

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville

ISAIAH 40:11



He will
feed his
flock like
a shepherd

Second Sunday in Advent
December 10, 2023

Welcome

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: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, my God and Lord. 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

Second Sunday in Advent December 10, 2023

Prelude: Creator of the Stars of Night: *Conditor alme siderum*
Sarum Plainsong

Richard Warner
(b. 1908)

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB 341



1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the
2 A righteous Helper comes to thee; His chariot
3 How blest the land, the city blest, Where Christ the
4 Fling wide the portals of your heart; Make it a



King of glory waits. The King of kings is drawing
is humbly, His kingly crown is holy
ruler is confessed! O peaceful hearts and happy
temple set apart From earthly use for heaven's



near; The Savior of the world is here. Life and sal-
vance, His scepter, pity in distress. The end of
homes To whom this King in triumph comes! The cloudless
glory, Adorned with prayer and love and joy. So shall your



vation He doth bring; Therefore rejoice and gladly sing.
all our woe He brings; Therefore the earth is glad and sings.
sun of joy is He Who comes to set His people free.
Sovereign enter in And new and nobler life begin.



To God the Father raise Your joyful songs of praise.
To Christ the Savior raise Your grateful hymns of praise.
To God the Spirit raise Your happy shouts of praise.
To God alone be praise For word and deed and grace!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590-1635; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

Tune: August Lemke, 1820-1913

Text and tune: Public domain

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

C **Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

Bell Choir Anthem: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers Haf Trones Lampa Fardig, arr. Larry Sue

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1–11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass,

and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”
¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

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

Psalm (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 85: 1-7; antiphon v. 9

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.
¹LORD, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
²You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you covered all their sin.
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!
⁵Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
⁶Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?
⁷Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

**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.**

⁹Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,
that glory may dwell in our land.

Epistle

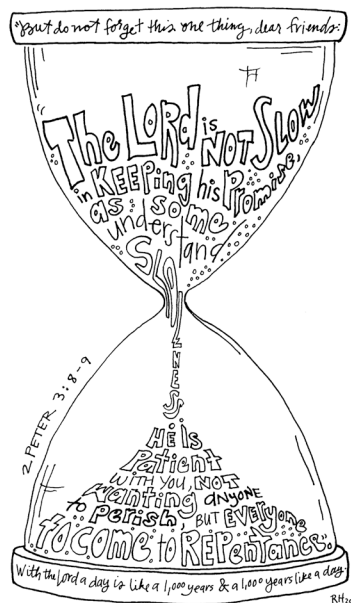
2 Peter 3:8–14

⁸But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

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



Stand
Alleluia and Verse

John 20:31



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

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

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

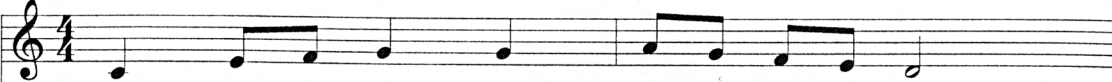
⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.


C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

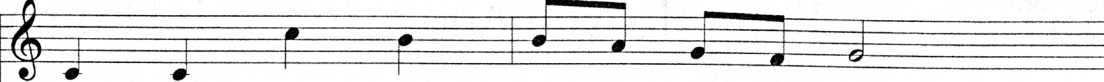
Peace Came to Earth



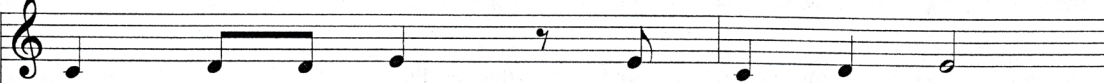
1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



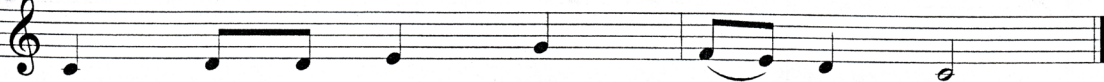
when an - gels clove the sky with song and light and
the in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt the
in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, in
How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might -
wound - ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled -
bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain -
else could I em - brace you, O my God!



Who could but gasp: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but sigh: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but see: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but pray: Im - man - u - el!



Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008

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Tune: Richard Jeffrey, b. 1952; arr. Mark Kellnew, 1959-2015

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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 words

(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.)

Offertory

Psalm 51:10–12



C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -



way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho-ly Spir-it
 from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of Thy sal-va-
 tion, and up-hold me with Thy free spir-it. A-men.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

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

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

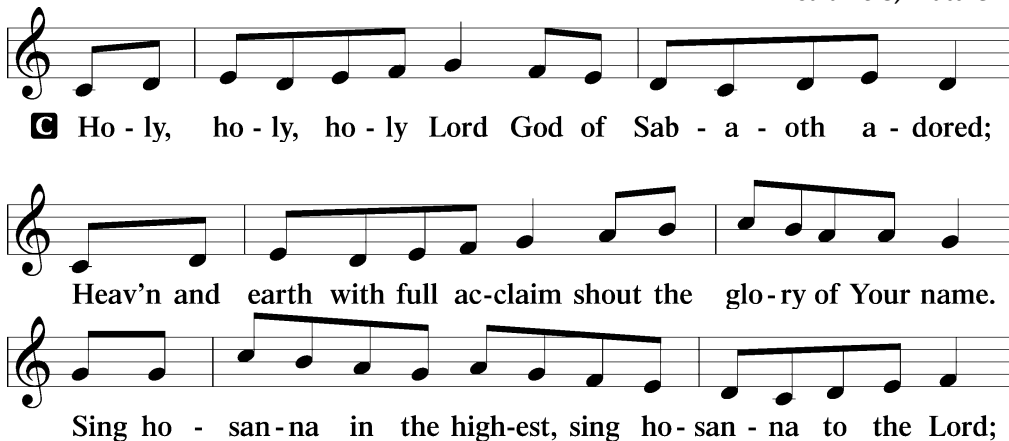
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P It is truly good, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth a-dored;
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
 Sing ho-san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!
Text: Stephen P. Starke

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.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 You take the sin of the world a - way;
 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
 Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
 And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB 349

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's
 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
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be - fore Him
 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.
 burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.
 grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 ring With Thy be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-51

Tune: Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

Text and tune: Public domain

What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

LSB 342



1 What hope! An E - den proph-e - sied Where tame live with the wild;
 2 A shoot will sprout from Jes - se's stem, A branch from Da - vid's line,
 3 As ban - ner of God's love un - furled, Christ came to suf - fer loss,
 4 Come, Je - sus, come, Mes - si - ah Lord, Lost Par - a - dise re - store;



The lamb and li - on side by side, Led by a lit - tle child!
 A Prince of Peace in Beth - le - hem: The fruit of God's de - sign.
 That by His death a dy - ing world Would ral - ly to the cross.
 Lead past the an - gel's flam - ing sword—Come, o - pen heav - en's door.

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1813, Harrisburg, ed. John Wyeth

Text: © 1998 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320

Tune: Public domain

The Infant Priest Was Holy Born

LSB 624



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
 2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con
 3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own
 4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who

ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
 of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
 al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels
 hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the
 forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
 sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
 hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.
 Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
 As at the rail on bended knee
 Our hungry mouths from Him receive
 The bread of immortality.

6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
 A priestly food and priestly meat;
 On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
 His quenching blood that life restores.

7 With cherubim and seraphim
 Our voices join the endless hymn,
 And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
 To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.

Tune: Second Supplement to Psalmody in Miniature, 1778, London; adapt. Edward Miller, 1731-1807 Tune: Public domain
 Text: Chad L. Bird, 1970 Text: © 1997, 2003 Chad L. Bird. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320

Stand
Post-Communion Blessing
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-



cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,



a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy



peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and



to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,



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

Post-Communion Collect

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

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

- 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.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB 344



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 △ 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. Composite

Tune: adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

Text and tune: Public domain

Dismissal

Postlude: O Heavenly Word, Eternal Light: *O Heiland, reiss die Himmel auf* Walther Haffner
 Tune: *Gesangbuch* (b. 1925)

News & Notes

Altar Flowers

Flowers on the altar today are given by Kevin and Robbin Dungey in celebration of their granddaughter Carson's 14th birthday.

Upcoming Deadlines:

- Angel Tree gifts must be at church by **Wednesday, Dec 13**. These gifts will be given to St. Thomas Lutheran Church to distribute to their community.
- Food bags for St. Thomas are due at church by **Friday, Dec 15**. If you are bringing in a bag, please include: 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.
- Today is the last Sunday for the Coat-Mobile for coats for Orphan Grain Train to distribute to those in need. Donations will be accepted at church until **Friday, Dec 15**.



Cookie Walk!!

Next Sunday, **December 17**. Don't miss bringing home some delicious goodies. Cookies available by the pound in the Fellowship Hall before and after Church and Bible Study.

The Nazareth Evening News

St Paul Lutheran School presents *The Nazareth Evening News*. Thursday, **December 14** at 11 AM and 6 PM. Broadcasting the Story of the Birth of Jesus.

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!

Fellowship Hall Usage

In the years prior to the Covid pandemic, there was a group from Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in our Fellowship Hall. Unfortunately, because of Covid restrictions, they had to find other places to meet. We are happy to welcome them back to St. Paul. They are meeting in the Fellowship Hall on Monday evenings. If you need to enter the building while they are meeting, please use the Red Doors.

Women's Guild

Bakers needed for the annual cookie walk. Please bring in cookies before Sunday or by 8:30 that day.

Youth Christmas Get Together

Next Sunday after worship. Bring a white elephant gift and snacks to share. Christmas fun!

Advent & Christmas Worship 2023

Sunday mornings: Worship at 10 AM

Midweek Advent Services: Mary: Example for Us



11 AM or 7 PM
Wednesdays December 13 & 20

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

Christmas Eve

Family Service: 7 PM

Candlelight Service: 10 PM (Communion)

Christmas Day

Lessons & Carols: 10 AM (Communion)

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for calendar year 2024 are available on a table near the water fountain.

Serving at St. Paul

	This week	Next week
Cantor	Jim Baeder	Jim Baeder
Reader	Michelle Johnson	JB Jaeger
Usher	Greg McDonald	Bruce Staudinger
Usher	Jeffrey Hemmeter	Paul Lubell
Greeter	Irene Giguere	Melissa Sunstrom
Acolyte	Rachel Johnson	Ella Nelson

Daily Readings: Dec 10: Is 26:20—27:13, 1 John 4:1–21; **Dec 11:** Is 28:14–29, 1 John 5:1–21; **Dec 12:** Is 29:1–14, Jude 1–25; **Dec 13:** Is 29:15—30:14, Rev 1:1–19; **Dec 14:** Is 30:15–26, Rev 2:1–29; **Dec 15:** Is 30:27—31:9, Rev 3:1–22; **Dec 16:** Is 32:1–20, Rev 4:1–11.

Acknowledgments

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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

Kelly Woolford, friend of the Staudinger's 12/10
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.