

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville



Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 24, 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

Fourth Sunday in Advent December 24, 2023

Prelude: *O Jesulein süß*
(O Jesus So Sweet)

Rebecca Groom Tevelde
(b. 1952)

Glory Be to God the Father

LSB 506

1 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, Glo - ry be to
2 Glo - ry be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each
3 Glo - ry to the King of an - gels, Glo - ry to the
4 Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal! Thus the choir of

God the Son, Glo - ry be to God the Spir - it:
spot and stain; Glo - ry be to Him who bought us,
Church's King, Glo - ry to the King of na - tions;
an - gels sings; Hon - or, rich - es, pow'r, do - min - ion!

Great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,
Made us kings with Him to reign! Glo - ry,
Heav'n and earth, your prais - es bring! Glo - ry,
Thus its praise cre - a - tion brings. Glo - ry,

glo - ry While e - ter - nal a - ges run!
glo - ry To the Lamb that once was slain!
glo - ry To the King of glo - ry sing!
glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of kings!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89

Tune: Walter G. Whinfield, 1865-1919

Text and tune: Public domain

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



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 **Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

¹Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, ²the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” ³And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, ⁵“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? ⁶I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. ⁷In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’” ⁸Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. ⁹And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm (spoken responsively)

Psalm 89:1–5; antiphon v.5

⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

¹I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

²For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

³You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:

⁴I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations."

⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

**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.**

⁵Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

Epistle

Romans 16:25–27

²⁵Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— ²⁷to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

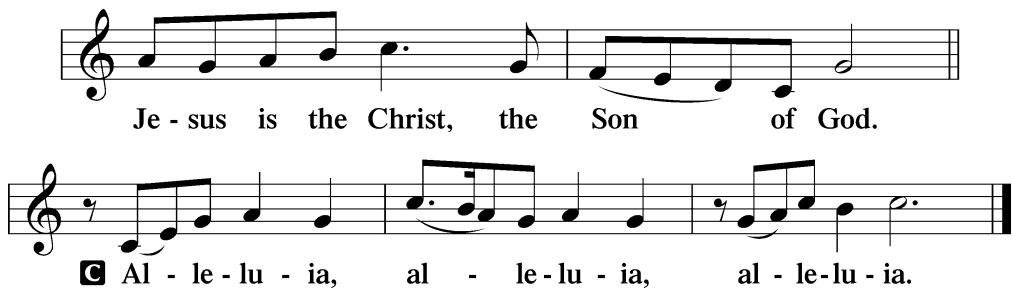
A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand Alleluia and Verse

John 20:31





Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26–38

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

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

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LSB 357



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som
2 O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who or - d'rest
3 O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who to Thy
4 O come, Thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, Free them from

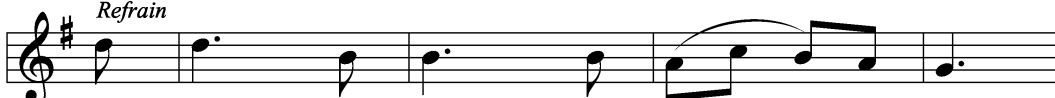


cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly
all things might - i - ly; To us the path of
tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient times didst
Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny That trust Thy might - y



ex - ile here Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
knowl - edge show, And teach us in her ways to go.
give the Law In cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

- 5 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. Refrain

- 7 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.; Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, 1710, Köln; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: French, 15th cent. Text and tune: Public domain

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 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.)



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.

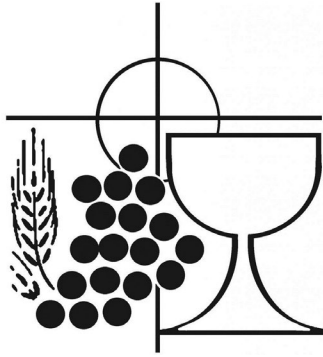
Agnus Dei

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



What Child Is This

LSB 370



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
 2 Why lies He in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3 So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet While
 feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here The
 own Him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
 si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall
 lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the king, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
 song on high, The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98

Tune: English, 16th cent.

Text and tune: Public domain

Joy to the World

LSB 387



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let men their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
 prove The glo - ries of His righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
 ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His



sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of His love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

A Great and Mighty Wonder

LSB 383



1 A great and might - y won - der, A full and ho - ly cure:
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And yet re - mains on high,
 3 While thus they sing your Mon - arch, Those bright an - gel - ic bands,
 4 Since all He comes to ran - som, By all be He a - dored,
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And Sa - tan's ly - ing cease,



The vir - gin bears the in - fant With vir - gin hon - or pure!
And cher - u - bim sing an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
Re - joice, O vales and moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
The in - fant born in Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
And Christ shall raise His scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Pro - claim the Sav - ior's birth: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace to all the earth!"

Text: Germanus, c. 634–c. 734; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1599, Köln

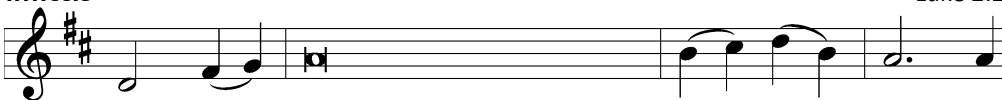
Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Post-Communion Blessing

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



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



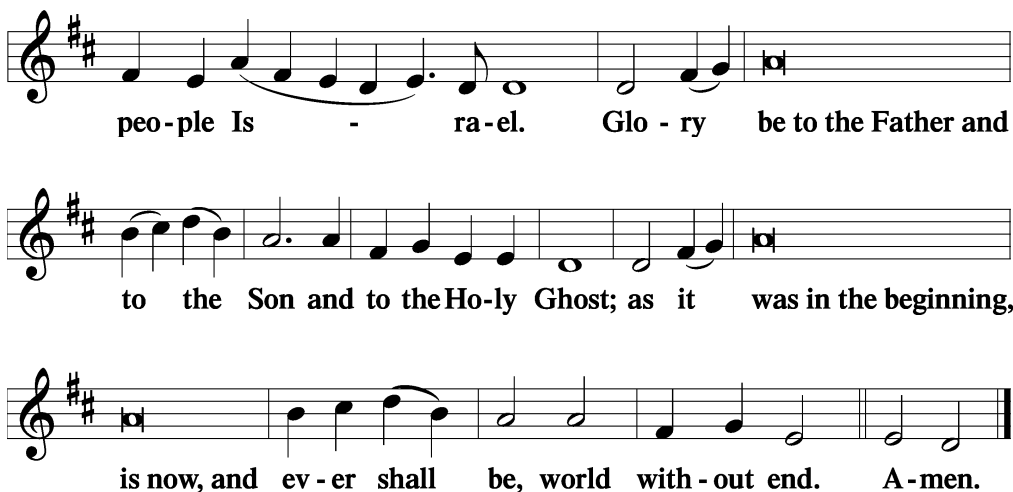
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,



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

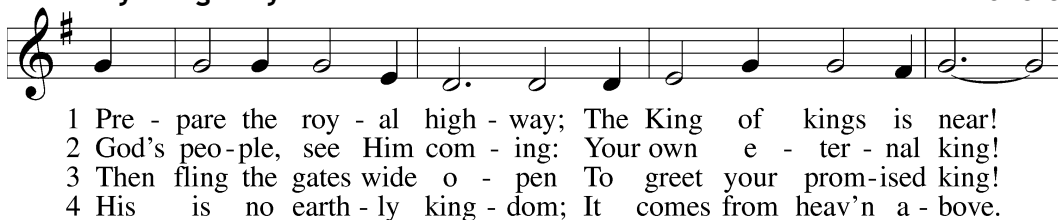
- A Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

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!
4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



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 jus - 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 you!
All lands, bow down be - fore Him! All na - tions, now a - dore Him!
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind-ness so a - bound-ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For He ful - fills God's Word!

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

Dismissal

Postlude: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*
(Savior of the Nations, Come)

Hugo Distler
(1908-1942)

Acknowledgments

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News & Notes

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers give glory to God, beautify the sanctuary, and commemorate an important person or event in your life. The Flower Chart for 2024 is posted and has openings available. Consider sponsoring flowers, flowers can be taken home after the service.

Kids Christmas Morning

We welcomed 65 children in celebration of Jesus’ birth by sharing the Christmas story, crafting, and building Gingerbread houses. There was even a visit from Santa. Thank you to the many volunteers who made this event a success!

Bible Classes

Sunday morning Bible classes resume on January 7th. Pastor will be leading the study in the Fellowship Hall on the Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of Mark. The women’s study in the upstairs Conference Room will continue the study of Joseph.

Newsletter: The articles for the January Newsletter will be due on January 2nd.

Mission Brunch 2024

Rev. Dr. Alexey Streltsov, a friend of Pastor Alms, from the Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church will be our featured speaker on January 28th. Mark your calendars now, you won’t want to miss it.

Mission Project

On January 24th we will have a church and school event to put together health care kits. There is a great need for these kits that will be distributed by the Lutheran Mission Society. Watch for more information to come. Together we make a difference.

Serving at St. Paul

	This week	Next week
Reader	Suzanne Giguere	Kevin Dungey
Usher	Jim Kyne	Roy Krakat
Usher	David Nguyen	Ed Kester
Greeter	Debbie Oldhouser	Pat Chinn
Acolyte		

Daily Readings: ***Dec 24:*** Is 44:21—45:13, 20–25, Rev 12:1–17; ***Dec 25:*** Is 49:1–18, Matt 1:1–17; ***Dec 26:*** Is 49:22–26; 50:4—51:8, 12–16, Matt 1:18–25; ***Dec 27:*** Is 51:17—52:12, Matt 2:1–12; ***Dec 28:*** Is 52:13—54:10, Matt 2:13–23; ***Dec 29:*** Is 55:1–13, Luke 1:1–25; ***Dec 30:*** Is 58:1—59:3, 14–21, Luke 1:26–38.

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 (cancer)
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.



Join us

Christmas Eve

Family Service: 7 PM

Candlelight Service: 10 PM (Communion)

Christmas Day

Lessons & Carols: 10 AM (Communion)

First Sunday after Christmas 12/31

10 AM worship (No Bible Classes)