

Welcome to the house of the living Lord!

If you are visiting with us today, we extend a warm welcome and invite you to return often. One of our core values at St. Paul's is to help people find a place where they belong. We have been doing it for 123 years and we pray that one of these worship services will bless you on your journey.

St. Paul's has chosen as its theme verse to guide us in 2021 – John 20:21
“Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”

It is the prayer of our congregation that we will connect people to the love of Jesus through our teaching, serving, caring, and telling.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

Entrance Hymn Spread the Reign of God the Lord LSB 830

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| 1 | Spread the reign of God the Lord,
Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev'rywhere His creatures call
To His heav'nly banquet hall. | 4 | Tell of God the Spirit giv'n
Now to guide us on to heav'n,
Strong and holy, just and true,
Working both to will and do. |
| 2 | Tell how God the Father's will
Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave
Us from sin and death to save. | 5 | Enter, mighty Word, the field;
Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few
For the work there is to do! |
| 3 | Tell of our Redeemer's grace,
Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion's price,
Gave Himself as sacrifice. | 6 | Lord of harvest, great and kind,
Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath'ring nations all
See Your light and heed Your call. |

Confession and Absolution

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.**

Introit Psalm 40:1–5; antiphon: vv. 10a, b

I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation;
I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.

He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

Blessèd is the man who makes the LORD his trust,

who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie!

You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you!

I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

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.

I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart;

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation.

Kyrie *LSB 152*

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Sing C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Sing C **Lord, have mercy.**

A 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.

Sing C **Lord, have mercy.**

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

Sing C **Lord, have mercy.**

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Sing C **Amen.**

This Is the Feast *LSB 155*

Sing C **This is the feast of victory for our God.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

Sing C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sing C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Deuteronomy 30:11-20*

¹¹ “For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ ¹⁴ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it. ¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God^[a] that I command you today, by loving the LORD your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules,^[b] then you shall live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take possession of

it. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. You shall not live long in the land that you are going over the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.”

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *1 Peter 2:1-10*

So, put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. ² Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. ⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” ⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.” They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. ⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse *LSB 156*
 Sing C **Alleluia.**
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel *John 1:43–51*

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
- Sing C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.”

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- Sing C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn **The People That in Darkness Sat** *LSB 412 sts. 1–2, 4–6*

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|---|---|
| <p>1 The people that in darkness sat
 A glorious light have seen;
 The light has shined on them who long
 In shades of death have been,
 In shades of death have been.</p> <p>2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righteousness,
 The gath’ring nations come;
 They joy as when the reapers bear
 Their harvest treasures home,
 Their harvest treasures home.</p> <p>4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace,
 The Everlasting Lord,
 The Wonderful, the Counselor,</p> | <p>The God by all adored,
 The God by all adored.</p> <p>5 His righteous government and pow’r
 Shall over all extend;
 On judgment and on justice based,
 His reign shall have no end,
 His reign shall have no end.</p> <p>6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
 And make us Thine alone,
 Who with the Father ever art
 And Holy Spirit, one,
 And Holy Spirit, one.</p> |
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Sermon

Nicene Creed

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

Offering

Hymn **Create in Me** **LSB 956**

1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Service of the Sacrament

Preface *LSB 160*

P The Lord be with you.

Sing C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Sing 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 *LSB 161*

Sing C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:**

Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving *LSB 161*

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 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 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

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 LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Sing C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei LSB 163

Sing C **Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Distribution

Stand

Thank the Lord LSB 164

Sing C **Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'ryone what He has done.**

Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear His name.

He recalls His promises and leads His people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Post-Communion Collect

A 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 LSB 166

P 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.

Sing C **Amen.**

Hymn Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace LSB 937

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| 1 Lord, bid Your servant go in peace,
Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn,
This child so long foretold. | God's glory dwelling in our midst,
The joy of Israel. |
| 2 This is the Savior of the world,
The Gentiles' promised light, | 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,
To You we lift our voice;
To Father, Son, and Spirit blest
Be honor, love, and praise. |

Sending

Pastor: Our worship has ended

People: Our service now begins

Pastor: We now depart this holy house,

People: To joyfully serve Christ Jesus, the Light of the World.

Acknowledgments

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WELCOME to St. Paul's Lutheran Church! We are honored to have you in worship today. We come together in the name of Jesus Christ, who brings the promise of salvation and everlasting life to all who believe in Him as Savior and Lord. **May He richly bless your life as we worship in Spirit and Truth!**

(John 4:24)

IF YOU ARE VISITING WITH US TODAY, we want to warmly welcome you in the name of Jesus. If you have no church home, we would be honored to have you join us at St. Paul's. For more information about what Lutheran Christians believe and about St. Paul's, please visit us on our website at www.StPaulsDec.com.

OUR MISSION at St. Paul's is to glorify God by connecting people to Jesus through teaching, serving, caring, and telling.

OUR VISION FOR MINISTRY

By the power and grace of Jesus Christ we will work to build a diverse community of spiritually maturing Christians who are... living out their faith in daily life; inviting, welcoming and including new people; and involved in meaningful ministry to others!

OUR CORE VALUES

Generosity (Acts 20:35)

Children (Mark 10:14)

A Place to Belong (Isaiah 56:7)

Respectfulness (Mark 12:31)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday - Friday 9:00am - 2:00pm

ONLINE (Ctrl+Click to follow link)

www.StPaulsDec.com

www.facebook.com/StPaulsDec

www.facebook.com/StPaulsDec.Preschool

www.facebook.com/groups/StPaulsDecatur.ChildrensGroup.Parents

www.facebook.com/groups/StPaulsDecatur.YouthGroup.Parents

www.facebook.com/groups/StPaulsDecatur.WomensGroup

SUNDAY
January 17
8:15am In-Church Traditional Worship
8:15am Facebook Live Worship
9:00am [Children's Bible Time FB posting](#)
9:30am [Adult Study - Galatians by Zoom](#)
9:30am Worship on Radio 98.5 FM
11:00am Drive-In Worship

MONDAY 7:00am Preschool Ext Care (M-Th)

TUESDAY
8:45am Preschool (Tu-Th)
9:30am Staff Meeting
2:30pm KTT Afterschool care

WEDNESDAY
10:00am Quilting Ministry
4:00pm God's Place worship
6:00pm [Confirmation](#)
6:00pm [Book of John Study](#)
7:00pm Praise Band practice
7:15pm Choir practice
8:00pm [Adult Confirmation Class by Zoom](#)

THURSDAY
10:00am Preschool Chapel
11:00am Prayer Shawl Ministry

SUNDAY
January 24
8:15am In-Church Traditional Worship
8:15am Facebook Live Worship
9:00am [Children's Bible Time FB posting](#)
9:30am [Adult Study - Galatians by Zoom](#)
9:30am Worship on Radio 98.5 FM
11:00am Drive-In Worship

2021 Giving Envelopes

are available in the West Breezeway by the mailboxes.

If you do not see 2021 Envelopes with your name on them, please contact the Church Office, and we will gladly get you a box of your own!

2021 Flower Calendar sign up in the breezeway or by calling the church office.

LOOKING AHEAD:

January 24 – KTT Online Auction items due to Charlotte
please consider donating for this ministry

January 24 – Stewardship Sunday

January 31 – Commitment Sunday

February 13-14

KTT Online Auction Fundraiser

The January *Epistle* is available online at www.StPaulsDec.com with details on worship, ministry, and mission activities!

This week at St Paul's