

Greetings, favored one!  
The Lord is with you

LUKE 1:28



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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**WELCOME** Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 184 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

**Restrooms** are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

**Thank you for your faithfulness** in sending your offering through the mail, by using online options from your financial institution, or through the “Donate” now from the church website **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul’s and our ministry partners.

## Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

### Entering and Leaving the Church:

*Face masks are required inside,*

*Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.*

*Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

### Offerings:

*Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at*

*[www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org)*

### While in the Nave:

*Please wear your mask. Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.*

### Communion Procedure:

- *Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).*
- *Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.*
- *Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.*
- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*
- *We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul’s. Please thank Deacon Ellen Doughty, Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, Dr. Martha Thomas and Tim Yakim for their dedication and service.

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

8:00 & 10:30 AM

Holy Communion Setting 9 ELW

## PRELUDE

*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*

*Paul Manz*

*Stand*

## BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**INTROIT** *The refrain is sung by all. The stanza is sung by the cantor.  
The concluding refrain is sung by all.*

*Refrain*  
Em Bm<sup>7</sup> Em

The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es.

Em Bm<sup>7</sup> Em

O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es.

*Stanza 4 He gave his life for us, the pledge of salvation  
He took upon himself the sins of the nation.*  
**REFRAIN**



## APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. . . Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the hindrance of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen**

*Sit*

**READING 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16**

*back page*

*At the conclusion of the reading* The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God**

## PSALMODY

**Luke 1:46-55** *spoken responsively*

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>**and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

<sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

**Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;**

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>**His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.**

<sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm;

**he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.**

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

<sup>53</sup>**he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.**

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,

**in remembrance of his mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

**to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

*Stand*

## VERSE

Alleluia.

**A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel.**

**Alleluia**

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 1:26-38**

*(back cover)*

The Holy Gospel according to **St Luke.** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## SERMON

**Pastor Reep**

## **Stand**

### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\* On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

God of power and might, fulfill your promise and come quickly to this weary world.

Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, in this holy season we pray for our neighbors of other denominations and faiths. Cultivate understanding among us and strengthen us in love and service to our community. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bless and protect the seas, mountains, plains, forests, skies, and soils that surround us.

Give us humility as we tend them. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Righteous God, you humble the powerful and lift up the lowly. Guide all people entrusted with leadership, to create societies in which everyone can flourish. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nourish those who lack access to adequate food and nutrition. Bless the work of advocates, community organizers, and food pantries. Encourage us to provide for our neighbors in need. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Surround everyone in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit with your tender presence (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Eternal God, you are faithful to the promises you made to our forebears. We give thanks for the ministry of Katharina von Bora Luther and other ancestors who organized, planned, dreamed, encouraged, and reached out as they served you. We give thanks for the bold witness of female leaders in our own time. Inspire us with their steadfast witness. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

## OFFERTORY

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised: we will trust your word.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**PREFACE** *The preface appropriate to the day is said.*

**SANCTUS** *Sung by cantor.* **C** *Congregation joins at the “Blessed is he...”*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and

might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Continued on next page...*



## THANKSGIVING

Holy God, the Beginning and the End, our Salvation and our Hope, We praise you for creating a world of order and beauty When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair, you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.

At this end of the ages your Son Jesus came to bring us your love and to heal all the suffering world.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await his coming again. Send your Spirit on us and on this bread and wine: strengthen our faith, increase our hope, and bring to birth the justice and joy of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

## 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 deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**FRACTION**                      *a brief silence is kept*

**AGNUS DEI**                      *sung by the Cantor*

*Sit        The pastor cleanses hands and prepares for the distribution of Holy Communion.*

## **COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL**

*Instructions for receiving the sacrament are on the inside front cover of the bulletin.*

**Stand**

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.        **Amen**

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray. Almighty God, in the Eucharist you cleanse us from our sins and prepare us for the coming of your Son. Make us ready always to welcome Him into our hearts as we receive your Holy Sacrament; though Jesus Christ our Lord.        **Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.        **Amen.**

## **BLESSING OF THE CRECHE**

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**Who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, who did cause your only-begotten Son to be born of the blessed Virgin Mary for our salvation: grant, we beseech you, so to hallow and bless + this Crèche, wherein are shown forth the wonders of that sacred birth; that all those who, beholding the same, shall ponder and adore the mystery of this holy incarnation, may be filled with your heavenly benediction and life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.        **Amen.**

## **HYMN        Joy to the World (LBW 39) Stanza 1**



*Continued on next page...*





## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

*Sit*

## POSTLUDE

*Toccata on "Joy to the World"*

*Craig Phillips*

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*Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave.  
Feel free to gather outside for conversation.  
Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*



Flowers This Week

*This week's flowers are given to the Glory of God In honor  
of our grandchildren by Larry and Deb Becker.*

### ***In our prayers we remember...***

***Deborah Fulton, Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Bill Troutman, Shawn Sunday,  
Mike Johnston, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Jessica Ericson, Kris-  
tine Gross, Porter Stacey,.***

## 2021 Calendar Sale

Make sure you get your copies of the 2021 calendar! They feature the watercolor paintings of Pastor Reep. The images highlight the beautiful cottages from the grounds of the Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua NY (painted during summer 2019) and fruits and flowers still life arrangements (painted during 2020). We ask for a minimum donation of \$20. All proceeds go to the Capital Campaign. The original paintings will be auctioned at our October 16<sup>th</sup> 2021 event.



### Food Pantry—December

**Items needed:** Stuffing, Canned beans, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, canned beans, canned vegetables, canned meats, apple sauce, mashed potato mix, rice, pasta side dishes and peanut butter & jelly. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thursday	Fri	Sat
<b>20 Advent 4 -</b> <b>8:00 AM Holy Eucharist -</b> <b>Blessing of Creche</b> <b>9:15 AM Christmas</b> <b>Rehearsal</b> <b>10:30 AM Holy Eucharist -</b> <b>Ringing in of Christmas</b> <b>5:00 PM Evening Service -</b> <b>Baptism</b>	<b>21</b> <b>First Day of</b> <b>Winter</b> <b>9:00 - 11:30 AM</b> <b>NO Preschool</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> <b>Finance</b> <b>Committee</b>	<b>22</b> <b>9:00 - 11:30 AM NO</b> <b>Preschool</b> <b>9:30 AM Pantry</b> <b>Volunteers</b> <b>12:30 PM Christian</b> <b>Ed Meeting</b>	<b>23</b> <b>9:00 - 11:30</b> <b>AM NO</b> <b>Preschool</b>	<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE -</b> <b>reservations needed</b> <b>4:00 PM Christmas Eve</b> <b>Carol Sing George Street</b> <b>Porch</b> <b>7:00 PM Vespers - Church</b> <b>Nave</b> <b>11:00 PM Christmas Pray-</b> <b>ers - Compline</b>	<b>25 Christmas</b> <b>Day</b> <b>Service 10:30</b> <b>AM by reserva-</b> <b>tion only - with</b> <b>Communion</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>8:00 AM Holy Eucharist</b> <b>10:30 AM Holy Eucharist -</b> <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b> <b>5:00 PM Evening Service -</b> <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b>	<b>28</b> <b>9:00 - 11:30 AM</b> <b>NO Preschool</b>	<b>29</b> <b>9:00 - 11:30 AM</b> <b>NO Preschool</b> <b>9:30 AM Pantry</b> <b>Volunteers</b>	<b>30</b> <b>9:00 - 11:30</b> <b>AM NO</b> <b>Preschool</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> <b>Bible Study</b> <b>- Christ Hall</b>	<b>31</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

### STAFF

Pastor  
Youth Director  
Organist, Choir Director  
Bookkeeper  
Secretary  
Sexton  
Preschool Director

Reverend Stanley Reep [prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:prreep.stpaulsyork@comcast.net)  
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# *Christmas Worship Schedule at St. Paul's*



Please note the adjusted schedule for the entire Christmas season

## **Sunday, December 20, 2020      The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM      Holy Communion with Blessing of the Creche  
10:30 AM      Holy Communion with The Ringing in of Christmas  
5:00 PM      Vespers with Sacrament of Holy Baptism

**Christmas Eve 7 PM, 11 PM and  
Christmas Day are now full.**

## **Thursday, December 24, 2020      Christmas Eve**

4:00 PM      Outside Christmas Carol Service with Brass Quintet  
~~7:00 PM      Christmas Eve Vespers~~  
~~11:00 PM      Christmas Eve Compline~~

## **Friday, December 25, 2020      Christmas Day**

~~10:30 AM      Holy Communion~~

## **Sunday, December 27, 2020      The First Sunday of Christmas**

8:00 AM      Holy Communion, spoken  
10:30 AM      Lessons and Carols  
5:00 PM      Lessons and Carols

## **Sunday, January 3, 2021      Second Sunday of Christmas**

8:00 AM      Holy Communion, spoken  
10:30 AM      Holy Communion, spoken  
5:00 PM      Holy Communion, spoken

I have been sending out a lot of calendars

For most of the Christian world this is the season of Immanuel, “God with us.” Oh, we try to stick to our Advent regime, but all too often we get pulled forward to December 25. And we are confronted with Christmas well wishes and greetings encapsulating the season.

Christmas vacation equated to a Monopoly marathon with my brothers. As soon as we would arrive home from school for Christmas break, the Hasbro game Monopoly in its dilapidated box would be withdrawn from the shelf, the game board spread open, and the iconic markers; top hat, iron, and car placed at “go.” The colorful currency from the milky white pile of ones to the golden rod 500s would be counted out in neatly aligned rows. The “Chance” and “Community Chest” cards would get a good shuffle and placed face down on the center of the board. Play would ensue with the roll of the dice. The game began.

It was marathon Monopoly because we changed the rules. The game would never really end during the entire Christmas break. “I owe you” notes were issued in order to keep players anchored to their side of the table, tethered to one’s seat. Properties purchased would soon sprout green houses and red hotels. Then came the barrage of unfortunate monetary sums to be paid for things like; hospital stays, property assessments on those green houses and red hotels, and an assortment of fees that seemed to be endless. Your only hope was to make it around the board, past “go” and collect \$200. As the markers counted off spaces Baltic, Connecticut, St. James, Marvin Gardens, take a ride on a railroad, you would land on “Chance” or “Community Chest.” With any luck you would draw a “get out of jail free card” or “you won \$15 in a beauty contest” complete with the ridicule from those playing the game. But the card I always hoped to unearth in the mustardy yellow pile of “Community Chest” cards was “Bank error in your favor, collect \$200.” That was the card that allowed me to stay in the game. It was the card that allowed me to keep playing. It was the good favor I needed to push me around the corner to collect yet another \$200 and have another go at holding my own with my brothers in the make believe market place.

To be favored in those Monopoly marathon games with my brothers was something tremendous. To be favored by God – now that is truly tremendous. On this fourth Sunday in Advent we hear how God favored Mary. Gabriel comes to Mary and announces God’s favor to her. She will bear the Word. She will give birth to the priceless treasure Jesus. He is of course the one who favors all people by giving his own life on Calvary’s cross for you and me and for all people. He pays the price for us, “not with silver and gold but with his precious blood” writes Martin Luther in the Small Catechism.

Favor – God’s favor is given for us to keep us going to remind us that we are precious and that we are valued. There are times in any game and times in life when it seems like you just won’t make it down the next stretch or around the next corner. “Chance” cards and “Community Chest” cards may all be used up, but God’s gracious favor does not end.

God’s favor is given precisely to keep us in the game, to keep us moving forward, to keep us from getting stuck.

Hail, O Favored One, the Lord of Hosts is with you. On Wednesday night, Christmas Eve, we will hear the angel’s message announced to the shepherds. Peace to humanity. Because God, strange as it may seem, favors us. God’s desire is to keep us moving forward, advancing, without an “I owe you.” With God’s favor, we receive God’s I love you.

Mary responded “let it be to me according to your Word, let me be your servant.”

Our new Monopoly game has plastic houses and hotels, the markers aren’t made of cast metal, the currency is brighter and the bills printed on thinner paper and the board folds neatly in quarters. But the “Chance” and “Community Chest” cards seem pretty much unchanged. I still hope for that mustardy yellow card especially in times of need. When it appears, favor is bestowed, given, granted, and play continues down the stretch and around the corner and there is opportunity for another “go.” God’s favor is bestowed, given, granted; sometimes it is taken for granted, but when you really need it, it allows for new possibilities. God’s favor gets you down the tough stretch or around that unknown corner. And it always allows for another “go.” There is no error with Christ Jesus. God willingly favors you. This Christmas will be a lot like Christmases past; God’s favor is announced and you are loved. God’s loving favor is made known in the breaking of the bread this morning. God grants peace so that we all have another “go.” Amen.



**FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16**

Now when [David] the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, <sup>2</sup>the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent."

<sup>3</sup>Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: <sup>5</sup>Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? <sup>6</sup>I 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 and a tabernacle. <sup>7</sup>Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" <sup>8</sup>Now 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 to be prince over my people Israel; <sup>9</sup>and 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. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from 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. <sup>16</sup>Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

**Luke 1:46b-55**

**or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26**

**SECOND READING: Romans 16:25-27**

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—<sup>27</sup>to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

**GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He 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 ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 61:10—62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

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Tracks 1 and 2  
ELCA-R