

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



JANUARY 4, 2026

**ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)
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AS WE GATHER- THE LORD JESUS UNDERGOES A NEW EXODUS IN ORDER TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS-Herod's efforts to destroy the little Lord Jesus anticipate the cross for which He was born. In response to Herod's edict, Joseph must "take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt" (Matt. 2:13). But the Lord does not abandon the Holy Family there. He brings about salvation for all people, just as He "had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son'" (Matt. 2:15). With might and strength, God accompanies His people, causing "his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses" (Is. 63:12). Now through Jesus, even our afflictions are borne by Christ on the cross. "He redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them" (Is. 63:9). All of this is accomplished by God's might so that we, too, are claimed as members of His family. For we "receive adoption as sons" in the only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, even as He became like us by His conception and birth of the woman. Thus redeemed by Christ, no longer slaves of sin and death but beloved children and heirs of God, we pray in Jesus' name: "Abba! Father!" (Gal. 4:4-6).

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING I

P. 151-166

PRESERVICE MUSIC

OPENING HYMN "OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN" 384

✠ CONFESSIOIN AND ABSOLUTION ✠

P. 151

✠ THE SERVICE OF THE WORD ✠

INTROIT PSALM 147:1,5,11-12; ANTIPHON: JOHN 1:14

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,

glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;
for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

his understanding is beyond measure.

**But the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

**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.**

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen
his glory,

glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and
truth.

KYRIE

P. 152-153

HYMN OF PRAISE “THIS IS THE FEAST”

P. 155

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

[P] The Lord be with you.

[C] And also with you.

[P] Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light
of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in
our lives; through the same 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

1 KINGS 3:4-15

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” ⁶And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, “Because you

have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” ¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

ISAIAH 9:6; PSALM 98:1A

To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

EPISTLE

EPHESIANS 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy

Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

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HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 2:40-52

P The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. ⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ

APOSTLE'S CREED

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HYMN OF THE DAY "WITHIN THE FATHER'S HOUSE"

410

SERMON

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Lord, in your Mercy,

C Hear our Prayer.

In Our Prayers:

+ Scott Christenson	+ Tracy Albers
+ Adam Barlau	+ Melanie Schoenfeld
+ Dan Gueningsman	+ Karen Strei
+ Maya Radtke	+ Evelyn Dial
+ Jeremy Radtke	+ Angela Litzau
+ Darian Litzau	+ Hillard Klaustermeier
+ Robin Lueck	+ Earl Wendorf
+ Call Process for Associate Pastor	

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

P. 159-160

✠ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✠ P. 160-164

The Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His true body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us (Matt. 26:26-28; 1Cor. 11:23-29; Matt.6:15).

We practice closed communion. Why? (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Because our Lord says those who eat and drink His body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. If not yet instructed, in doubt, or holding a confession differing from that of the LCMS, you are lovingly asked not to commune at this time. Pastor is happy to make an appointment to discuss adult catechesis or questions you have regarding the Sacrament of the Altar.

Examination Questions: Please prepare by asking yourself — Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin? Do I believe that I am receiving the body and blood of Christ along with the bread and wine? Will I try, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Prayers for “Before communing” and “Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament” are printed on the front cover of the hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS	
“O WORD OF GOD INCARNATE”	523
“O SING OF CHRIST”	362
“THE GIFTS CHRIST FREELY GIVES”	602
“GOD LOVES ME DEARLY”	392
POST COMMUNION CANTICLE	P. 164
COLLECT/BENEDICTION	P. 166
CLOSING HYMN “JOY TO THE WORLD”	387

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

<u>Attendance Last Week</u> Christmas Eve: 325 Christmas Day: 59 Sunday: 99	<u>Organist:</u> Jane Holasek <u>Scripture Reader:</u> Dave Wroge
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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. **NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR ADULT BIBLE STUDY** today.
- 2. **EPIPHANY SERVICE** Tuesday, January 6th at 7:00 PM with Communion.
- 3. **HELP NEEDED**-The Christmas season has been a blessing, and now we need help taking down decorations on Saturday, January 10 at 8:30 am. All are welcome—no experience needed. Thank you for serving!
- 4. **ANCHOR POINT**- We have a new after-school program on Mondays for 7-12 graders in the new year, starting January 5th. We want to provide a safe space for our youth to be youth and for them to have ownership in something together. Please share! Thank you! This will be led by Pastor Barlau and Pastor Arndt.
- 5. **LWML**- All women are invited to attend the LWML meeting on Monday, January 5th at 6:30pm in the fellowship hall. Pastor will lead Bible study and the meeting will follow. Mites (change) and a monetary monthly offering will be collected.
- 6. **ANNUAL REPORT** deadline for the 2025 report is Thursday, January 8th.
- 7. **BABY SHOWER**: Join the Board of Education on Sunday, January 11th 11:30am-1pm in fellowship hall to celebrate parents-to-be Ellie and Ben and soon-to-be sister Jane who are expecting twins (a

boy and a girl). A light lunch will be served. Items needed: all sizes boy clothing, bottles, diapers or gift cards for diapers. A gift registry is available on Amazon (scan the QR code on the invitation posted in the education wing or email tracy.peterson4@yahoo.com for the link).

8. ANNUAL MEETING-All communicant members of legal voting age are encouraged to attend the Annual Voters Meeting on Thursday, January 22 at 7:00 PM.

9. OFFERING ENVELOPES- Please dispose of any 2025 or older offering envelopes and do not use. Use of old envelopes may result in someone else receiving credit for your contribution.

10. 2026 ENVELOPES- Any offering envelope received without being clearly marked on the front as otherwise, will be assumed to be intended for the General Fund.

11. SCHEDULE- *January 11*: Ushers: 1st Service- Keith Christen, Dave Dressler, Kim Dressler; 2nd Service: Scott Christenson, Larry Clausen, Shadd Dial, Calvin Dial; Acolytes: 1st Service- T. Herrmann, I. Foust; 2nd Service: B. Peterson, L. Schauer; Greeters- 1st Service: Dan & Tina Heiraas; 2nd Service: Wayne & Tanya Mathews; Scripture Reader: Darlene Schmidt; Flowers: Audrey Litzau; Altar Guild: Jen Bebo and Beth Foust; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

Sun. Jan 4	8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION No Sunday School/Adult Bible Study
Mon. Jan 5	3:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Release Time Classes Anchor Point (Gr. 7-12) LWML Meeting
Tues. Jan 6	7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	EPIPHANY SERVICE W/ COMM Dartball
Wed. Jan 7	Noon	Deadline for Bulletin Release Time/Confirmation Classes
Thurs. Jan 8		Release Time Classes Annual Report Deadline
Sun. Jan 11	8:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM. Sun. School/Adult Bible Study/ACT WORSHIP WITH CONT. LINE COMM. Baby Shower for Ellie