



**The Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

**January 25, 2026**

**9:30 a.m.**

For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in Heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the Mediator of a New Covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better Word than the blood of Abel.

*Hebrews 12:18–24*

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the Blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the Body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread . . . For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when He was betrayed took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My Body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, "This Cup is the New Covenant in My Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

*1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 11:23–29*

*Who receives this sacrament worthily?* Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins." But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

*Luther's Small Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar*

Falsely are our churches accused of abolishing the Mass; for the Mass is retained among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved . . . For ceremonies are needed to this end alone: that the unlearned be taught what they need to know of Christ . . . The people are accustomed to partake of the Sacrament together, if any be fit for it, and this also increases the reverence and devotion of public worship. For none are admitted except they be first examined.

*Augsburg Confession XXIV: Of the Mass*

#### A Welcome to Our Visitors

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church. We are glad that you have joined us this morning to receive from our gracious God and to offer Him your prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. If this is your first visit to St. Paul, or you have never received the Lord's Supper from our pastor, we ask that you speak with him or one of the elders before receiving Holy Communion. Children and adults who are not permitted to the Sacrament of the Altar may come forward and cross their arms against their chest to indicate they would like to receive a blessing at the rail. We offer gluten free wafers, please advise our pastor as he comes by during communion.

## As We Gather

Winter is the time of the years that we might find unusual and different fruits available in the produce sections of the grocery stores. Today's lessons focus on a different kind of fruit - a fruit that is to be produced year-round in the life of a Christian. That fruit is faithfulness to God. May the Holy Spirit produce the fruit of true commitment in your life today.

*Stand*

**Hymn**

God Loves Me Dearly

392

# ✚ CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTiON ✚

**P** In the Name of the Father and of the ✚ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**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.**

**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.**

**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 ✚ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

# † SERVICE OF THE WORD †

## Introit

*Psalm 97:1, 10–12; antiphon: Psalm 97:6, 9*

*The heavens proclaim His righteousness,  
and all the peoples see His glory.*

**For You, O LORD, are Most High over all the earth;**  
You are exalted far above all gods.

**The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;**  
**let the many coastlands be glad!**

O you who love the LORD, hate evil!

He preserves the lives of His saints; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

**Light is sown for the righteous,**  
**and joy for the upright in heart.**

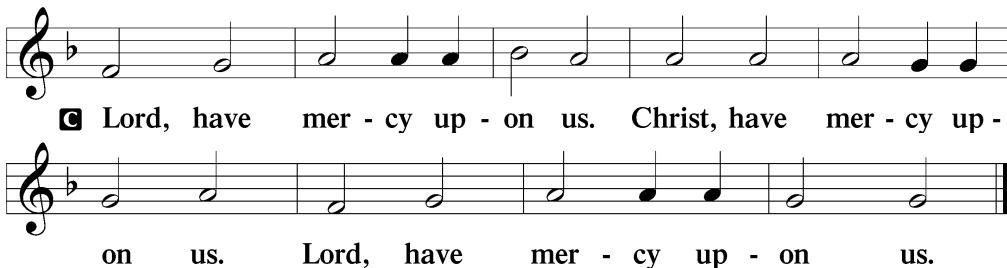
Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,  
and give thanks to His Holy Name!

*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.*

**The heavens proclaim His righteousness,**  
**and all the peoples see His glory.**

**For You, O LORD, are Most High over all the earth;**  
You are exalted far above all gods.

## Kyrie



**C** Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

## Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on high: and on earth peace, good - will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.

O Lord God, heav'n-ly King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that taketh away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.

Thou that taketh away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up - on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** Let us pray. Almighty and Everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Sit*

## Old Testament

*Psalm 139:1-4*

*(David tells us that God knows everything there is to know about each one of us.)*

<sup>1</sup>O LORD, you have searched me and known me!

<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
    you discern my thoughts from afar.

<sup>3</sup>You search out my path and my lying down  
    and are acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>Even before a word is on my tongue,  
    behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Gradual

*Psalm 102:15–16*

Nations will fear the Name of the LORD,  
    and all the kings of the earth will fear Your glory.

**For the LORD builds up Zion;**  
    **He appears in His glory.**

## Epistle

*Philippians 1:3-6*

*(Paul tells us how in time the God completes everything that He starts.)*

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

## Alleluia & Verse

Psalm 97:1

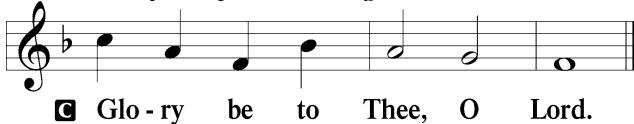
Alleluia. The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;  
Let the many coastlands be glad! Alleluia.

## Holy Gospel

John 13:31-35; 21:15-17

(John tells us of two conversations that Jesus had with Peter.)

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.



<sup>31</sup>When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and God is glorified in him. <sup>32</sup>If God is glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself, and glorify him at once. <sup>33</sup>Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' <sup>34</sup>A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. <sup>35</sup>By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

<sup>15</sup>When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup>He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup>He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.



## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose Kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in One Holy Christian and Apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\ddagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

*Sit*

**Hymn of the Day**

With the Lord Begin Your Task

869

**Sermon**

**Offering**

*Stand*

## Offertory



Music notation for the Offertory hymn. The music is in common time, key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The melody is in soprano range. The lyrics are as follows:

**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.

## Prayer of the Church

*At the end of each petition:*

- P** Let us pray to the Lord.
- C** Lord, have mercy.

# † SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT †

## Preface

**P** The Lord be with you.

Music notation for the Preface. The first line shows a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. It consists of a dotted half note, a quarter note, a half note, another dotted half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The second line shows a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. It consists of a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, and a half note.

**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Lift up your hearts.

Music notation for 'Lift up your hearts.' The first line shows a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. It consists of a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The second line shows a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. It consists of a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, and a half note.

**C** We lift them up un - to the Lord.

**P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

Music notation for 'Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.' The first line shows a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. It consists of a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, and a half note. The second line shows a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. It consists of a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, and a half note.

**C** It is meet and right so to do.

## Proper Preface

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Holy Lord, Almighty Father, Everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of Heaven we laud and magnify Your Glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

## Sanctus

The musical notation consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a G clef. The lyrics are: "C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;". The second staff begins with a G clef. The lyrics are: "heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,". The third staff begins with a G clef. The lyrics are: "ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,". The fourth staff begins with a G clef. The lyrics are: "bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." The fifth staff begins with a G clef. The lyrics are: "Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est."

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but  $\ddagger$  deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\ddagger$  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  $\ddagger$  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** A - men.

## Agnus Dei

**C** O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

*Sit*

## Distribution Hymns

All Depends on Our Possessing	732
Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me	756
God Loved the World So That He Gave	571

## Nunc Dimittis

C 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 without end. A - men.

## Thanksgiving

P O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good.

O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good.  
and His mercy endureth for - ev - - er.

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, Almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



**C** A - men.

## Salutation and Benedicamus

**P** The Lord be with you.



**C** And with thy spir - it.

**P** Bless we the Lord.



**C** Thanks be to God.

## Benediction

**P** The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



**C** A-men, a-men, a - men.

**Hymn**

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

940 sts. 1-4

## ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*"To Shine Forth the Light of God's Love into Our World"*

# BULLETIN NEWS

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>Sunday, January 25</b>	9:30am	Divine Service	Sanctuary
	11:00am	Adult Bible Class	Irmer Hall
<b>Monday, January 26</b>	4:30pm	Service Project	Campus Wide
	5:30pm	Bible Study	Library
<b>Thursday, January 29</b>	4:30pm	Service Project	Campus Wide
	5:30pm	Bible Study	Library

## THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON SERIES

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen to a series of interviews with Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller, author of the new book "Finally Free: Three Lessons in the Parable of the Prodigal Son" at [issuesetc.org/prodigalson](http://issuesetc.org/prodigalson).

## LUTHERAN CENTER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

In Washington, D.C., the larger one's email list, the more doors will open. And the more doors that open, the greater the advocacy. You can help the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty open doors by subscribing to the email list at [www.LCRLFreedom.org/subscribe](http://www.LCRLFreedom.org/subscribe).

## LET US PRAY FOR...

Please keep this list available for your daily devotions. For prayer requests Church office (623) 846-2228, or email at [info@stpaullutheran-az.com](mailto:info@stpaullutheran-az.com). Prayer requests are removed after three weeks.

### IMMEDIATE CONCERNS:

**Louise Ahrens** – recovering from a heart catheterization procedure.

### ON-GOING CONCERNS:

**Suzi Riley** – suffering from health issues

**Jorge Jimenez** – fighting cancer

**Rose Tressler** – health issues

**Nicholas Jimenez** – health issues

**Wayne Bartels** – ongoing health issues

**Jim Rucker** – health issues

**Pat Haas** – ongoing health issues

### FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

**Rei Irmer** (sister of Louise Ahrens) prayers for upcoming surgery and continued healing

**Nick Koontz** (husband of Mary Howard's stepdaughter) diagnosed with leukemia.

### THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING:

Family and friends of Christopher Richards, died 01/13/2026.

### MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY ST. PAUL:

**Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram and wife, Joan**, serving in Japan.      **PSWD Missions**

### PRAY FOR ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH/THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD:

The Substitute Pastors and their families

The Rev. Vernen Ermeling and family

Sunday School teachers & children

LCMS officers, congregations & schools

Maryvale Preparatory Academy families & staff

Lexington Life Academy families & staff

**OUR NATION:** For all elected and appointed public servants, and all who labor to maintain peace and order.

### FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY (members, friends, or relatives):

**Jackson Buffington (Ahrens), Maxwell Buffington (Ahrens), Andy Smiley (Parker), Julian Perez (Perez)**

### OUR SHUT-INS: Anne Smith

#### Acknowledgments

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