

**February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday After Epiphany Worship
ELW Setting 8**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church
9844 SW Greenville Road
Greenville, Michigan**



WORSHIP, JANUARY 4, 2026 WITH HOLY COMMUNION

@@ Flu/covid numbers have slightly decreased so we are returning to serving and receiving walking holy communion. (Protocol #7 is now defunct on the flu list).

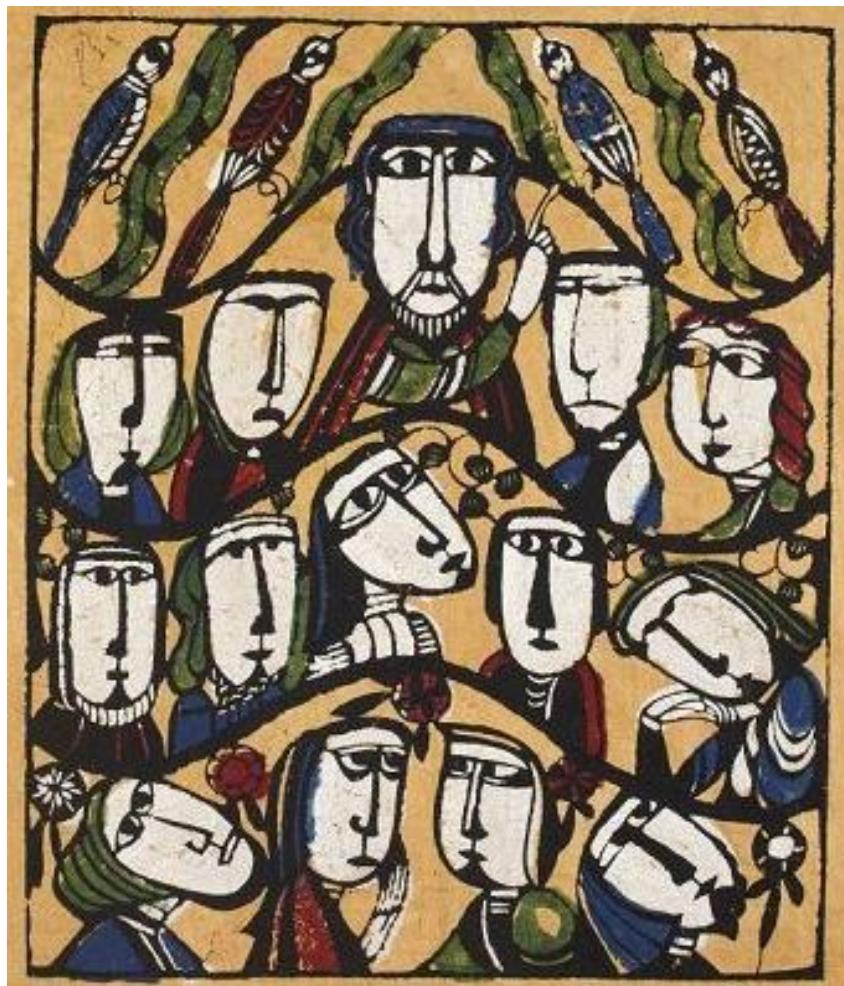
**** Please read through our health protocols located on the back table by the worship bulletins.**

MUSIC BEFORE WORSHIP

WELCOME

PRELUDE FOR SILENT REFLECTION – music and art

Please pause talking and prepare your hearts to receive God's good news.



CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.

Amen.



GATHERING SONGS ELW # 522 AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE



1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - umphant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.



Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.



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. (hands out)

KYRIE

Refrain

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.
Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - pas-sioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, . . . for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE – THIS IS THE FEAST

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - try for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of vic - try for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic - try for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Micah 6:1-8

A reading from Micah.

6 Hear what the Lord says:

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

2 Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

3 “O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

4 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.

5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

6 “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?

⁷ 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?"
⁸ He has told you, O mortal, 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?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 15

¹ O Lord, who may abide in your tent?
Who may dwell on your holy hill?
² **Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right
and speak the truth from their heart;**
³ who do not slander with their tongue
and do no evil to their friends
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;
⁴ **in whose eyes the wicked are despised
but who honor those who fear the Lord;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**
⁵ who do not lend money at interest
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

A reading from First Corinthians.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."
²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

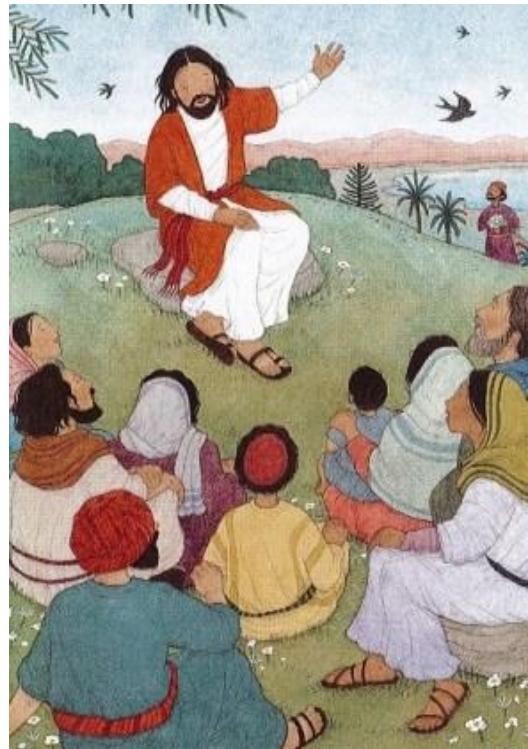
²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ 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; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

The word of the Lord.

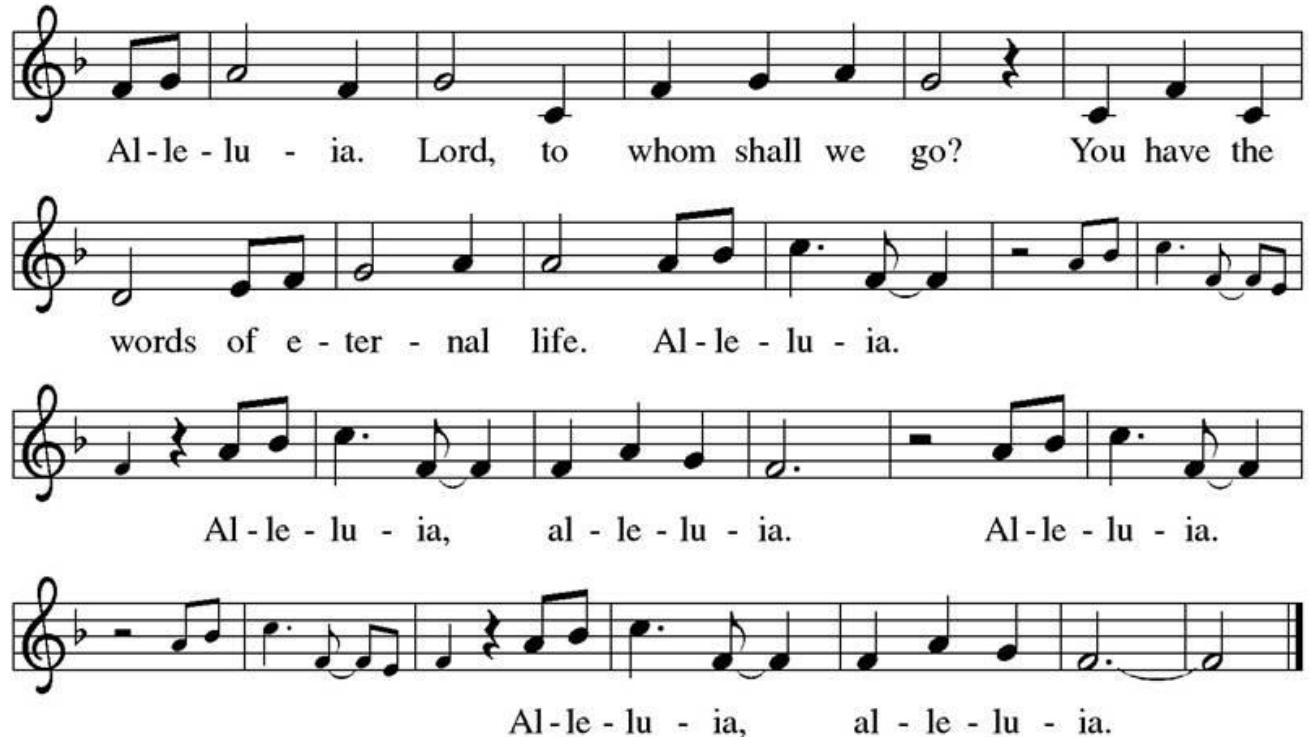
Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



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

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

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS #1062 BUILD A LONGER TABLE



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



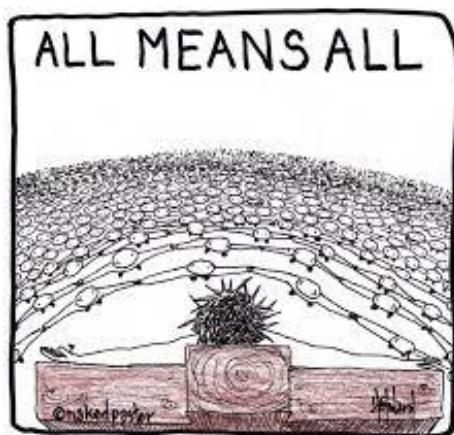
feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es: all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.



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.**

**The word “catholic” beginning with a small “c” means all Christians.*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

A brief silence.

God our wisdom, renew the church in the power of the Spirit, that it may do justice, love kindness, live humbly, and boldly proclaim Christ crucified. We pray for social justice and humanitarian aid ministries.
Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our source, we honor you by caring wisely for your creation. We pray for the health of old growth forests, ice caps, and ocean currents. Preserve the diversity of life on earth.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our righteousness, raise up visionary leaders who serve with integrity and respect human rights. Increase freedom in every nation. Protect educators, journalists, artists, and religious activists who are reviled for speaking truth.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our advocate, you give hope to all who suffer because of persecution, poverty, or war. Reunite separated families and bring orphaned children to safety. Comfort any who grieve or suffer in any way. Especially bring hope and healing to...

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our blessing, we pray for the children and youth of this congregation, and for parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers, and youth ministers who model love for their neighbor and care for others.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

God our joy, we give thanks for the lives of those before us who journeyed humbly with you.

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

****Please remain in your seat or standing where you are. Please offer the “peace of Christ” by using your two fingers in the peace sign. The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace, and may say, “Peace be with you,” or similar words.

OFFERING HYMN ELW 181: Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful



Let the vine - yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath - er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING

****A stationary offering plate is located back by the head usher. Please put your offering in the plate on your way out of the building.
An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

DIALOGUE

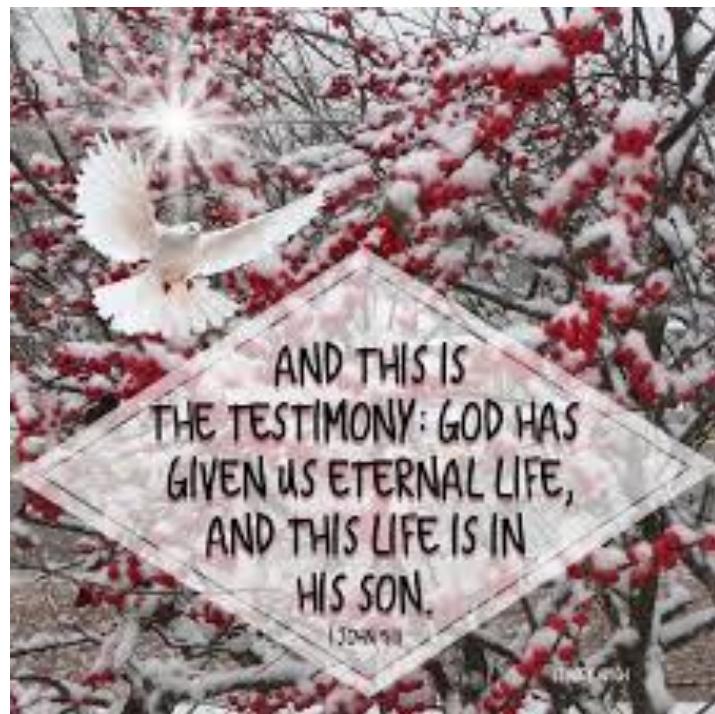
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table; taste and see.

COMMUNION

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
and each person may respond
Amen.*

***If it is too difficult for you to come up for holy communion, please let an usher know and Pastor will bring it to you.*



LAMB OF GOD



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

SONGS DURING COMMUNION

BB #13 BEHOLD THE LAMB

Verse 1

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away
Slain for us and we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross
So we share in this bread of life
And we drink of his sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King

Verse 2

**The body of our Savior Jesus Christ, torn for you
Eat and remember
The wounds that healed the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one
So we share in this bread of life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King**

Verse 3

**The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you
Drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God
So we share in this bread of life
And we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King**

Verse 4

**And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond and to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on Earth
And we share in his suffering
We proclaim Christ will come again
And with joy in the feast of Heaven
Around the table of the King**

BB #41 REMEMBRANCE (THE COMMUNION SONG)

**Oh how could it be
That my God would welcome me
Into this mystery
Say take this bread, take this wine
Now the simple made divine
For any to receive**

**By mercy, we come to your table
By your grace, you are making us faithful**

**[Chorus]
Lord, we remember you
And remembrance leads us to worship
And as we worship you
Our worship leads to communion
We respond to your invitation
We remember you**

**See his body, his blood
Know that he has overcome
Every trial we will face
None too lost to be saved
None too broken or ashamed
All are welcome in this place**

**By your mercy, we come to your table
By your grace, you are making us faithful**

**[Chorus]
Dying, you destroyed our death
Rising, you restored our life
Lord, Jesus come in glory
Lord, Jesus come in glory
Lord, Jesus come in glory
Lord, Jesus come in glory**

[Chorus]

**Lord, we remember you
And remembrance leads us to worship
And as we worship you
Our worship leads to communion
We respond to your invitation
We respond to your invitation
We remember you**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

BB #19 GIVE THANKS

**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son**

**Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich"
Because of what the Lord has done for us**

**Dear God
Thank You
For Everything.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. (pause)

Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

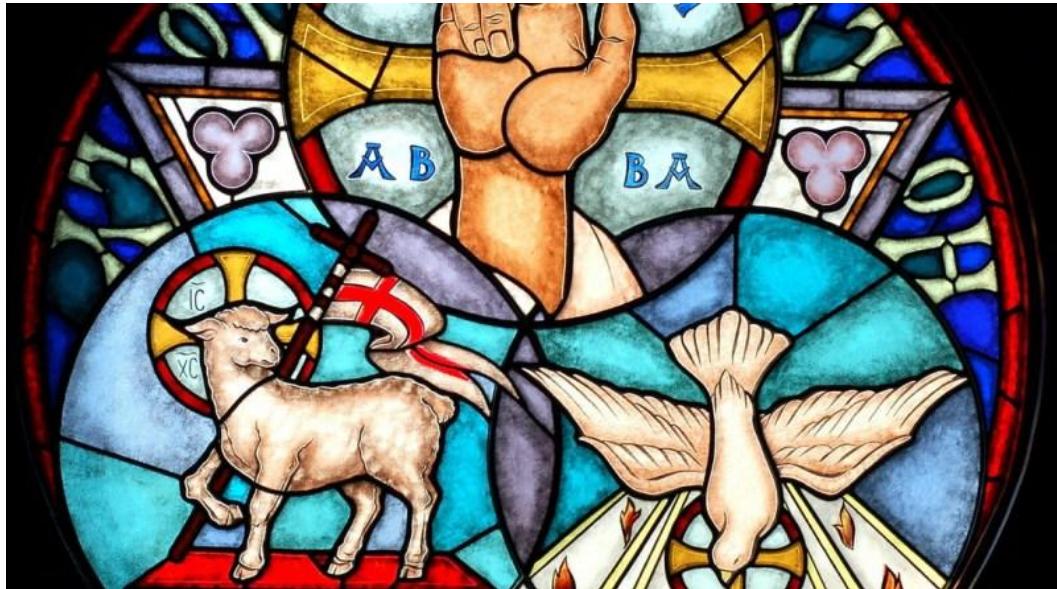
FINAL BLESSING

GOOD NEWS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
☩ bless you now and forever.

Amen.



SENDING HYMN ELW #669 RISE UP, O SAINTS OF GOD!



1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulfs earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;



Christ rose tri - um-phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se-quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal-ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick-ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. PAUL HEALING PRAYER LIST

Carol Rasmussen, Dennis Dombkowski, Fleet Wulf, Joan Chadwick, Joanne Bryer, Father Jim Wyse, Leroy Hansen, Lois Davis, Lucille Petersen, Ray Jensen, Shirley Hansen, Shirley Sly.

****If you want to have someone added, please email the main office, leave a voicemail on the main church phone number or text Pastor Nan*

MILITARY

Brian Blomstrom, Chris Miller, Hanah MacMillen, JD Johansen, Marcus R oy, Ryan Treynor, Steve Kowalewicz, Troy Thornburg, Tyler Markum, Vau ghn Misner, Victor Rivera, Vinnie Baza.

PRAYER CHAIN FOR ST. PAUL

If you would like to join the prayer chain, please contact Lynn Cooper at 616-754-5579.



DESSERT AUCTION
FEBRUARY 8
AFTER WORSHIP

Please join the fun after worship next Sunday, February 8, for the dessert auction. You will enjoy good natured bidding for delicious sweets that are perfect for Valentine's and Super Bowl celebrations. Contributions of treats are needed. Proceeds will fund community outreach projects proposed by the Vision Task Force and the STJ account.

This Week

Sunday February 1 930 am Worship

Monday February 2 5 pm Al-Anon
Pastor Sabbath

Tuesday February 3 10 am Food Mission
6 pm Bells

Wednesday February 4 2 pm Bible/Book Study – Petersen book
5:30 pm Food Mission
Mark Sabbath

Thursday February 5 GAMA 11:30 am

Friday February 6 1:30 pm Shalom Zoom Meditation

Saturday February 7 1030 am Eucharistic Ministers' Meeting

Sunday February 8 930 am Worship
After worship – stack and move all sanctuary
chairs for complete floor mopping
Share the Joy - dessert auction
After worship/11 am – Affirmation of Baptism

SERVING CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

St Paul Service Calendar February 2026	Assisting	Proclaimer	Sound	Lead Ushe	Nursery	Counters	Music
Feb 1	Janet W-M	Barb B	Lee H Diane C Karen H	Curt B	Donny M	Joy S Karen H	Ryan
Feb 8	Josh S	Connie T	Diane C Paul R Connie T	John C	Shirley H	John C Lisa B	Ryan
Feb 15	Rocky H	Janet W-M	Lee H Diane C Lisa B	Bob K	Amy S	Kevand S Diane C	Sarah F
Feb 22	Alicia D	Karen P	Paul R Lee H Tara C	Kevand S	Linda E	Kevand S Diane C	Sarah F



SNOWDROPS are the first flower that peek out in February.