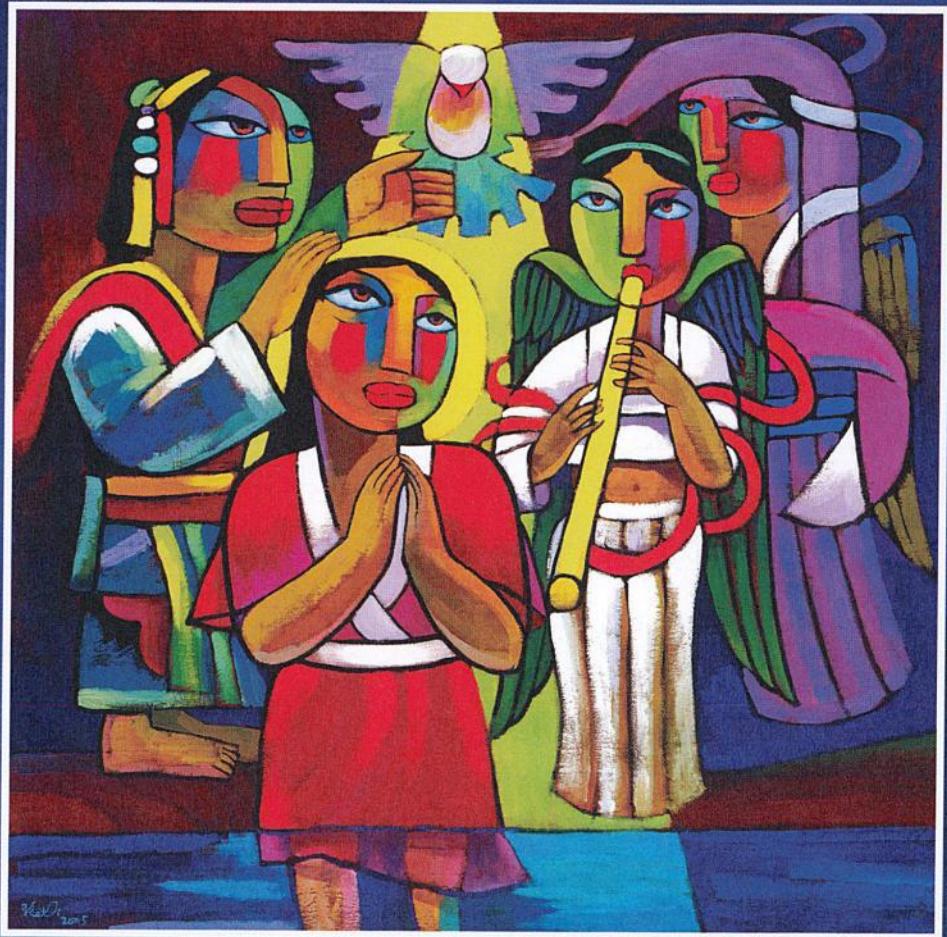


# THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED

MATTHEW 3:17



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: [st.paulsyork@comcast.net](mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net)

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

[www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com](http://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 189 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](http://www.stpaulsyork.org) or use the QR Code provided.

**Restrooms** are located 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. The restrooms are independent units. Please remember to latch the door.

**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.

**We ask parents to accompany their children** to the restroom during the liturgy and wait with them. This is a way for us to practice good safety protocol within our building.



*The altar flowers are presented to the Glory of God  
and in honor of our children by Stan & Emily Reep.*



**Lutheran Church in York, PA - St. Paul's Lutheran...**

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

STAFF		
Pastor	Rev. Stanley Reep	<a href="mailto:st.paulsyork@comcast.net">st.paulsyork@comcast.net</a>
Youth Director	Kelly Moore-Spencer	<a href="mailto:kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net">kmoorespencer.stpaulsyork@comcast.net</a>
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Bell Choirs Director	Leah McComas	<a href="mailto:lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com">lmccomas.stpaulsyork@gmail.com</a>
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# Baptism of Our Lord

January 11, 2026

8:00 & 10:30 AM

*Musical Setting #1 Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

## PRELUDE

*Trio on “Down Galilee’s Slow Roadways”* Brenda Portman

*Stand turning to face the font*

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
**and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

**Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.**

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

**By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.**

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,

**and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.**

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

**To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin. Grant that we who are reborn to new life in him may live in righteousness and holiness all our days, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## ENTRANCE HYMN

*Down Galilee's Slow Roadways (ACS 916)*

1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - el'd on  
 2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;  
 3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.  
 it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.  
 We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,  
 The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice;  
 But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.

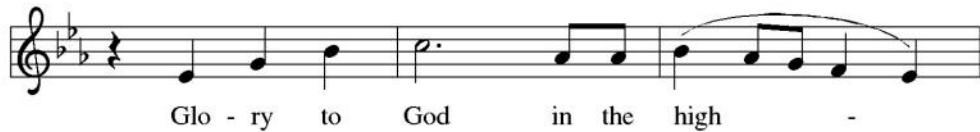


but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.  
 "You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."  
 "You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

## 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.**

## 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 - might - 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



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



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



lonely 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.

Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful in their calling to be your children and inheritors with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

*Sit*

**HANDBELL CHOIR**

*“Puer Nobis Nascitur”*

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 42:1-9**

*(back cover)*

**PSALM Psalm 29**

*Spoken responsively*

<sup>1</sup>Ascribe to the <sup>1</sup>LORD, you gods,\*

    ascribe to the LORD glo- <sup>1</sup>ry and strength.

<sup>2</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory <sup>1</sup>due his name;\*

    worship the LORD in the beau- <sup>1</sup>ty of holiness.

<sup>3</sup>The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of <sup>1</sup>glory thunders;\*

    the LORD is upon the <sup>1</sup>mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup>The voice of the LORD is a pow- <sup>1</sup>erful voice;\*

    the voice of the LORD is a <sup>1</sup>voice of splendor.

<sup>5</sup>The voice of the LORD breaks the <sup>1</sup>cedar trees;\*

    the LORD breaks the ce- <sup>1</sup>dars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup>he makes Lebanon skip <sup>1</sup>like a calf;\*

    and Mount Hermon like a <sup>1</sup>young wild ox.

<sup>7</sup>The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD <sup>1</sup>shakes the wilderness;\*

    the LORD shakes the wilder- <sup>1</sup>ness of Kadesh.

<sup>8</sup>The voice of the LORD makes the <sup>1</sup> oak trees writhe\*  
and strips the <sup>1</sup> forests bare.

<sup>9</sup>And in the temple <sup>1</sup> of the LORD\*  
all are <sup>1</sup> crying, “Glory!”

<sup>10</sup>The LORD sits enthroned a- <sup>1</sup> bove the flood;\*  
the LORD sits enthroned as <sup>1</sup> king forevermore.

<sup>11</sup>The LORD shall give strength <sup>1</sup> to his people;\*  
the LORD shall give his people the bless- <sup>1</sup> ing of peace.

## SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43 (*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.

## HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17 (*back cover*)

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

*At the conclusion of the Gospel.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Sit*  
SERMON

The Reverend Stanley 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

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence.*

O God, give courage to your servant church. Heal our divisions and unite us in mission. Uphold our lay leaders, missionaries, pastors, and bishops, and all who proclaim hope in a broken world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Cleanse the life-giving waters of rivers, seas, and springs. Create in us an urgent desire to preserve the beauty and bounty of your good creation. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Reconcile warring enemies and end cycles of violent retribution. Defend the rights of prisoners, detainees, and all who flee from persecution. Sustain international aid workers and peacemakers. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Provide safety and support for those seeking asylum or in need of shelter. Be near to the dying, and comfort all who are grieving or ill (*especially*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Awaken the gifts of the Spirit in this congregation, that we may serve you by loving one another, our neighbors, and our enemies. We pray for travelers and those who are home-bound. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We give thanks for those who have gone before us in faith, and trust your promise that we will join them in your everlasting peace. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We commend all for whom we pray to your loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*Sit*

## OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

8:00 AM *Baptized in Water* Kristina Rizzotto  
10:30 AM Chancel Choir *The Only Son from Heaven* J. S. Bach

*Stand*

## OFFERTORY

*Create in Me (ELW 188)*

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 your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -  
store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

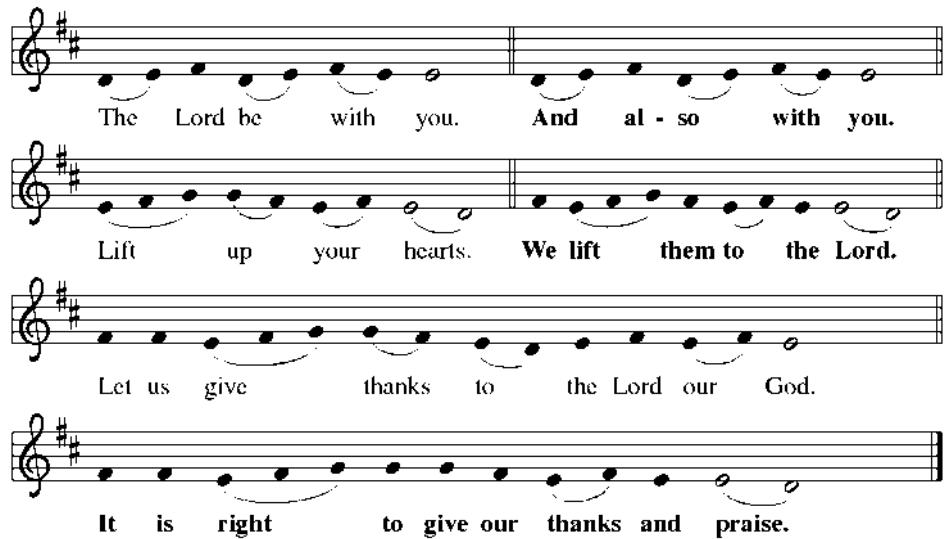
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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

*Sung by Pastor and congregation*



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

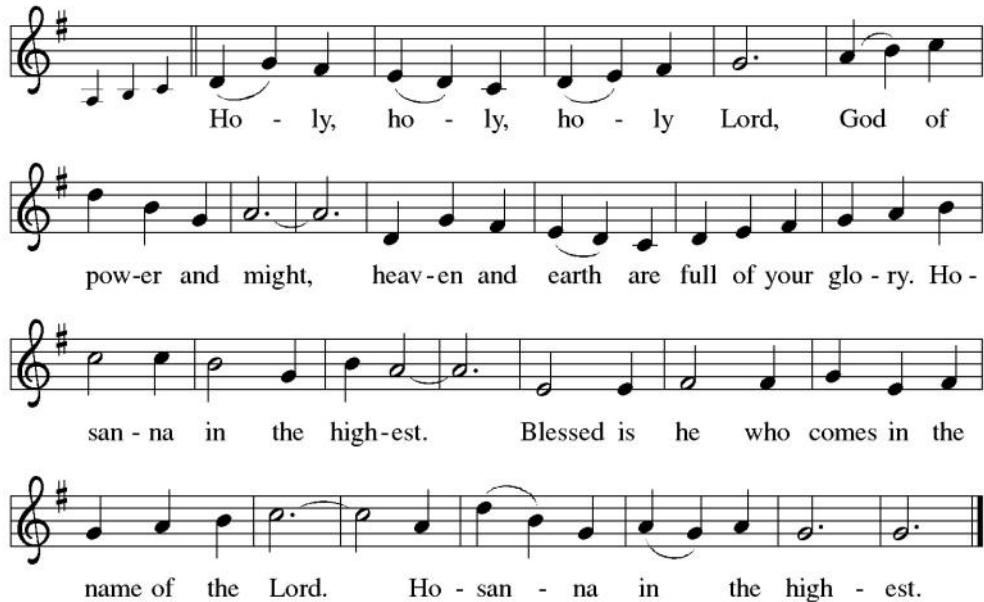
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE *The preface appropriate to the day is sung.*

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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of

power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. 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.

## THANKSGIVING

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.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

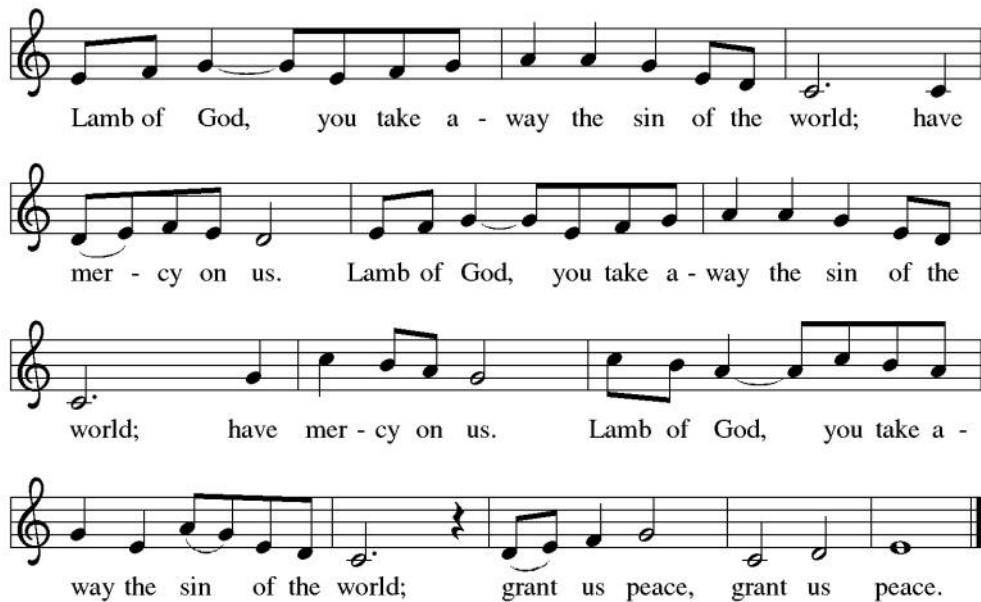
**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## FRACTION

*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*

## 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.

*Procedure for receiving Communion:*

1. *Come to communion using the center aisle.*
2. *Take a communion glass from the tray of glasses.*
3. *Take your place along the chancel step.*
4. *The ministers will bring the bread and wine to you.*
5. *Place the used cup in an empty tray located on a credence table at the side aisle.*
6. *Return to your pew using the side aisle*

## COMMUNION HYMN

10:30 AM    ***Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart (ELW 800) next page***  
                  *Stanza 4 sung in 4 part harmony unaccompanied*

*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. Lord God, grant that all who have been fed with Bread from heaven may be renewed in the covenant of their Holy Baptism and, following your Son in true faith and obedience, may become your children in name and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord.    **Amen**

# Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;  
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,  
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;  
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;  
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,  
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,  
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;  
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.  
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scand - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to a - love.  
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.  
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me the find!  
my heart an al - tar, and your love flame.

## BLESSING

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

## HYMN

### *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise (ELW 310)*

1. Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
2. Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;  
3. Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-en ed bod - y, faint-ing soul;  
4. Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;  
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;  
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine;  
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill;  
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

an - them be to thee ad-dressed,  
an - them be to thee ad-dressed,  
an - them be to thee ad-dressed,  
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,  
God in flesh made man - i - fest.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sit**

## POSTLUDE

*In Thee Is Gladness*

Brenda Portman

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## ***Serving the Lord with Gladness***

DATE	TIME	Assisting Minister	Crucifer	Lector	Greeters	Ushers -	Altar Guild	Bread Bakers
1/11	8:00 AM	Ken Hinkle	Denise Rider	Connie Reed	Cheryl Reifsteck, Kat Lemke	Team 2E: Ron Riese, Kathy Monk, Ken Hinkle, Alex Bastian	Pat Scarborough, Kat Lemke	Abby Jacobs
	10:30 AM	Aaron Jacobs	Jaclyn Kinkella	Bill Snyder	Pat Rudacille & Jerry Briggs	Team 2L: Kem Vaught, Gail Kerchner, Sandy Dickensheets	Deb Becker, Isabella Lehr	Abby Jacobs

## **This Week at St. Paul's**

Church office open Mon–Thurs 8:00 AM—4:00 PM Fri 8:00 AM—11:30 AM

### **Sunday, January 11**

8:00 AM     Holy Eucharist  
9:15 AM    Sunday School for All Ages  
9:30 AM    Mpuguso Forum—Christ Hall  
9:30 AM    Social Ministry Mtg—Office Rm 108  
10:30 AM    Holy Eucharist —Live Stream  
11:45 AM    Second Sunday Sandwiches  
11:45 AM    Jr. & High School Class—Youth Rm.  
1:30 PM    Confirmation Make-up Session  
6:30 PM    AA Meeting—Community Rm

### **Monday, January 12**

6:00 PM    Finance Committee

### **Tuesday, January 13**

#### **Council reports due to secretary**

9:30 AM    Pantry  
6:00 PM    Create—Preschool thru Grade 6  
6:00 PM    Bible Study

### **Wednesday, January 14**

10:00 AM    Preschool with Pastor—Nave  
10:30 AM    Bible Study—Christ Hall

### **Thursday, January 15**

#### **Newsletter Deadline**

10:00 AM    Preschool with Pastor—Nave  
6:30 PM    Handbell Choir  
7:30 PM    Chancel Choir

### **Sunday, January 18**

8:00 AM    Holy Eucharist  
9:15 AM    Sunday School for All Ages  
10:30 AM    Holy Eucharist —Live Stream  
11:30 AM    Women's Group—Christ Hall  
6:00 PM    Confirmation Class  
6:30 PM    AA Meeting—Community Rm

### **Monday, January 19 Martin Luther King Day**

**Office Closed**



**Please remember to pick up your offering booklets for 2026.** They are in the Good Shepherd Room.

**Altar Flower sponsors are needed for 2026.** Please check the flower chart in the Springettsbury foyer to sign up. Vases are \$40 each. Remember to fill out the form and slip it under the secretary's window.

## The Baptism of Our Lord, A 2026

Isaiah 42:1-9

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

*“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights.”*

At the Jordan River Jesus comes to John the Baptist to be baptized. John thinks that it should be the other way around, him coming to Jesus. John stops questioning and consents. Jesus is baptized and as only the gospel writer Matthew can say “all righteousness is fulfilled.”

At the house of Cornelius, Peter speaks of the impartial quality of God. This was a foreign concept in a time when it seemed to be very clear that some people were “in” and some people were “out.” Some people were “favored” while others were “despised.” At least it was that way among the Italian Cohort with whom Cornelius associated. Peter preached that God’s “good news” of Jesus was for all people, every nation, and had no limits. Cornelius and his household are baptized, and God’s word is fulfilled.

At a time about 500 years before the birth of Jesus, King Cyrus was coming into power. His reign was different. He took a detour from the warring ways of his predecessors and was willing to try a different kind of approach to civil leadership. He let the people of Israel go free. He released them from their captivity in Babylon. They were free to return to Jerusalem, back to their land and to their people and to their way of monotheistic worship. This anticipated return of God’s people was fulfilled.

With servanthood comes the task to which one is appointed. Servants serve. We used to speak of “public servants” but that has clearly fallen out of fashion. Servants carry out a particular task or tasks associated with their appointment. The biblical witness in the texts before us this morning clearly state that the task of the servant is to bring forth and to establish justice. Not justice for some but justice for all. This is a mighty big task for which to be called. King Cyrus brings forth justice that was a radical departure from his predecessors. Peter proclaims God’s justice by showing no partiality between Jew and Gentile. Jesus brings forth justice through his earthly ministry to tax collectors, prostitutes, lepers, sinners, people who are despised, loathed, bullied. These are people who thought they were “out”, but Jesus invites them “in.” This is a radical departure from other religious leaders of that time. This is a radical departure from leaders of our own time.

*“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights.”*

We are blessed as a congregation to consistently celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism. In 2025, eight baptisms were celebrated. Baptisms don’t just happen. They are part of the mission of the Church. Matthew states it clearly in his last chapter in the Great Commission. *“Go and make disciples baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

*“Why do you suppose that we consistently celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism at St. Paul’s?”* I asked during confirmation class last Sunday evening.

One student responded, *“people are telling others of Jesus.”*

*“What do you suppose happens if people aren’t telling others of Jesus”* I prodded. There was a pause, the classic posture of eyes staring at the tabletop and private prayers ascending to the Lord that a classmate would provide a response! Then suddenly, boldly, with confidence a student responded.

*“I suppose there wouldn’t be baptisms.”* This is a noted insight from an eighth grader.

With each baptism we rejoice in the delight of God forgiving them, welcoming them, setting them right, and making them part of God’s family, and placing them as co-workers with us in God’s kingdom. They are numbered among God’s servants. And God takes delight in them. On the day when we baptism we make no distinct or mention of a candidate’s special virtues or phenomenal qualities. This is God’s doing. This is the Divine initiator, God delighting not in some special quality or virtue recognized in a candidate, but rather an echoing of the song of the Christmas angels “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” God’s favor is for the whole earth, all nations, all peoples.

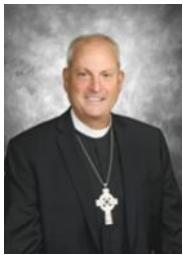
*“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights.”*

Eleven days into this new calendar year you may not be feeling the delight. You may have disappointed others; you may have disappointed yourself. New Year’s resolutions may already be history, chucked, like my 2025 calendar into the bin. You might even be the one seeking out compassionate justice, rather than the one bringing it to fruition. Delight may be the furthest thing from your mind. But as disciples of the Lord Jesus, servants, we are reminded that the Lord God delights in us, that the Lord God upholds us even when we are feeling fatigued, weak, vulnerable, even at times a failure. We are not left to our own cleverness or our own strength. God is the one who delights in us and upholds us, even when our task of bringing forth justice to the nations dims, our discipleship weighs heavily, and the joy of living seems to be a distant memory. You are chosen. You are upheld. You bring delight. You are God’s servant.

*“I have put my Spirit upon you”* says the Lord God. In Holy Baptism you have been forgiven, claimed, sealed with oil, and marked with the cross of Christ forever. You are a disciple, a servant with a mission, a task to carry out, not in the ways of others, not in the ways of war, or taking advantage of the weak, or putting others down to make yourself look good. We are called to be in relationship with the Lord and with one another. And our task is to bring forth justice to the nations. There are many obstacles, many roadblocks and detours; the task isn’t popular or easy. Our Lord suffered death on a cross. We should not think that servanthood comes without cost. We are called into servanthood by the Servant, Christ Jesus, whose birth we have celebrated and, in whose death, and resurrection we are given life.

The bulk of 2026 is before us. There are many tasks beckoning to us; my prayer is that all our tasks, great and small, will be accompanied with the harmony and peace of God’s compassionate justice. And that those good things of which we can be apart, will bring delight to God’s beloved people.

*“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights.”* Amen.



**Visit from the Bishop**—The Rev. Stephen Herr, Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA, will be with us on Sunday, January 25, 2026 for both liturgies and a Forum at 9:15 AM in Christ Hall. We are delighted to have him as our guest.



You may get information regarding closures at our website [www.stpaulsyork.org](http://www.stpaulsyork.org) or on our Facebook page St. Paul's Lutheran Church York PA on Springettsbury & George.



## **Weekly Bible Study Resumes in the New Year, January 2026**

Tuesday Evenings 6:00 PM beginning January 13

Wednesday Morning 10:30 AM beginning January 7

**St Paul's is collecting clothing for Union Lutheran Church's Clothing Ministry** and your help is requested. Union's volunteers are very appreciative of our cooperation and our help. If you have large donations you may take them directly to Union Lutheran Church. Simply call them to arrange a time.



## **A Partnership Between Local Churches & LifePath Thrift Stores**



New Year's resolution to clean out our closets? Please remember to donate your no longer needed items to LifePath Thrift Stores. The stores then return a portion of the value of these items in the form of gift cards to our church to help those directly in our care. Look in your newsletter for more information.

**Food Pantry Needs:** St. Paul's Food Pantry needs **Whole Grain Cereal donations**. We give out 80 boxes of cereal each week and our sources for cereal currently have very little available.



**Other Pantry Needs:** **Peanut butter, Plastic and paper shopping bags, Monetary donations.** Monetary donations can be placed in a special" envelope marked "Pantry".



**FIRST READING: Isaiah 42:1-9**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;  
I have put my spirit upon him;  
he will bring forth justice to the nations.  
2He will not cry out or lift up his voice  
or make it heard in the street;  
3a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a dimly burning wick he will not  
quench;  
he will faithfully bring forth justice.  
4He will not grow faint or be crushed  
until he has established justice in the earth,  
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

5Thus says God, the LORD,  
who created the heavens and stretched  
them out,  
who spread out the earth and what comes  
from it,  
who gives breath to the people upon it  
and spirit to those who walk in it:  
6I am the LORD; I have called you in  
righteousness;  
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;  
I have given you as a covenant to the people,  
a light to the nations,  
7to open the eyes that are blind,  
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,  
from the prison those who sit in darkness.  
8I am the LORD; that is my name;  
my glory I give to no other,  
nor my praise to idols.  
9See, the former things have come to pass,  
and new things I now declare;  
before they spring forth,  
I tell you of them.

**Psalm 29****SECOND READING: Acts 10:34-43**

Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality,<sup>35</sup>but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him.<sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.<sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:<sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.<sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree,<sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,<sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.<sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.<sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17**

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.<sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”<sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.<sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.<sup>17</sup>And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

**Next Sunday's Readings:** Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42.

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