

St. Paul Lutheran Church

“In Jesus’ name, Do justice, Love kindness, Walk humbly with God.”

St. Paul is an open, affirming, and inclusive church, welcoming all who seek God.

515 South Wheaton Avenue - Wheaton, Illinois - 630-668-5953

First Sunday of Christmas

December 31, 2017



**A Voice
in the Wilderness**

Welcome to St. Paul

Visiting today? We are glad you are here!

Stop by the Welcome Center and receive a sweet gift.

- Please write your name and other information on the yellow welcome card.
- There are multiple areas and resources designed for children to participate in worship according to their needs, including but not limited to: a Children's Message at the start of worship, Rainbow Bags with quiet toys, and an attended Nursery on the lower level of the building for 0 to 3-year-olds. Additional info about resources for parents and kids is on the "Children at St. Paul Wheaton" laminated page posted at the outside aisle-end of your pew.
- Assisted listening headphones are available for those having difficulty hearing.
- Members, please wear your name tag. Extras are located in the pew racks.

About Worship

We follow an ancient pattern through the *liturgy* (which literally means “the work of the people”). Some parts of the service may change each week, but there is a consistent flow: praising God, hearing God’s word, offering our prayers and gifts, celebrating communion, and being sent into the world for service. The format remains fairly constant, but the style will vary widely. Sometimes we sing with the pipe organ, and the ministers chant. Sometimes we worship accompanied by piano, guitars, drums, violins, flutes — or whatever our folk play. We range from Bach to blues, because we know that different styles connect to different people. So we all worship together, and change the style every few weeks. It’s one of the ways we minister to and with each other and build community. Thank you for being part of our worship and community today!

**At the asterisk, stand as you are able.*

P: Presiding Minister A: Assisting Minister L: Lector C: Congregation

ELW (Evangelical Lutheran Worship) page numbers are printed in the lower corners in the front portion of the hymnal. Hymn numbers are large numbers printed beside hymn titles in the rest of the book.

Serving Today

Presiding Minister

Pastor Jared Olson

Assisting Minister

Calvin Yurko

Guest Organist

Chris Baumgardner

Lector

Anne Krick

Communion Deacon

Renee Cabay

Bread Hosts

Chuck & Lorraine Taylor

Crucifer/Acolytes

Lynda, Charlie & Sasha Baumgardner

Greeters

Marilyn Sodergren, Beth Baumgardner

Ushers

Hilary Duff, Paul Johnson, Mina Kerr, Chuck Taylor

Welcome Center

Marilyn Dashiell

Altar Care

Charlie & Cathi Boone, Beth Baumgardner

Preparing to Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Pastor Jared

Children's Message

Vanessa Young

*Entrance Hymn: "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

ELW, #249



- 1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
- 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
- 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
- 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Gathering Together in Worship

*Confession and Forgiveness

P: Most merciful God,

**C: 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.**

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

C. Amen.

Service continues on next page



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
 2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
 Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
 Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
 O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

***Prayer of the Day**

P: God who calls us, your servant John cries out in witness to Christ. May our lives also point to and proclaim the One who has delivered us and claimed us as his own. In the name of that same Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

Responding to the Word of God

*Gospel Acclamation

“He Came Down” (vs. 1)

ELW, #253



- 1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
- 2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
- 3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
- 4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;



he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal - le - lu - jah for - ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

*The Gospel

John 1:19-34

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

²⁹The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ³¹I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." ³²And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Jared

*Hymn of the Day

"Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus"

ELW, #802



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be

Continued on next page

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full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

*Apostles Creed

A: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 the People

After each petition of the prayers:

A: Transforming God.

C: Hear our prayer.

*Passing the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us share the peace.

Offering

*Offertory Response "What Child is This" (vs. 1&3)

ELW, #296



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
2 Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead-ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

*Offertory Prayer

A: Make straight the way of the Lord. Open our hearts in generosity and pour fourth from us an offering of love for the grace we have all received. Bless these gifts and send them into the world as testimony to the One who loves us beyond measure or comprehension.

C: **Amen.**

Sharing the Eucharistic Meal

*The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: It is indeed right . . . join their unending hymn.

Service continues on next page

***Sanctus**

"Joy to the World" (vs. 1)

ELW, #267



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



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

***Eucharistic Prayer**

P: Lord, here us as we pray...

***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.

The Distribution of Communion

The body and blood of Christ are present in this sacrament, for the forgiveness of sin and the strengthening of faith. All people are welcome to share in this meal with us. Parents, if you have a young child who receives communion, please indicate that when the minister comes to you. Those who do not receive communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply keep your hands folded. Come forward and receive the bread from the minister. Gluten-free wafers are available. The gold chalice contains wine; you may drink directly from the cup or dip your bread into the wine. The pottery chalice contains non-alcoholic grape juice, which you may receive by dipping your bread into the juice. Return to your seat by the side aisles.

If you would like communion brought to you, simply let an usher know.

Agnus Dei

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

ELW, #272



1 Lo, how a rose e’er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in
3 This flow’r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se’s lin - eage com - ing as
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow’r so bright, a -
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God’s love a - right, she
dark-ness ev - ’ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - ’ry load.
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Music During Communion

Hymn:

Chris Baumgartner

*Post-Communion Prayer

A: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

*Post Communion Canticle "As with Gladness Men of Old" (v.1) ELW, #302



1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to thy low - ly bed,
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at thy cra - dle, rude and bare,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - a - ted light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led by thee.
so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly king.
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our king.

Going Out into the World Sent by God

Announcements

*Benediction

P: Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever

C: Amen.

*Sending Hymn:

“Cold December Flies Away”

ELW, #299



1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.
2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.
3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown - ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless - ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

***Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.