St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville



Third Sunday in Advent December 17, 2023



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

Third Sunday in Advent December 17, 2023

Prelude: The Flower of Love F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955)

arr. Glenn Winston Cassler (1906-1990)

"I know a flower so fair and fine, so fragrant and so cheering;
With life-blood clear as purest wine, and leaflet fine like rose leaves all appearing.
This flower so fair and fine is love. God's hand with art it moulded.
Unseen on earth, but not above, is growth of love, till fair it is unfolded.
Upon this earth but wild it grows; not so in new earth's Eden, where streams of life serenely flow;
It buds and blows, delightful fragrance breathing."



Confession and Absolution

Invocation Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- 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

Kyrie Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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 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. Amen.

Sit

Anthem: There Is a Flower John Rutter (b.1945)

Charlotte MacKay, Soprano

There is a flow'r sprung of a tree, the root thereof is callèd Jesse, a flow'r of price;

There is none such in paradise.

This flow'r is fair and fresh of hue, it fadeth never, but ever is new; The blessed branch this flow'r on grew was Mary mild that bare Jesu; A flow'r of grace; against all sorrow it is solace.

The seed hereof was Goddess *sand, that God Himself sowed with His hand, In Nazareth that holy land, amidst her arbour a maiden found;

This blessed flow'r sprang never but in Mary's *bower.

When Gabriel this maid did meet, with 'Ave Maria' he did her greet; Between them two this flow'r was set and safe was kept, no man should wit,

Till on a day in Beth-lem it could spread and spray.

When that fair flow'r began to spread and His sweet blossom began to *bed,
Then rich and poor of ev'ry land they marveled how this flow'r might spread.

Till kings three that blessed flower came to see.

Alleluia. Angels there came from heaven's tower to look upon this freshele flow'r,
How fair He was in His colour and how sweet in His savour;
And to behold how such a flow'r might spring in gold.

There is a flow'r sprung of a tree, the root thereof is called Jesse, A flow'r of price; There is none such in paradise.

^{*}sand = gift

^{*}bed = bud

^{*}bower = a pleasant shady place under trees or climbing plants in a garden or wood.

¹The Spirit of the Lord GoD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn: 3to grant to those who mourn in Zion to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. . . . ⁸For I the LORD love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

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

Psalm (spoken responsively)

Psalm 126; antiphon v. 5

⁵Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

²Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then they said among the nations,
"The LORD has done great things for them."

³The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

⁴Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb!

⁵Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

⁶He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

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.

⁵Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy!

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²³Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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





Holy Gospel John 1:6-8, 19-28

- The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
- Glory to You, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²²So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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

Sit Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness LSB 849 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness lib -With er 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate. Christ, who suf - fered Praise the who light; One frees the pris -'ners. at - ing gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de mons in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to rious Turn-ing blind-ness sight. Praise the One who preached the in - to With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for iov and \mathbf{o} Heal-ing dread dis - ease, Calm-ing Gos - pel, 'ry ev wa - ter To the des ert's burn - ing sand; From this God has done: glad - ness, See - ing what our Let us Bread of peace. storms, and feed-ing thou-sands With the ver - y

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955 Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia
Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110002320 Tune: Public domain

Well comes liv - ing wa - ter,

praise the true Re - deem - er.

Sermon

Quench-ing thirst in

Praise

ev - 'rv land.

the One who makes us one.

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.

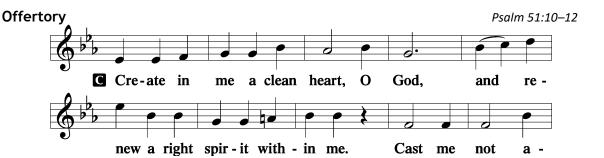
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life T everlasting. Amen.

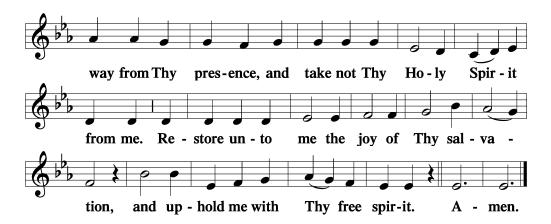
Prayer of the Church

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.)





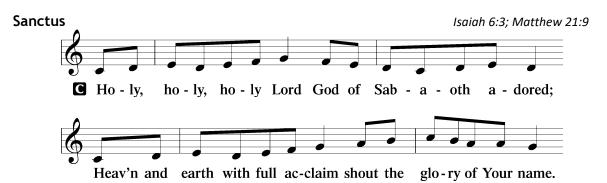


Service of the Sacrament

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:





Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;



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.

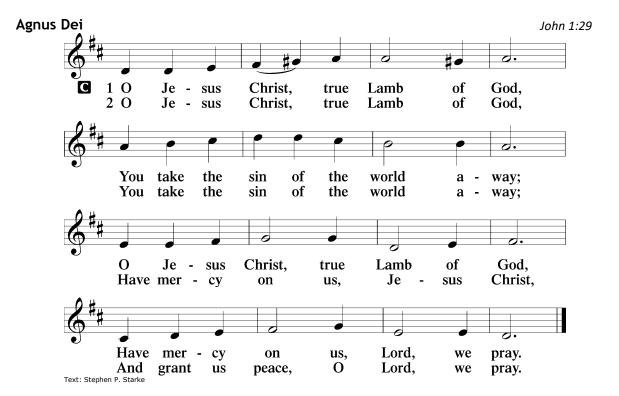
The Words of Our Lord

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

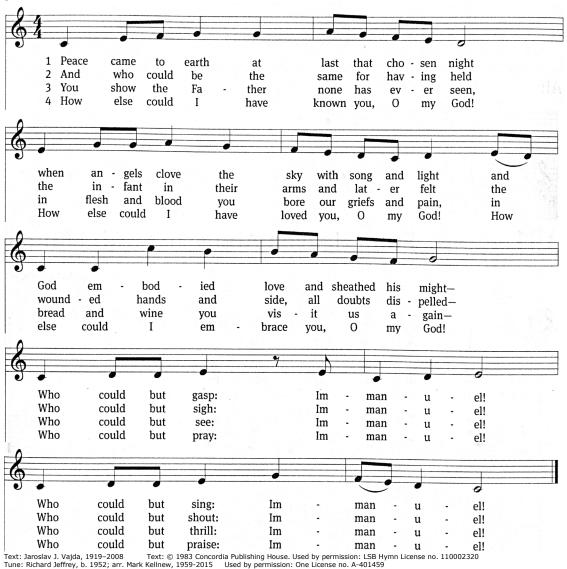
- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



Sit



Peace Came to Earth







- O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. Refrain
- 6 O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind; Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. Refrain

Text: Latin, c. 12th cent.; Psalteriolum Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt. Tune: French, 15th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain



Post-Communion Collect

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

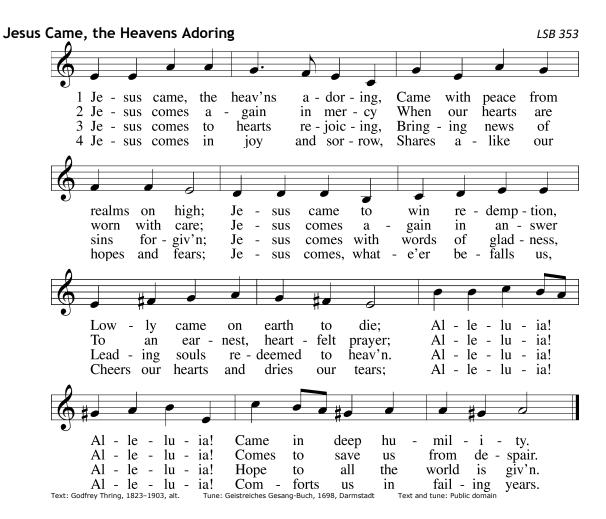
Benedicamus Psalm 103:1

- 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.





Dismissal

Postlude: Gabriel's Message

Michael Bedford (b. 1940)

Basque traditional carol melody

Acknowledgments

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News & Notes

Altar Flowers

Flowers on the altar today are given by Kevin and Robbin Dungey in celebration of the birthdays of their daughters Marty and Beth.

Happening Today:

- ➤ Cookie Walk!! Don't miss bringing home some delicious goodies. After church downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.
- Youth Christmas Get Together. Today after church, meet in the Media Center.



Women's Christmas Dinner

All women are invited to attend the annual Women's Guild Christmas Dinner. It will be held **this Tuesday**, **December 19**th. 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!

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for calendar year 2024 are available on a table near the water fountain. Please take yours home today.

Portals of Prayer

The Jan – Mar 2004 Portals of Prayer is available in the narthex in both regular and large print.

Fellowship Hall Usage

We welcome back to St. Paul a group from Alcoholics Anonymous meeting in our Fellowship Hall. They are meeting on Monday evenings. If you need to enter the building while they are meeting, please use the Red Doors.

Serving at St. Paul

	This week	Next week
Reader	JB Jaeger	Suzanne Giguere
Usher	Bruce Staudinger	Jim Kyne
Usher	Paul Lubell	David Nguyen
Greeter	Melissa Sunstrom	Pat Chinn
Acolyte	Ella Nelson	

Daily Readings: *Dec* 17: Is 33:1–24, Rev 5:1–14; *Dec* 18: Is 34:1–2, 8—35:10, Rev 6:1–17; *Dec* 19: Is 40:1–17, Rev 7:1–17; *Dec* 20: Is 40:18—41:10, Rev 8:1–13; *Dec* 21: Is 42:1–25, Rev 9:1–12; *Dec* 22: Is 43:1–24, Rev 9:13—10:11; *Dec* 23: Is 43:25—44:20, Rev 11:1–19.



Sunday mornings: Worship at 10 AM

Midweek Advent Services: Mary: Example for Us

11 AM or 7 PM

Wednesday December 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)

Sermon Notes

1SAIAH 61:3



Prayer List

CHURCH MEMBERS

Merilyn Blomster (recovering)

Bruce Staudinger (injured leg)

Laurie Dungey (concussion)

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

John Gay (new clinical trial of cancer treatments)

Janice Gay (caretaker)

Debbie Frech (cancer, chemotherapy treatments)

Marilyn Haberl (scleroderma)



SHUT-INS

Mildred Klein, Betty Blackburn, and Janet Conklin.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Ronnie Stevenson, friend of the Kynes (recovering from rotator cuff surgery) 12/17

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

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.