

LUKE 2:30

MY
EYES
HAVE SEEN YOUR
SALVATION

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

www.stpaulsyork.org

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

Facebook: St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George

YouTube: St. Paul's Lutheran Church - South George St. York

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 187 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Offerings Offerings are received during the liturgy. They are presented along with gifts of bread and wine at the altar. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

Postlude It is our tradition to remain seated for the postlude. If you need to leave we ask that you do so reverently. This tradition developed as a result of our livestream. We want anyone viewing to be able to listen to the postlude without unnecessary distraction. Thank you.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex (George St). Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms as well as in the nursery.

An AED/Defibrillator unit is located in the Good Shepherd room. It is placed on the wall left side of the Springettsbury door exit.

The Nursery is accessed through the front right double doors. The liturgy is live-streamed into the Nursery. Parents are asked to stay with their children. Quiet activities are also available in the Narthex for infant through preschool children to use with an adult.

Please be aware that there is a rise in individuals loitering at church buildings and asking for money. This is panhandling and it is illegal. Please do not give money. Simply direct them to contact the Pastor at a time other than during worship. Thank you.

Parents, please do accompany your child to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.

STAFF

Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Organist, Choir Director	Victor Fields	vfields.stpaulsyork@comcast.net
Children's Music Director	Julianna Jones	Jjones.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Secretary	Patee Pizzirusso	st.paulsyork@comcast.net
Sexton	Ted Weikert	tweikert.stpaulsyork@gmail.com
Preschool Director	Deb Becker	director@stpaulspreschoolyork.com

First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2023

Holy Communion 9:15 a.m.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship Setting 1

PRELUDE

Cold December Flies Away

John Leavitt

Stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

In His Temple Now Behold Him (ELW 417)



1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -
3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,
4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less



pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,
hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,
weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,
love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en



God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,
ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!
seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,
by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther

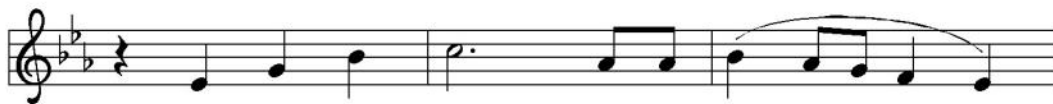


his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.
Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.
and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - mighty - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the




world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

Continued on next page...



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



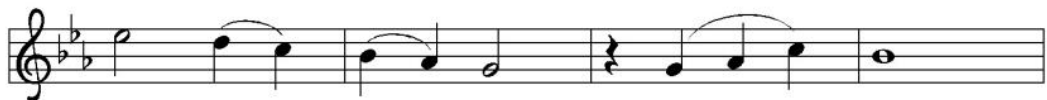
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



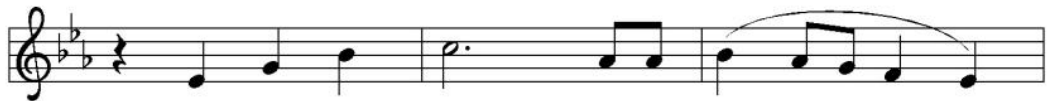
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

Sit

CHILDRENS SERMON

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10 —62:3 *back cover*

PSALM

Psalm 148

The organ introduces the tone, then the Psalm is sung unaccompanied by Cantor/Congregation



- ¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;*
praise him | in the heights.
- ² **Praise him, all you an- | gels of his;***
praise him, | all his host.
- ³ Praise him, | sun and moon;*
praise him, all you | shining stars.
- ⁴ **Praise him, heav- | en of heavens,***
and you waters a- | bove the heavens.
- ⁵ Let them praise the name | of the LORD;*
for he commanded, and they | were created.
- ⁶ **He made them stand fast forev- | er and ever;***
he gave them a law which shall not | pass away.
- ⁷ Praise the LORD | from the earth,*
you sea monsters | and all deeps;
- ⁸ **fire and hail, | snow and fog,***
tempestuous wind, do- | ing his will;
- ⁹ mountains | and all hills,*
fruit trees | and all cedars;
- ¹⁰ **wild beasts | and all cattle,***
creeping things and | winged birds;
- ¹¹ kings of the earth | and all peoples,*
princes and all rulers | of the world;
- ¹² **young | men and maidens,***
old and | young together.
- ¹³ Let them praise the name | of the LORD,*
for his name only is exalted, his splendor is over | earth and heaven.
- ¹⁴ **He has raised up strength for his people and praise for all his | loyal servants,***
the children of Israel, a people who are near him. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING**Galatians 4:4—7** *back cover**Stand***VERSE**

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

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL**Luke 2:22-40***back cover*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the second chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the reading

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sit***SERMON**

Pastor Reep

*Stand***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of
the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made
man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

Amen

THE PRAYERS

Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

A brief silence.

O God, make our churches places of welcome for all people. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ground us in your changeless and sustaining love as we begin a new year. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give stamina to leaders who work tirelessly for the sake of the most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sustain all people who, like Simeon and Anna, have been waiting for salvation and wholeness (*especially*). We pray especially for anyone living with cancer or chronic illness, all people who are in physical rehabilitation or addiction recovery, and those experiencing complications from long COVID. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Teach us to honor the wisdom of children, the inquisitiveness of youth, the thoughtfulness of adults, and the knowledge of elders. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all the beloved who lived with expectation and departed this life in peace (*especially*). Sustain us in joy until we join them around your throne. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace made known through your only Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING Chancel Choir Good Christians All, Rejoice Alan Bullard

OFFERTORY*All My Heart Again Rejoices (ELW 273)*

1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and
2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to
3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and
4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in

near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are
us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that
small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is
death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -

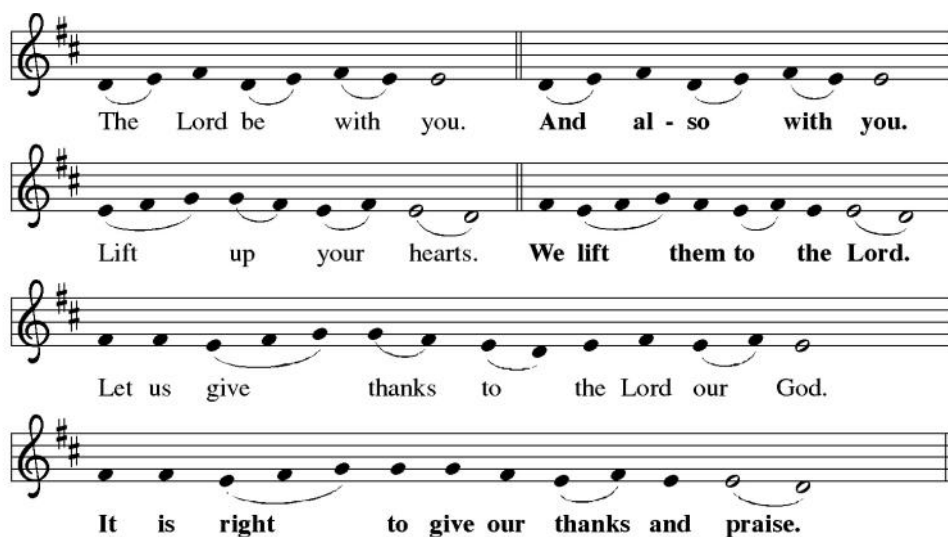
sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.
ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful Father,

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us; ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

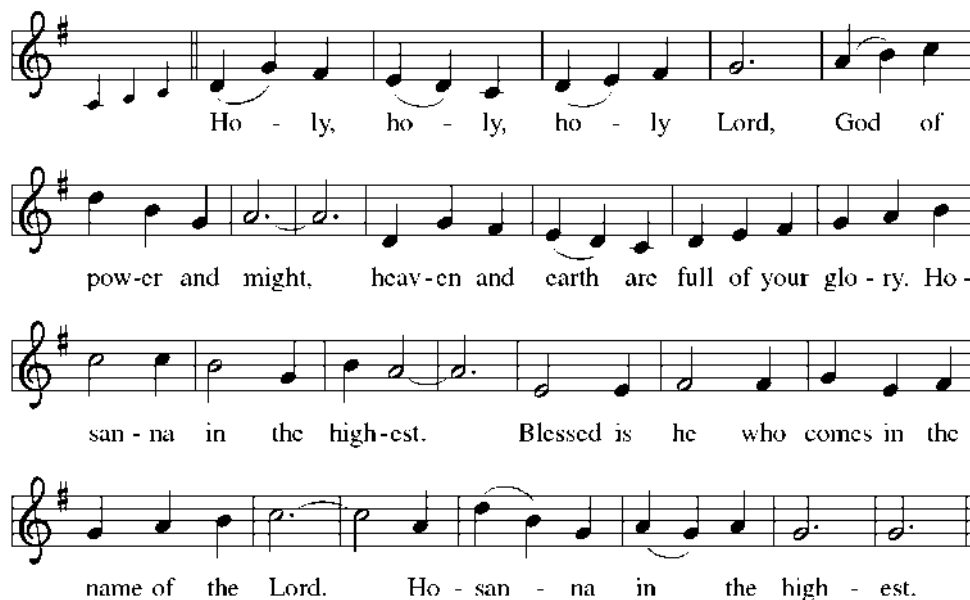


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the fathers, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises. 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly [on this day] we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

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,

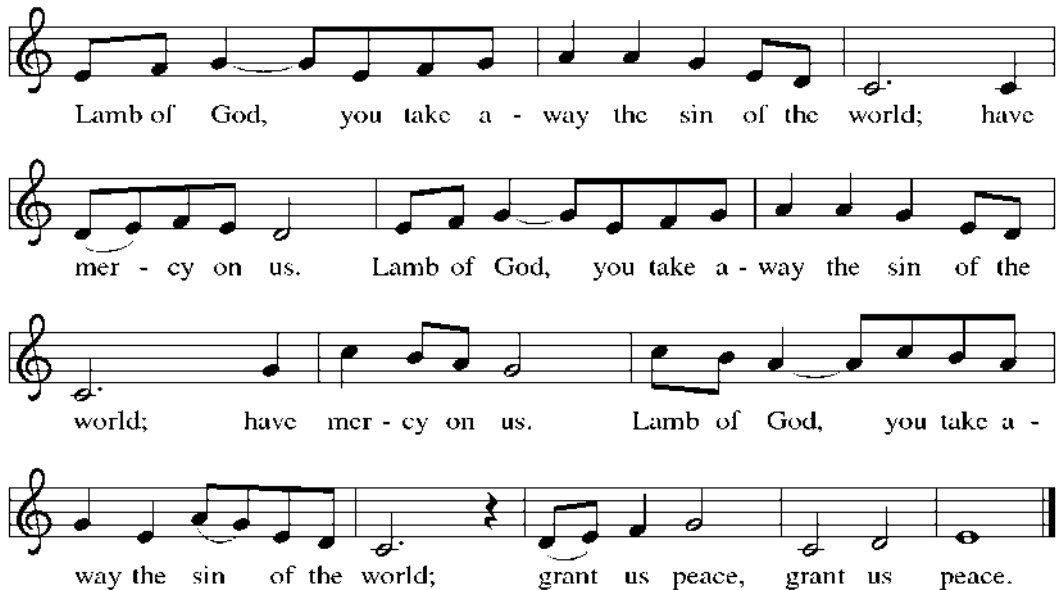
as we forgive those who trespass against us;

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 RITE *A brief silence is kept.*

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

Our Communion is “open” to all believers who trust that the Risen Christ is present for his people in the Holy Eucharist.

- 1. Come to communion using the center aisle (about 10 adults per side).*
- 2. Communion glasses are placed on credence tables at the front pews (left and right side).*
- 3. Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
- 4. Take your place along the chancel step. The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
- 5. Extend your hands to receive the communion host.*
- 6. Consume the communion host.*
- 7. Hold the communion glass with both hands at chest height so that the communion assistant can easily pour the wine into the glass.*
- 8. Consume the wine before you leave the chancel edge.*
- 9. Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
- 10. Return to your pew using the side aisle.*

HYMN

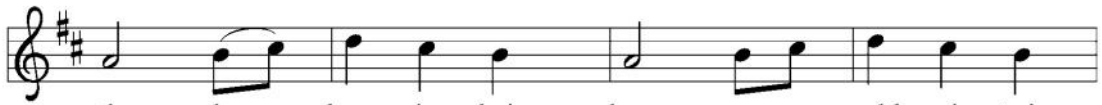
The First Noel (ELW 300)



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . .
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, and

Refrain



night that was so deep.
 tin-ued both day and night.
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -
 place where Je - sus lay.
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Stand

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Almighty, God, in the incarnation of your Son you began the work of our deliverance from sin and death. Through the grace given us in your Son, strengthen us in spirit and renew in us the New Birth we have through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

BLESSING

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

HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279)



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im-parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Glory to God, Glory in the Highest Emily Maxson Porter

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This Week at St. Paul's

Sunday, December 31

9:15 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream

6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Monday, January 1

Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2

9:30 AM Pantry

6:00 PM CREATE—Preschool—Grade 6

Wednesday, January 3

10:30 AM Bible Study—Christ Hall

Thursday, January 4

6:30 PM Handbell Choir—Chancel

7:30 PM Chancel Choir

Sunday, January 7 Baptism of our Lord

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist

9:15 AM Sunday School for All

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—Live Stream

6:30 PM AA meeting Community Rm

Inclement Weather Information: You may get information regarding closures at our website www.stpaulsyork.org or on our Facebook page St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George.

Food Pantry—Items needed: Canned fruit. This has been difficult for the pantry to get.

Please put your donations in the shopping cart in the Good Shepherd Room. Thank You. We also need paper grocery bags with handles and plastic bags. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”. **Volunteers are needed Tuesday mornings to help our neighbors shop. Call Teresa Rohrbaugh or the church office (717-843-8155) to volunteer.**

2024 Flower Chart—The 2024 flower chart is posted on the Springettsbury vestibule bulletin board. The cost of the flowers is **\$35 per vase**. You are welcome to sign up to provide one or both vases. After you have signed up, simply make a check payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mark it altar flowers. This is a great way to honor someone, celebrate a milestone in life, or remember a loved one. The flowers may be taken home with you at the conclusion of the last liturgy or you may have them given to someone who is sick, shut it, or hospitalized. If you wish, you can contact the office to reserve a date, and to provide us with all of the correct information for inclu-

Serving the Lord with Gladness

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Communion Assistants	Greeters	Ushers	Altar Set-up & Clean-up
12/31	9:15 AM	Tristan Ericson	Anna Herdson	Deb Becker	Larry Becker	Carol Woodbury, Earline Jones	Larry Becker, Patty Snyder	Kathleen Lemke, Pat Scarborough

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10—62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
 my whole being 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 with a garland,
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to
 spring up,
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and
 praise
 to spring up before all the nations.
^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
 and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
 until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
 and her salvation like a burning torch.
²The nations shall see your vindication,
 and all the kings your glory;
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand
 of the LORD,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalms 148**SECOND READING: Galatians 4:4-7**

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,⁵ in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.⁶ And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"⁷ So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Joseph and Mary] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord,

"Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"),²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant
 in peace,
 according to your word;
³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,
³¹which you have prepared in the presence of
 all peoples,
³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles
 and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Next Sunday's Readings: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-7; Mark 1:4-11.

Cover: Presentation of Jesus at the temple (1963), fresco, by Dom Georges Sagat. Keur Moussa Abbey, Keur Moussa, Senegal. Photo copyright © Godong/Robert Harding Picture Library/Superstock. Used by permission.

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Tracks 1 and 2
 ELCA-R