Gifts will be due back by December 13<sup>th</sup>. These gifts will be given to St. Thomas Lutheran Church to distribute to their community.

### Women's Guild

Coming soon – December 17<sup>th</sup>, Cookie Walk! Looking for cookie bakers for the annual cookie walk on December 17<sup>th</sup>. We also need some kid friendly cookies to sell during the Kids Christmas Morning on December 9<sup>th</sup>.



# Women's Christmas Dinner

All women are invited to attend the annual Women's Guild Christmas Dinner. It will be held on December 19th. Sign-up sheet is posted next to the flower chart. If you are looking for a pen to sign up, check out the flowers on the bulletin board!

### St. Thomas

The Women's Guild is putting together food bags for St. Thomas. The ladies will provide the bread and meat. Donations of bags complete with the following nonperishable items are needed: 1 box stuffing, 1 box instant potatoes, 2 cans corn, 2 cans green beans or peas, 1 jar gravy, 1 jar peanut butter, 1 jar jelly, 1 cake mix & icing OR brownie mix. Bags need to be returned to church before December 16<sup>th</sup>.

# **Orphan Grain Train**

Check out information and list of accepted items on Missions credenza in narthex. Also, Winter Coat Collection is in full swing. The red Coat Mobile awaits donations! The last Sunday for the Coat-Mobile is next Sunday, December 10. Donations will be accepted until December 15.

# Advent & Christmas Worship 2023

Sunday mornings: Worship at 10 AM

<u>Midweek Advent Services</u>: *Mary: Example for Us* 11 AM or 7 PM Wednesdays December 6, 13 & 20

> 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Dec. 24 10 AM worship (No Bible Classes)



<u>Christmas Eve</u> Family Service: 7 PM Candlelight Service: 10 PM (Communion)

<u>Christmas Day</u> Lessons & Carols: 10 AM (Communion)

#### Positions Opening at St. Paul

\* A search committee has been formed to begin the search for a new **Principal** for the 2024-2025 school year. Contact Carolyn Louden with recommendations.

\* We are also beginning the process to hire a new part-time **Administrative Assistant**. If you know any qualified candidates you would like to recommend, please contact Pastor Alms.

	This week	Next week
Cantor	Jim Baeder	Jim Baeder
Reader	Ken Waibel	Michelle Johnson
Usher	Don Easton	Greg McDonald
Usher	Bill Oldhouser	Jeffrey Hemmeter
Greeter	Pat Wesselman	Irene Giguere
Acolyte	Gretchen Nelson	Rachel Johnson

#### Serving at St. Paul

**Daily Readings:** *Dec* **3:** Is 9:8–10:11, 1 Pet 5:1–14; *Dec* **4:** Is 10:12–27a, 33–34, 2 Pet 1:1–21; *Dec* **5:** Is 11:1–12:6, 2 Pet 2:1–22; *Dec* **6:** Is 14:1–23, 2 Pet 3:1–18; *Dec* **7:** Is 24:1–13, 1 John 1:1–2:14; *Dec* **8:** Is 24:14–25:12, 1 John 2:15–29; *Dec* **9:** Is 26:1–19, 1 John 3:1–24.

# Prayer List

# **CHURCH MEMBERS**

Merilyn Blomster (recovering) Bruce Staudinger (injured leg) Laurie Dungey (concussion) David Carnes (recovering from knee surgery) Rik Johnsson (recovering from neck/back surgery) Rich Foks (physical therapy after knee surgery) David Nguyen (recovering from back surgery) Ann-Eliese Jordan (continuing recovery) Lindsey Gay (recovering from recent hospitalization) John Gay (cancer) Janice Gay (caretaker) Debbie Frech (cancer, chemotherapy treatments) Marilyn Haberl (scleroderma)



#### SHUT-INS

Mildred Klein, Betty Blackburn, and Janet Conklin.

# FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Prayers of comfort and peace for the family of Pastor John Kassouf, former principal of St. Paul School, who died last week.
Walt O'Reilly, husband of Renata (undergoing radiation cancer treatments) 11/26
David Storey, our organ tuner/repairer (triple heart bypass) 11/26

Tim Will, grandparent & guardian of school child (recovering from abdominal surgery) 11/19

Bob Omberg, brother-in-law of Pastor Alms (broken ankle) 11/19

Keith Powell, uncle of Bill Oldhouser (prostrate cancer, surgery on Nov. 8) 11/5

Steve Schafer, father of Alicia Dreessen (skin cancer) 12/3

Prayer is a great gift and privilege for Christians. To add people to the prayer list printed in the bulletin, please email pastoralms@stpaulcatonsville.org or dana.stigdon@splscatonsville.org or call the church office at 410-747-1897. Family and friends will automatically be removed after one month. If you want your request to stay on for another month, just contact the office.