

# Welcome!

to  
*St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Clay Center, KS*

*Thank you  
for joining us for worship!*

*Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*

*January 31 & February 1, 2026*

*Worship Folder*



#### **St. Paul Lutheran Communion Statement:**

**COMMUNION WELCOME**-God calls upon His people to exercise care in the use of His Supper because harm results when Communion is received without repentance or a right understanding (1 Corinthians 11:23-30) and when fellowship is practiced without agreement in God's Word (Galatians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:14). In Communion Jesus gives us His true Body and Blood, in with and under the bread and wine, to forgive our sins (Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 10:16-21). We also profess agreement in the teachings of the church at whose altar we commune. Thus, we cannot offer this Supper to those who have not received instruction per the mysteries of this meal. We do invite fellow members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to join our members as we receive the Sacrament today. Others are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who desire to come forward for a blessing are invited to do so, indicating their intent to receive a blessing by crossing their arms in front.

Distribution of the bread is to the hand of the communicant. "Gluten Free" wafers are available. Please let the ushers know PRIOR to service if you are needing this substitution.

Distribution of the wine is by choice of individual cup or common chalice. If you receive with the individual cup, please keep the small cup visible to the minister with the common cup. Individual cups of unfermented grape juice will be provided at the center of each of the trays for those who prefer grape juice over wine. Both are "fruit of the vine" and in the sacrament become means by which Christ grants us his blood to assure us of forgiveness, life and salvation. The unfermented grape juice is light in color.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **RINGING OF THE BELL**

#### **PRELUDE**

† Confession and Absolution †

**Blessed Jesus, at Your Word**

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

† Service of the Word †

**Introit**

**P** For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**C** **Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**

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**but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.**

**P** He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.

In all that he does, he prospers.

**C** **The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

**P** Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**P** For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

**Kyrie**

**P** In peace let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



**C** A - men.

### Gloria in Excelsis

**P** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.



**C** 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-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.

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Old Testament Reading

Micah 6:1-8

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”  
“With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”  
He has told you, O man, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Psalm

**P** <sup>1</sup>O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent?  
Who shall dwell on your holy hill?  
**C** <sup>2</sup>**He who walks blamelessly and does what is right  
and speaks truth in his heart;**  
**P** <sup>3</sup>who does not slander with his tongue  
and does no evil to his neighbor,  
nor takes up a reproach against his friend;  
**C** <sup>4</sup>**in whose eyes a vile person is despised,  
but who honors those who fear the LORD;  
who swears to his own hurt and does not change;**  
**P** <sup>5</sup>who does not put out his money at interest  
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.  
He who does these things shall never be moved.

### Psalm 15

### Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

<sup>18</sup>The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us  
who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the  
debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the  
world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God  
through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach  
to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek  
wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews  
and folly to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and  
Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For the  
foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is  
stronger than men.

<sup>26</sup>For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise  
according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many  
were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to  
shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the  
strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things  
that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no human  
being might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup>He is the source of your  
life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness  
and sanctification and redemption. <sup>31</sup>Therefore, as it is written, “Let the  
one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Alleluia and Verse





## Holy Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

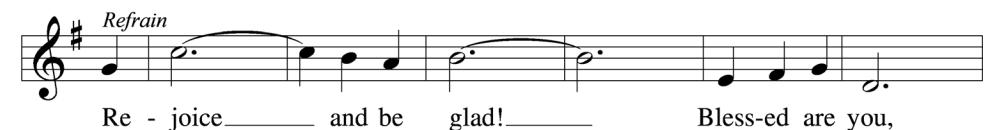
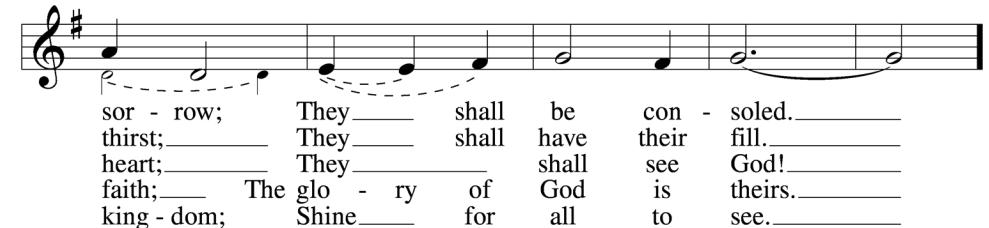
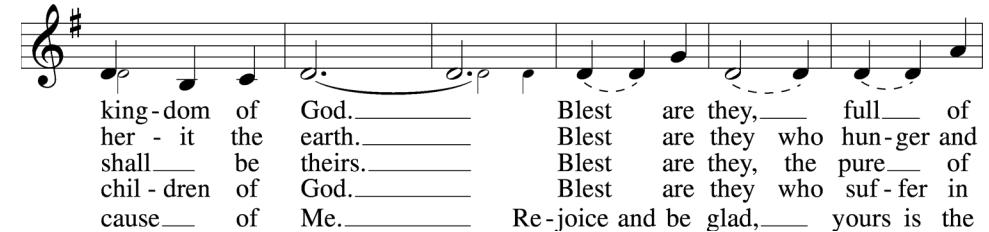
**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Blest Are They



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; Theirs is the  
 2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; They shall in -  
 3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; Mer - cy  
 4 Blest are they who seek peace; They are the  
 5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, All be -

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## Sermon

### Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
 the Father Almighty,  
 maker of heaven and earth  
 and of all things visible and invisible.

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
 the only-begotten Son of God,  
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,**

God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the  
dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

#### Prayer of the Church

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

#### Offering

Psalm 24:1-2 "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all  
who in it; for he founded it on the seas and established it on the waters."

#### Offertory



What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to  
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will  
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-  
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my  
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the  
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

† Service of the Sacrament †

#### Preface

**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 Him thanks and praise.

**P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all  
places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord; for what had been hidden from before the foundation of the world You have made known to the nations in Your Son. In Him, being found in the substance of our mortal nature, You have manifested the fullness of Your glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver

and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

### The Words of Our Lord

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My  $\text{\tfrac{X}{P}}$  body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My  $\text{\tfrac{X}{P}}$  blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

### Lord's Prayer

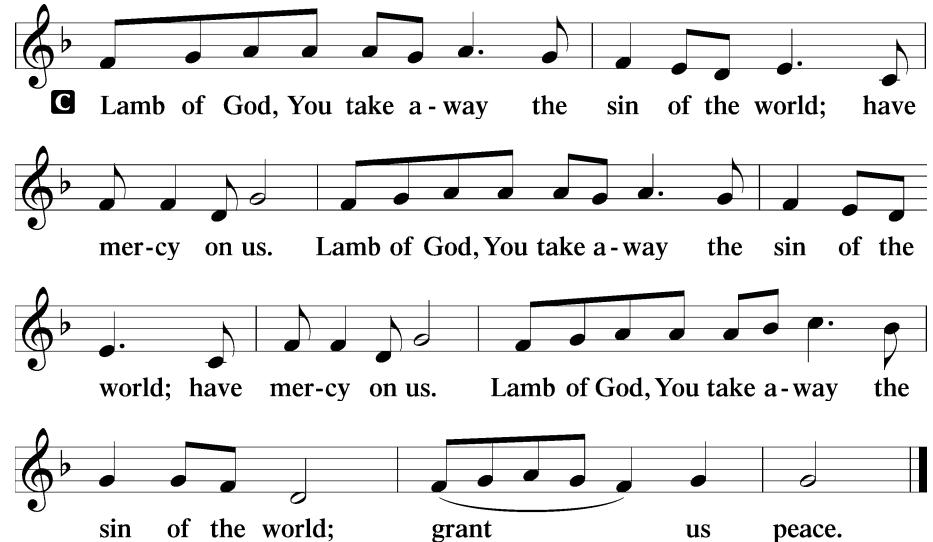
**C Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come,  
Thy will be done on earth  
as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;**

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.

### Pax Domini

¶ The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C Amen.

### Agnus Dei



C 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.

† Distribution Hymns †

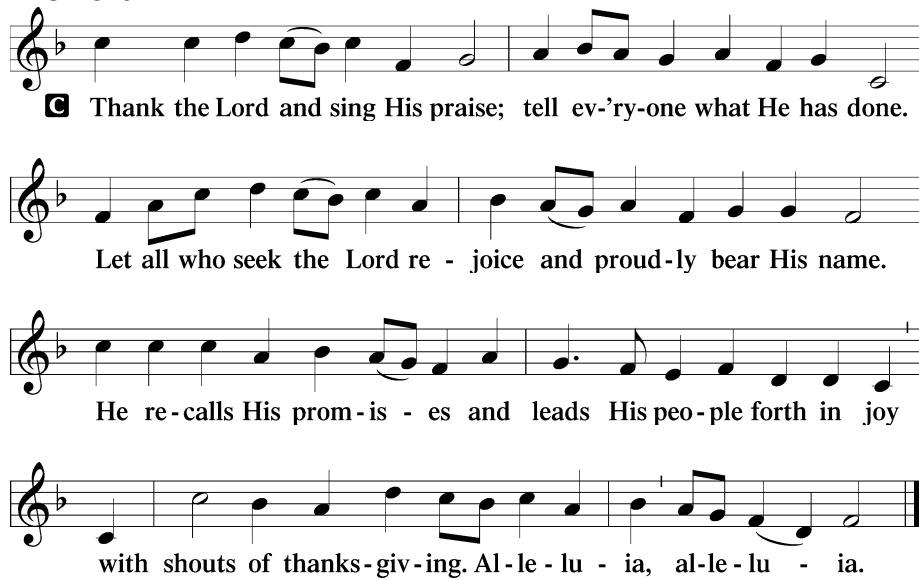
**In the Cross of Christ I Glory**

**Not What These Hands Have Done**

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

**You Are the Way; through You Alone**

### Thank the Lord



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.  
Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.  
He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy  
with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia.

### Post-Communion Collect

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

### Benediction

¶ The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.  
C Amen.

### Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

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