COME GROW SERVE

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026

Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

*Words printed in **bold** are spoken by all. Visitors are invited to sign the guest registry in the Narthex or fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate.*

THIS SERVICE IS LIVE STREAMED. TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

GATHERING

WELCOME

PM: Welcome to those who are joining us online. Welcome to worship at St. Paul's!

PRELUDE *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper* **James Biery**

The assembly is invited to stand.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: ADVENT TWO

Candle is lit while all sing

O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

L: Each week through Advent, we sing an ancient O Antiphon, a prayer written in the 6th century to invite us into preparation for Christ's birth. This week's O Antiphon calls our Savior the "Key of David." It rejoices that Christ holds the authority to open what no one can shut and to shut what no one can open. He unlocks the prison doors and leads those who sit in darkness into the light. Through the prophet Isaiah, God promises us…

I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David; he shall open, and no one shall shut; he shall shut, and no one shall open. The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, (Isaiah 22:22; 61:1)

Let us pray.
Gracious God, you hold the key to every locked door. Open wide the way to your heavenly home. Break every chain that binds us, whether fear, sin, or despair, and lead the captives out into freedom. Make our hearts ready to welcome Christ, and open our lives to one another in love.

All: Amen.

KYRIE **p. 120**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray.
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

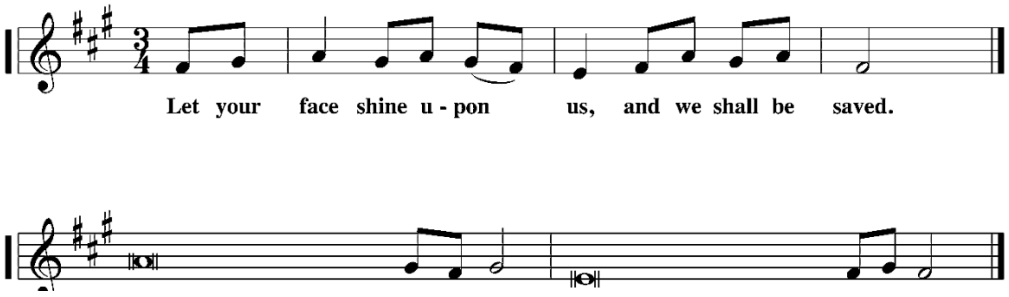
A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.
4 From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
5 You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

7 There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
8 Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Word of God. Word of Life.
All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19



1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
3 Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
4 O Lord | God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray? R
5 You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
17 Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,
the one you have made so strong | for yourself. R
18 And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
19 Restore us, O Lord | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved. R

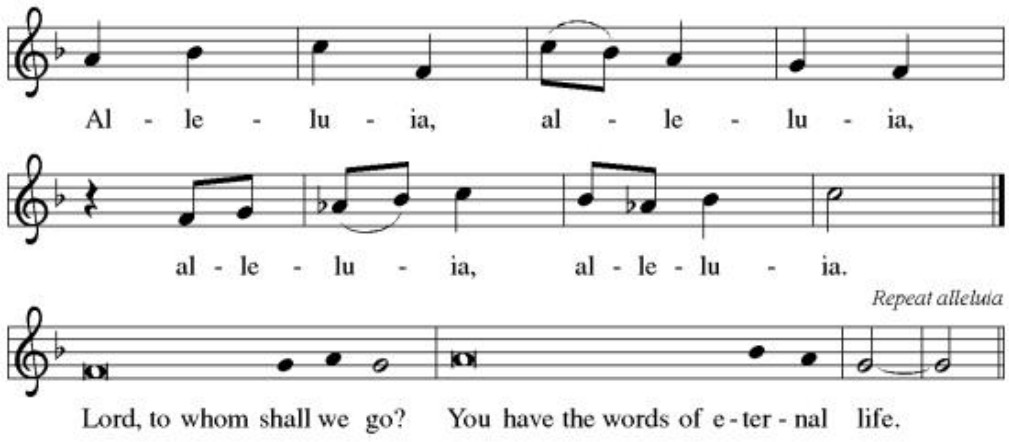
SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given
you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and
knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among
you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus
Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of
our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God. Word of Life.
All: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
25 and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then
he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the
earth to the ends of heaven.

28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth
its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place,

you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away
until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will
not pass away.

32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but
only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is
like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with
his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you
do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at
cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I
say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

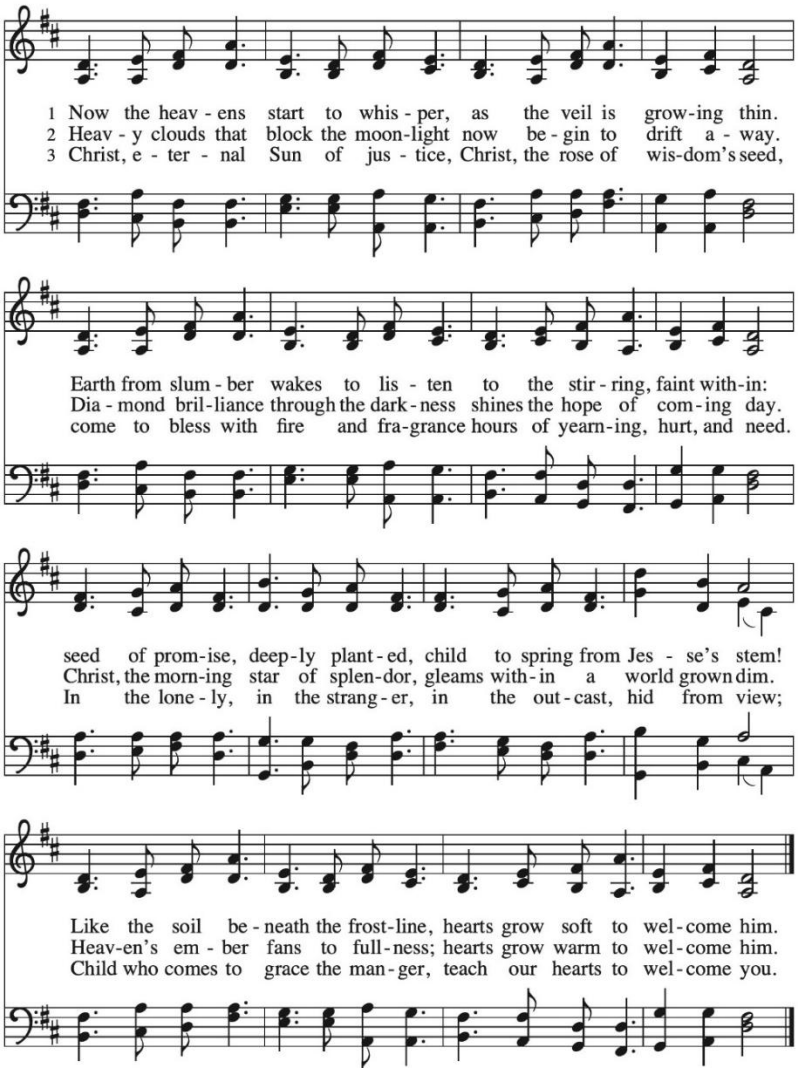
The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON **Pr. Julie Boleyn**

Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

PM: In hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

PM: Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

PM: Bring peace among all nations and communities. Embolden leaders to seek creative and sustainable resolutions to war and conflict. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

A: Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry, especially those on our prayer list and those we pray for either silently or aloud *(pause)*. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

PM: Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home, especially Joanne Gauger. God, in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

PM: We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior.

All: Amen.

PEACE

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

All: And also with you.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING *An offering is gathered and the Table is set.*

MUSICAL OFFERING *Unexpected and Mysterious* **Calvin Hampton**
arr. Kurt Westerberg

Mackenzie Minguillo, soprano; Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Holy Creator, we are the clay and you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. Receive these gifts shape them and our lives for your purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

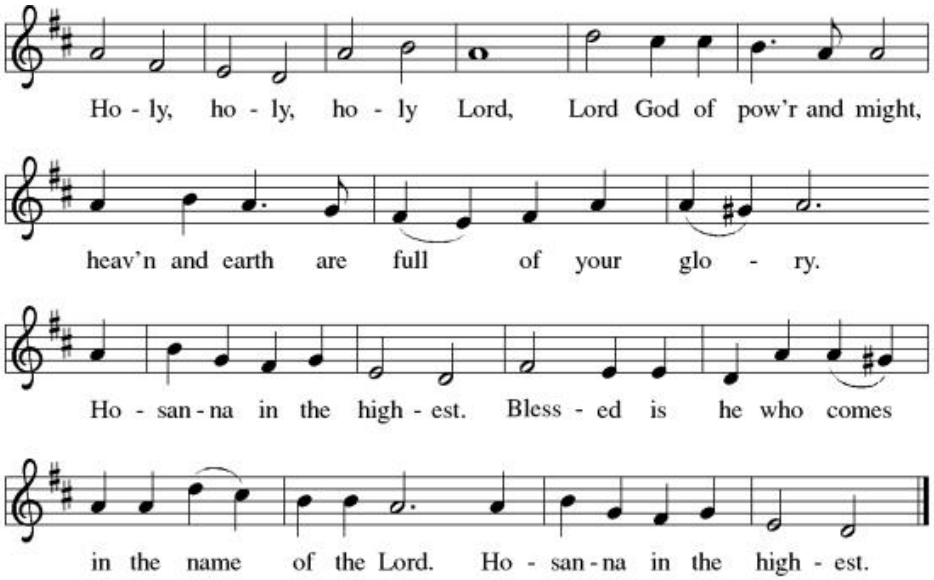
All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: you we praise and glorify, you we worship and adore.

You formed the earth from chaos; you encircled the globe with air; you created fire for warmth and light; you nourish the lands with water. You molded us in your image, and with mercy higher than the mountains, with grace deeper than the seas, you blessed the Israelites and cherished them as your own.

That also we, estranged and dying, might be adopted to live in your Spirit, you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Son, the first-born of your new creation. We remember his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection, which renews the face of the earth. We await his coming, when, with the world made perfect through your wisdom, all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compassionate, send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit, whose breath revives us for life, whose fire rouses us to love. Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food. Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit, that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty with all the world.

All: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Holy and benevolent God, receive our praise and petitions, as Jesus received the cry of the needy, and fill us with your blessing, until, needy no longer and bound to you in love, we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb: through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O Living One, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and forever.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Together as one body, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

All: 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNE

P: The glory of the Lord is revealed! Come and taste God's presence.

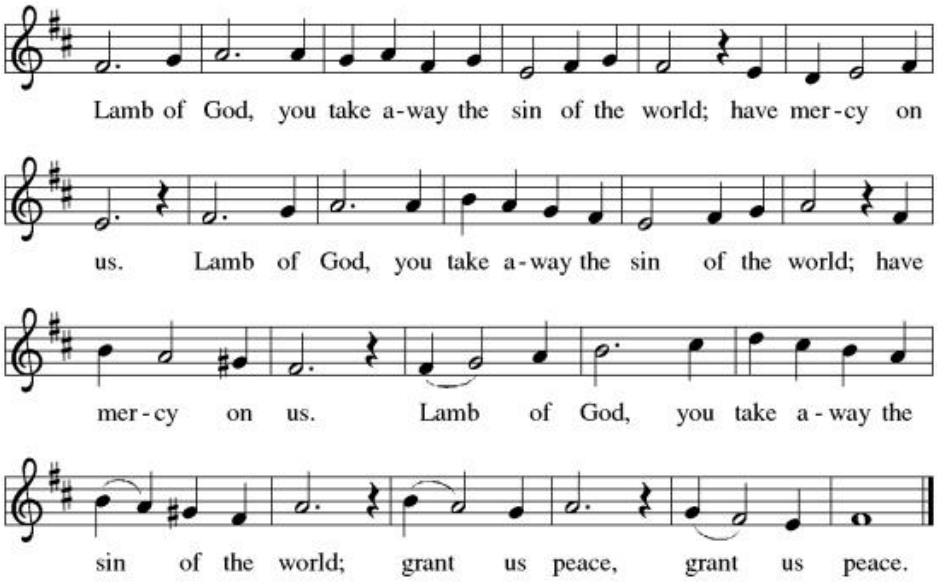


DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will commune one side of the church at a time. Please come forward to receive the bread first. Gluten free wafers are available.
You may choose a cup of red wine or white grape juice.
Move to the side eat and drink.
Place your empty cup in the tray provided.

All are welcome at Christ's Table. We believe Jesus is the host and the gifts of God are for everyone. Child-ren will be offered communion unless otherwise indicated by parents. The wine is red and grape juice is white.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMNS *As the Dark Awaits the Dawn* **ELW 261**
Wait For the Lord **ELW 262**

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Providing God, you feed your flock like a shepherd and gather your people in your arms. We praise you for the care and sustenance you give at this meal and always. As we leave your table, carry us near your heart, and send us with confidence in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: Amen.

SENDING

Please be seated for the announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand.

SENDING BLESSING

P: God our provider, God our feast, God our companion, ☩ bless you now and forever.
All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *Come. Thou Long-Expected Jesus* **ELW 254**

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Bring good news to the brokenhearted.
All: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying* **Wayne Wold**
Nicholas Marottas, clarinet

Next Week's Theme for Artifacts: Wildness

THANK YOU

To our musicians: Mackenzie Minguillo, soprano; Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano, and clarinet.
To the Altar Guild for supplying greens for Advent to beautify our sanctuary.
To everyone who brought leftover Thanksgiving treats for hosting coffee fellowship.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For Joan Brandt.
For Jan Rock as she recovers from stenoses.
For Bill Kastilahn, as he recovers from an eye interaction with medication.
For Deborah Green, friend of LuAnne Origer, as she recovers from brain surgery.
For Katie Roeck, friend of Michele Kruse, as she recovers from back surgery.
For Anita Young, partner of Diane DiFrancesco, hospitalized and undergoing tests.
For the family of Melissa Gauger, as they mourn the death of her mother, Joanne.

To donate via Zelle, aim your device's camera at the code on the left, click on the link and follow the instructions. Or you can go to your bank's website, go to Zelle payments and look for "office@stpaulevanston.org."



WELCOME BACK
PASTOR JULIE BOLEYN

We are delighted to welcome back to St. Paul's Rev. Julie Boleyn, who will lead us in worship for Advent - Christmas Eve. Pr. Julie is well known and loved by our congregation. For those who know her less well, here is a bit more background:

A long-time member and now alum of St. Paul's, Rev. Julie Boleyn was both married and ordained at our church. She is the Executive Director of the Kaleidoscope Institute, a non-profit that works with churches across the country as they seek to welcome diversity and creatively imagine new ways of being the church. Projects this year have included supporting pastors serving in cross-cultural settings, strategic planning, and mission developer training.

From 2011 to 2021, she served as pastor at Unity Lutheran of Berwyn. During that time, Pr. Julie led the founding of Awake, activating community members across cultures to work for leadership, justice, and relationship. She also led the founding of Project 88 Music Academy, offering children in the community a way to engage classical music at a high level. Additionally, she accompanied the development of Unidad, a Spanish Language mission development that serves the LGBTQ community.

Pr. Julie and her family of St. Paul's alums – spouse Rev. Jeanine Reardon and 17-year-old son Max – have big developments in their lives this year. In October, Jeanie accepted a wonderful call from St. Francis Lutheran in San Francisco, CA, and has already picked up stakes and moved to the Bay Area to serve her new congregation. Through year-end, Julie and Max will continue living in Berwyn, while they pack up and prepare to leave their longtime Berwyn home before heading out to San Francisco to join Jeanie. We are extraordinarily grateful that Julie and her family have made it possible for her to spend one more Advent season with us before relocating to the West Coast.



St. Paul's 125th