

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*Growing in faith. Growing in community. Welcoming all in Jesus' name.*

## PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD Sunday, February 2, 2025

10 AM Service of  
Holy Communion

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.



### **Catch the excitement! Witness the joy! Shape the vision!**

ST. PAUL'S VISION STATEMENT (adopted 02/25/2018)

- To worship as a diverse community of all ages
- To engage in faith formation as a community grounded in God's word
- To maintain with depth and integrity the work of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless
- To nurture a strong foundation of generosity, giving, and caring for creation
- To provide a music ministry that encompasses congregation and surrounding communities

### **Worship at Home and Away**

When we cannot be together in person, we can still hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Therefore, we offer the 10 AM service through simultaneous live streaming to St. Paul's Facebook page. The service is then posted to the website, [www.stpaulsnewarkde.org](http://www.stpaulsnewarkde.org) and can be found in the upper right hand corner of the home page, along with a digital copy of this worship folder.

**Large print worship folders and hearing assist devices are available in the narthex. Ask an usher for assistance.**

**A Prayground is available for young children in the rear of the sanctuary.**

## ✠ GATHERING ✠

*Worship begins with God who takes the initiative and calls us into being.  
We gather at the Holy Spirit's invitation and assemble as the community of faith  
on the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection.*

*Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation  
allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.*

### PRELUDE

"Love Astounding"

- arr. Cathy Moglebust

HOLY MANNA

Handbell Ensemble

### WELCOME

*Please stand, as you are able.*

### DIALOG AND INVOCATION

The God of steadfast love sent the Son to be the light of the world,  
**saving people everywhere from sin and death.**

As Anna gave thanks for the freedom he would bring,  
and Simeon saw in him the dawn of redemption,  
**complete your purpose once made known in him.**

Make us vessels of his light,  
**that all the world may glory in the splendor of your peace.**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

### ENTRANCE HYMN

**In His Temple Now Behold Him**

ELW 417 (harmony)



- 1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
- 2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -
- 3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,
- 4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less



pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,  
hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,  
weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,  
love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en



God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,  
ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,  
by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther



his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.  
Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!  
in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.  
and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825–1903, alt.  
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**  
**Forgive us for the ways we act**  
**with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**  
**We ignore the needs of our neighbors;**  
**we resist your call to oppose injustice;**  
**we give in to scarcity and fear;**  
**we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults  
and release us from their grasp.  
Show us your lovingkindness.  
Restore our hearts and repair your world,  
that we may live in Christ's ways.  
Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:  
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name. You are mine."  
In † Christ, you are forgiven.  
In the Spirit, you are made free.  
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,  
live anew as beloved children of God.  
**Amen.**

## **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated.*

**† WORD †**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## **FIRST READING**

**Malachi 3:1-4**

*My messenger is a refiner and purifier*

A reading from Malachi:

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to the temple. Indeed, the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

God has been revealed to us in the word.

**Let us wait here and dwell in it.**

**RESPONSIVE READING**

**Psalm 84**

*Antiphon: Ps. 84:1*

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD.

**How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD.**

<sup>1</sup>How dear to me is your dwelling,  
O LORD of hosts!

<sup>2</sup>My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

<sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow has found a home,  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

<sup>4</sup>Happy are they who dwell in your house!  
They will always be praising you.

**How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are the people whose strength is in you,  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

<sup>6</sup>Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

<sup>7</sup>They will climb from height to height,  
and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup>LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob.

**How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD.**

<sup>9</sup> Behold our defender, O God;  
and look upon the face of your anointed.

<sup>10</sup> For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory;  
no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk with integrity.

<sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts,  
happy are they who put their trust in you!

**How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD.**

**SECOND READING                      1 Corinthians 13:1-13**

*If I speak without love, I am a noisy gong*

A reading from First Corinthians:

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup> And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup> If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

<sup>8</sup> Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup> For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup> but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup> When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup> For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup> And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

God has been revealed to us in the word.  
**Let us wait here and dwell in it.**

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Setting 6

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

**Luke 2:22-40**

*The child is brought to the temple*

The Gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> “Lord, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup> And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When the parents had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup> The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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

*Be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Cris Frigm

*Feel free to take notes or write down your own reflection on this morning’s message.  
Spirit-led doodling is also acceptable.*

*Please stand, as you are able.*



# HYMN OF THE DAY

## Love Astounding

LA 57 (harmony)

1 Love as - tound-ing, Love con - found-ing lim-its fear - ful minds im-pose.  
2 Love re - ceiv-ing, Love be - liev - ing, we re - joice with thanks and song,

Love re - new-ing, Love pur - su - ing ev - 'ry heart un - til it knows  
faith re - gain-ing, hope pro - claim-ing; Love has taught us we be - long,

Love's trans-form-ing, heal-ing good-ness, Love's a - bid - ing, gen-tle grace,  
safe with - in Love's ten-der keep-ing, safe from fear's per - sis - tent call.

Love's en - dur-ance, Love's as - sur - ance, Love's con - sol-ing, strong em-brace.  
Love de - fend-ing, Love un - end - ing, Love of God en - fold - ing all.

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH      Apostles' Creed**

Living together in trust and hope,  
we confess our faith.

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of generations, you instilled in Anna and Simeon faith, dreams, and the welcome of a child. Bless elders who embody faith and hope; bless the newly baptized. Energize us to share faith from generation to generation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, in you the sparrow finds a home and we find lush valleys and living water. Bless the birds of the air, the animals of the valley, and renew our stewardship of this bountiful creation. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, strengthen our resolve to care for all children and strive for peace among nations. Refine our nation where we have failed to root out racism, especially as we honor Black History Month, and guide us in truth-telling and reconciliation. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of hope, many long to see your presence revealed amid challenging circumstances. We hold in prayer all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and health and wellness, especially Karen, Kathy, Dot, Mike, Cheryl, Deborah, Bob, Eric, Silas, Jane, Judy, Nancy, Hugh, Rob, Marie, Susan, Michael, JoEllen, Elizabeth, Melissa, Ginny, Isabella, Heyward, Olive, and those we name before you now or in the silence of our hearts...*(brief silence)*. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of the people, you are made known in caring ministries. Bless those who serve as communion servers, homebound visitors, baptismal sponsors, and as prayer support. Reveal yourself in the neighborly care we and our partners in ministry, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Wilmington and Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware, give and receive. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of love, look upon those suffering with Alzheimer's and the frailty of dementia. Surround them with mercy in their distress, confusion, or isolation. Shelter them where dignity and peace abound. Grant them understanding helpers and the willingness to accept help. In the face of loss of memory and control, increase their confidence in your love and strengthen their care givers. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of life, we thank you for Jesus' life and for his death that has destroyed death. We remember the dearly departed, especially Charlotte and Will, as they dwell with you in your holy courts now and forever. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers.*

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The assembly exchanges Christ's peace  
in word and gesture, saying,*

**Peace be with you.**

*Be seated. At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask **visitors** to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask **members** to update any changes to their information so our records can be maintained.*

## ✠ MEAL ✠

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## GATHERING OF GIFTS

*In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, we offer our gifts for service and mission.*

## OFFERTORY

"When Memory Fades"

arr. Lloyd Larson

Text: ELW 792

Sanctuary Choir

*Please stand, as you are able.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Let us pray: God of grace,  
**your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

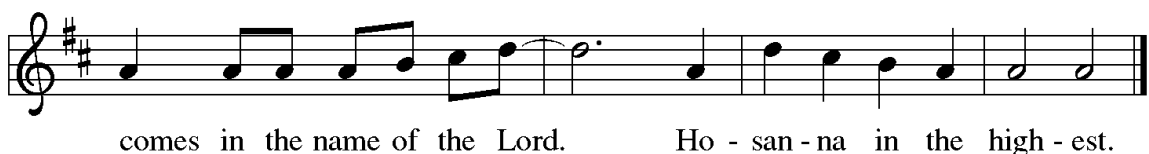
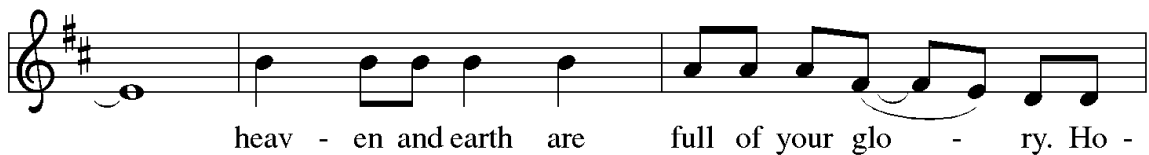
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

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:

ELW Setting 6



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

**Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.**

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.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

**By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.**

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

We seek to be your people,  
even as we pray as you taught us, saying:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
**We come to eat this meal of gladness.**

# BREAKING OF THE BREAD

ELW Setting 6

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.

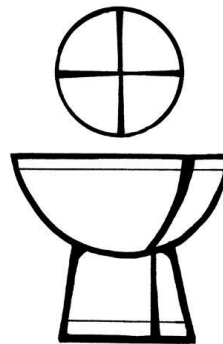
*Be seated.*

## HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.





- 1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;
- 2 King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on earth he stood,
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way;
- 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with sleep - less eye,



pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand  
 Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
 as the Light of light, de - scend - ing from the realms of end - less day,  
 veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry:



Christ our God to earth de - scend - ing comes full hom - age to de - mand.  
 he will give to all the faith - ful his own self for heav' - n - ly food.  
 comes, the pow'rs of hell to van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
 "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James; tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1829–1885, alt.

Music: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th cent.

## He Comes to Us as One Unknown

ELW 737



- 1 He comes to us as one un - known, a breath un - seen, un -
- 2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -
- 3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and
- 4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
- 5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -





heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in  
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -  
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the  
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a  
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.  
cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.  
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.  
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.  
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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*After all have returned to their places, please stand, as you are able.*

## **BLESSING AND PRAYER**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food  
and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news  
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

**Amen.**



✠ SENDING ✠

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**BENEDICTION**

The Spirit of the triune God  
✠ bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion,  
and send you in love.

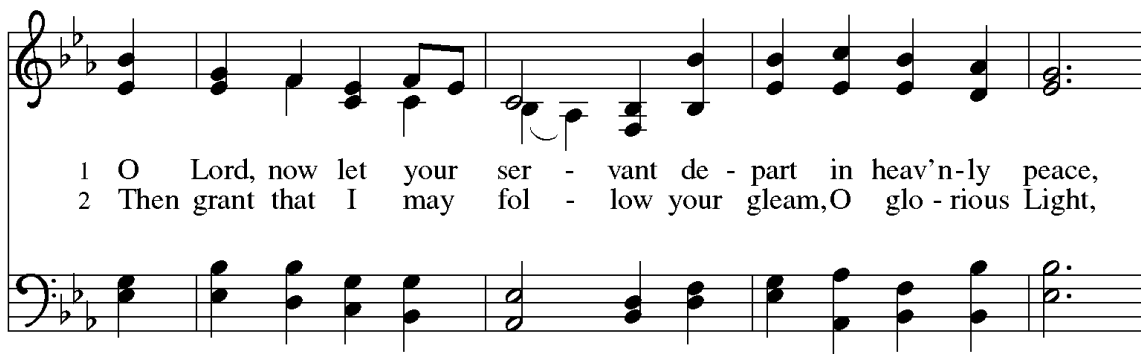
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

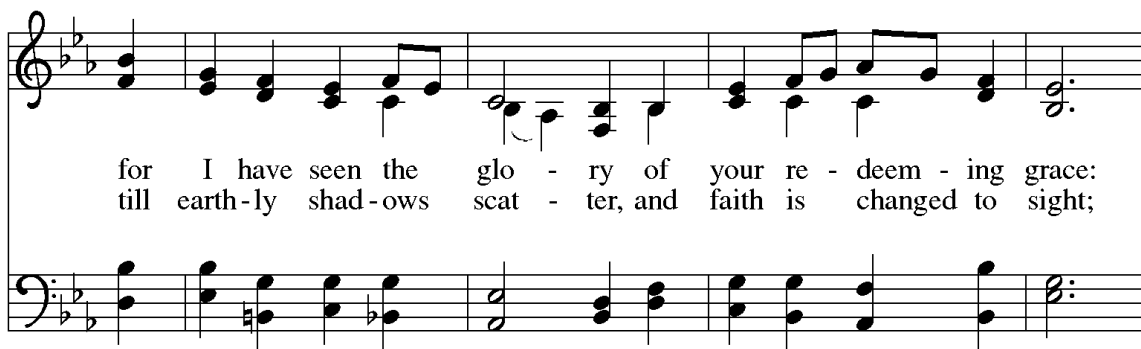
**O Lord, Now Let Your Servant**

ELW 313

*Simeon responded to the presence of the consolation of Israel with the words of the Nunc dimittis. His song described Jesus as a "light for the nations."*



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,  
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:  
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;

a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,  
till rap - tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,

the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt.  
 Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version  
 Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*“Toccata on Regent Square”*

arr. Lani Smith



## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister: Lynn Deschere  
Lector: Ping-An Tjoa  
Bread Provider: Heidi Burch  
Altar Guild: Cheryl Johnson  
Flower Guild: Sue Wallden



The flowers in the chancel are given to the glory and praise of God  
in honor of The Reverend Ron Mease's ninety-sixth birthday  
and in celebration of Zac Miller's eighteenth birthday.



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*My eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.*

Luke 2:30-31

# ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

## IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2, 2025

### PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (YEAR C)

Forty days after the birth of Christ the church celebrates his presentation in the temple by his parents. Two aged saints, Anna and Simeon, recognize him as the promised messiah. Simeon speaks the words of the beloved Nunc dimittis in which he calls Jesus a "light for the nations." On this festival in the midst of the Epiphany season, we are reminded again of our hope in Christ, the Light of the world.

### RECONCILING IN CHRIST PROPOSAL

The congregation will be reviewing and voting on a proposal to become a Reconciling in Christ Partner Congregation at the Annual Meeting. The details of this commitment and the proposed welcome statement are available on the next to last page of this worship folder (page 23). Please review this document in advance of the meeting and bring your questions to the RIC Committee.

### ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Please submit all committee, small group fellowship, and ministry reports to [office@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:office@stpaulsnewarkde.org) by Friday, February 7, or preferably earlier.

### ASSISTING MINISTER LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

**Change of date:** After worship on **Sunday, March 2**, there will be a gathering of those who currently serve as Assisting Ministers and any folks who would like to join this ministry. Together, we'll review the work of leading worship and make sure everyone who takes on this responsibility is comfortable with their work. Please speak with Pastor Cris if you'd like to hear more about this important opportunity to support the worship life of St. Paul's.

### ADULT FORUM

Our Bible Study, "The Gospel of Mark--According to Greg" continues next Sunday starting at 8:30 AM in the Blue Room. Come hear what Pastor Greg Johnson has to say and share about Jesus according to Mark.

## OLDER WISER LUTHERANS EVENTS

All OWLS are invited to the third annual Progressive Supper held here at the church on Saturday, February 8, at 4 PM. This year we are asking for international dishes - specifically from a country of your ancestry. Register with Lynn Deschere (302-368-6437 home; 302-373-0644 cell; [Lynn@Deschere.com](mailto:Lynn@Deschere.com)) as soon as possible for an appetizer, soup, entree, salad, vegetable or dessert. First come, first options.

## 20 QUESTIONS(ISH) WITH PASTOR CRIS

As we continue to get to know one another, we will be holding a series of small group conversations for members to get to know Pastor Cris and for him to get to know our members. We'll kick off these sessions with a potluck dinner that will include the Rite of Installation with Bishop Bill Gohl presiding. This won't be a formal worship service, but an opportunity for us to continue to learn about our ministry together. The dinner and installation will happen on Monday, February 17, at 6 PM. You will have the opportunity to sign up for one of the follow-up sessions at the dinner (and following).

The hospitality committee will be hosting the potluck supper and asks that everyone bring their favorite appetizer, soup, main dish, side, or dessert to share that evening. Monetary donations would also be appreciated and will be used towards paper goods and drinks. The sign-up is posted in the Narthex. Please note the item you will be bringing as well as the number of people attending. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lori Davis via call/text at 302-897-8759 or email at [LoriDavis1025@gmail.com](mailto:LoriDavis1025@gmail.com).

## WORSHIP COMPONENT

Simeon has just one item on his bucket list: to see the Lord's Messiah before he dies. When Jesus and his parents finally show up, he responds with a poignant farewell poem: "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace" (Luke 2:29). This poem is traditionally called the *Nunc Dimittis*, Latin for "Now let depart." In 1525 Martin Luther also wrote a hymn based on it, which was translated into English by Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878): "In peace and joy I now depart" (ELW 440). Whatever version we use, it's a hymn we can sing that was once sung to Jesus.

## PROPOSAL APPROVED BY COUNCIL TO BECOME A RECONCILING IN CHRIST CONGREGATION...

### THE JOURNEY WE ARE COMMITTING TO

We, the congregation of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, in voting to become a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) partner congregation, commit to the following, per the Reconciling Works<sup>1</sup> parent organization:

1. Adopt the proposed RIC welcome statement.
2. Be open to calling LGBTQIA2S+<sup>2</sup> and BIPOC (Black, Brown, Indigenous, or Person of Color) Rostered Leaders.
3. Allow our sanctuary and community spaces to be used for LGBTQIA2S+ weddings and blessings.<sup>3</sup>
4. Make a meaningful annual contribution<sup>4</sup> to the national RIC program.
5. Commit to an ongoing process of making the welcome statement live.

### RECONCILING IN CHRIST STATEMENT OF WELCOME

**We believe all people are created in God's image.** Rooted in Jesus' ministry of liberation, unconditional love, and hospitality, we strive to welcome all into our community. This welcome explicitly includes those who have traditionally been marginalized in the church and society due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, racial and ethnic background, physical ability, developmental ability, citizenship/documentation status, and socio-economic status.

We are committed to continuing both self and community learning, and to making inclusivity a reality for our congregation. Because we seek to be shaped and changed by God through those called into our faith community, all are welcome to the worship life of this congregation. This includes access to the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and full participation in our congregational life and shared ministries.

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<sup>1</sup> A Lutheran independent 501(c)3 organization (<https://www.reconcilingworks.org>).

<sup>2</sup> LBTQIA2S+ (Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual, Two-Spirit, plus)

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with St. Paul's wedding policy regarding appropriate officiants.

<sup>4</sup> A meaningful annual contribution is determined by our faith community and our budget, with the understanding that the RIC Program is funded by the generosity of its member congregations.



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: [www.stpaulsnewarkde.org](http://www.stpaulsnewarkde.org)

*Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.*



## The Reverend Cris Frigm

*Pastor*

302-368-0064 ext. 104

[pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

## Jerilynn Hinrichs

*Office Administrator*

302-368-0064 ext. 101

[office@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:office@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

## Michael Bareham

*Director for Music and Worship*

302-368-0064 ext. 123

[music@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:music@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

## Nalini Janaki

*Business Administrator*

302-368-0064 ext. 102

[business@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:business@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

## Church Council

Anne Sullivan, *President*

Barb Rhodes, *Vice President*

Heidi Burch, *Secretary*

Mary Collins, *Treasurer*

Kristine Cassar, Winnie Hull, Greg Johnson,

Susie Olson, Emily Pierce

## Vacant

*Early Education Director*

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

[stpaulschool@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulschool@comcast.net)

## St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

[prayonstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:prayonstpauls@gmail.com)

## Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

Articles due by Wednesday morning at

10 AM. Late submissions will be shared

the following week. Please send articles to

the church office at [office@stpaulsnewarkde.org](mailto:office@stpaulsnewarkde.org)

**WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES  
OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?  
THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE**

