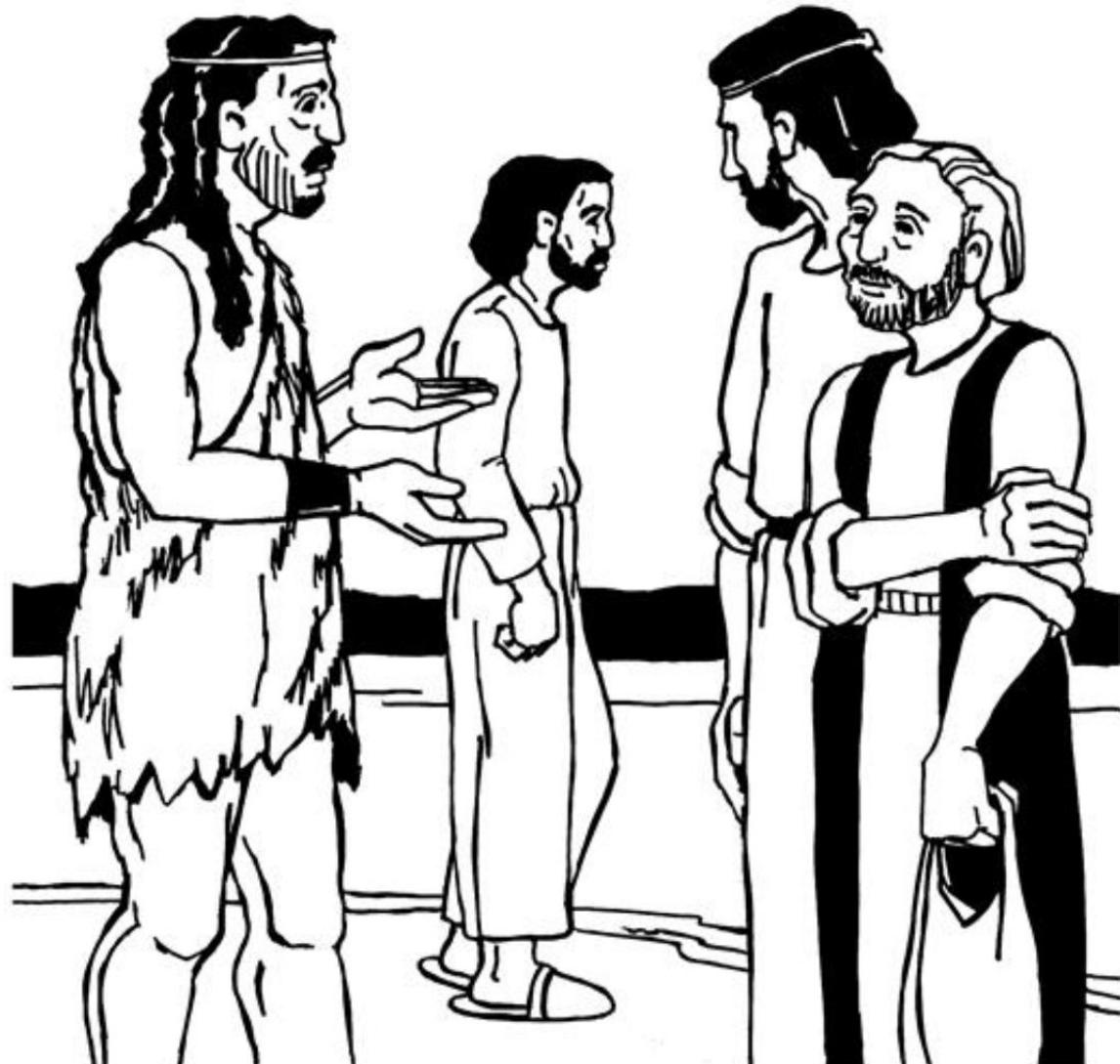




ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 18, 2026

GATHERING

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Arise, Your Light Has Come!

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

***CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

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

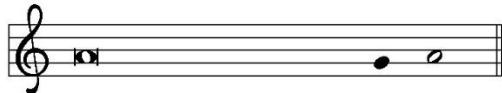
Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: **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.**

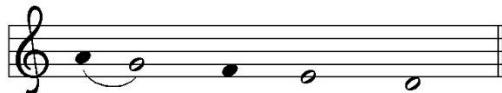
P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: **Amen.**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



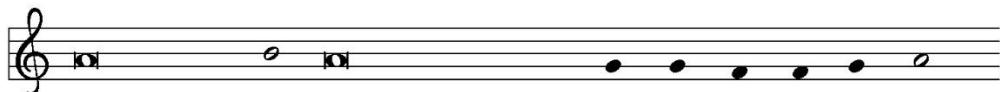
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



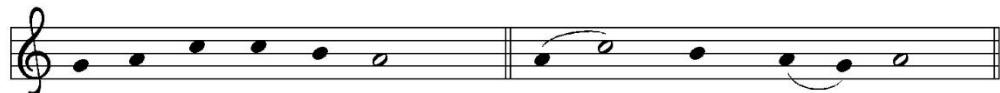
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

Glory

Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

C: **And also, with you.**

P: Let us pray. Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

Choir Anthem

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands;

pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The Lord called me before I was born;

while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword;

in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me a polished arrow;

in his quiver he hid me away.

And he said to me, "You are my servant,

Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

But I said, "I have labored in vain;

I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;

yet surely my cause is with the Lord

and my reward with my God."

And now the Lord says,

who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,

and that Israel might be gathered to him,

for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,

and my God has become my strength—

he says,

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant

to raise up the tribes of Jacob

and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,

that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord,

the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,

to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

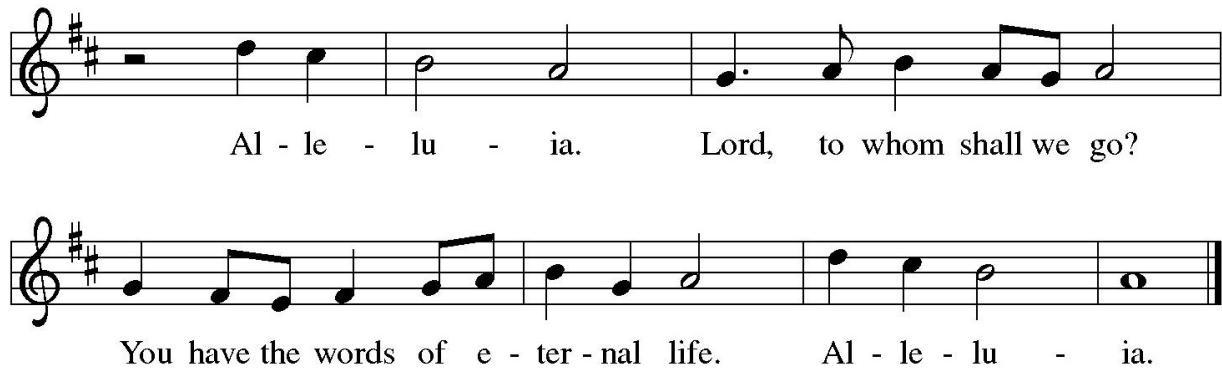
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus,
called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

***GRADUAL HYMN**



The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major, common time. The first staff begins with a rest, followed by a dotted half note, a quarter note, a half note, a dotted half note, a quarter note, a half note, and a quarter note. The lyrics below the first staff are: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?" The second staff begins with a quarter note, followed by a half note, a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a half note, and a quarter note. The lyrics below the second staff are: "You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia."

***GOSPEL**

P: The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 1st chapter, beginning with the 29th verse.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

HYMN OF THE DAY
Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult

1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
 2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
 3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
 4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
 5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
 may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -

sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me".
 kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
 be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895
 Music: GALILEE, William H. Jude, 1851–1922

***APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us now confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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, and 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 life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: 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.
Gracious God, gather the church into one great fellowship. Equip your people to work together for justice and peace, following the example of Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, whose birth we remember this week. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer

A: Creating God, sustain the web of life on this planet. Protect wild places, endangered species, and vulnerable habitats. Come to the aid of those affected by natural disasters. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Just God, you desire respect and equality for everyone. Raise up prophets who speak truth to the nations. Embolden leaders and those in authority to advocate for people in need. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Healing God, you lift up those who are bowed down by trouble, oppression, or illness, especially Rosemary Rizzo, Tony Rizzo, Erin Jankowski, Dee Marinov, and all those we name in our hearts. Bring an end to social injustice and inequities of every kind, so that all people may have abundant life. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Abiding God, you are present with this congregation. Keep us mindful of our mission and guide our ministries in this community. Kindle in us a desire to help one another. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Faithful God, you promise to be with us always. We remember with gratitude the faithful departed who now rest in you. Strengthen us to the end, that we may see you face to face. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: 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.

C: Amen

PEACE

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

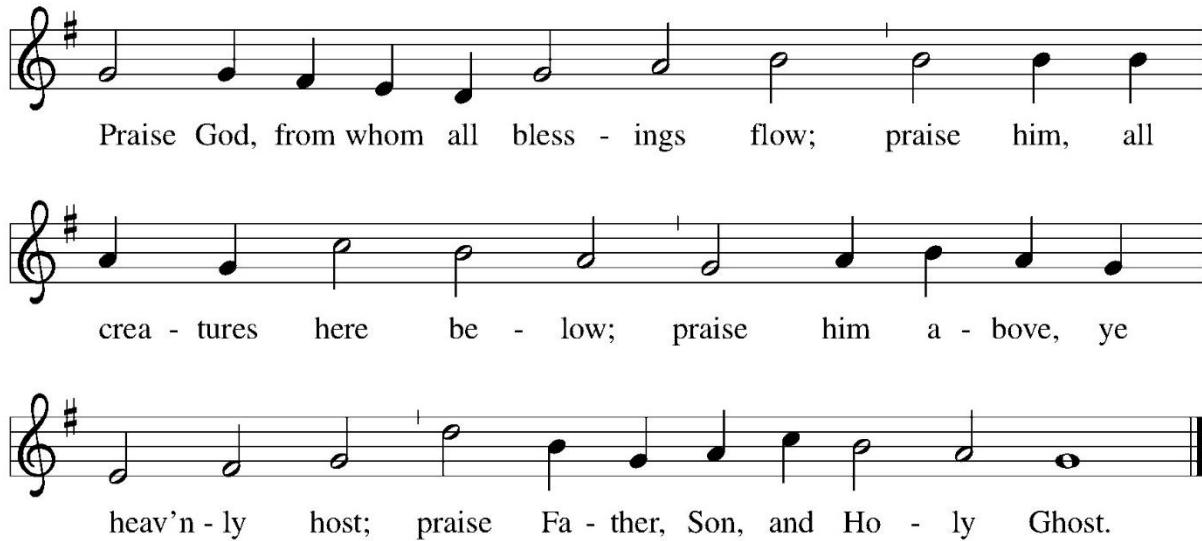
P: Let us share God's peace with each other now.

MEAL

OFFERING AND SETTING THE TABLE

***OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major, common time, with a key signature of one sharp. The first staff begins with a quarter note. The lyrics for the first staff are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all". The second staff begins with a quarter note. The lyrics for the second staff are: "crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye". The third staff begins with a quarter note. The lyrics for the third staff are: "heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost."

*OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: **God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

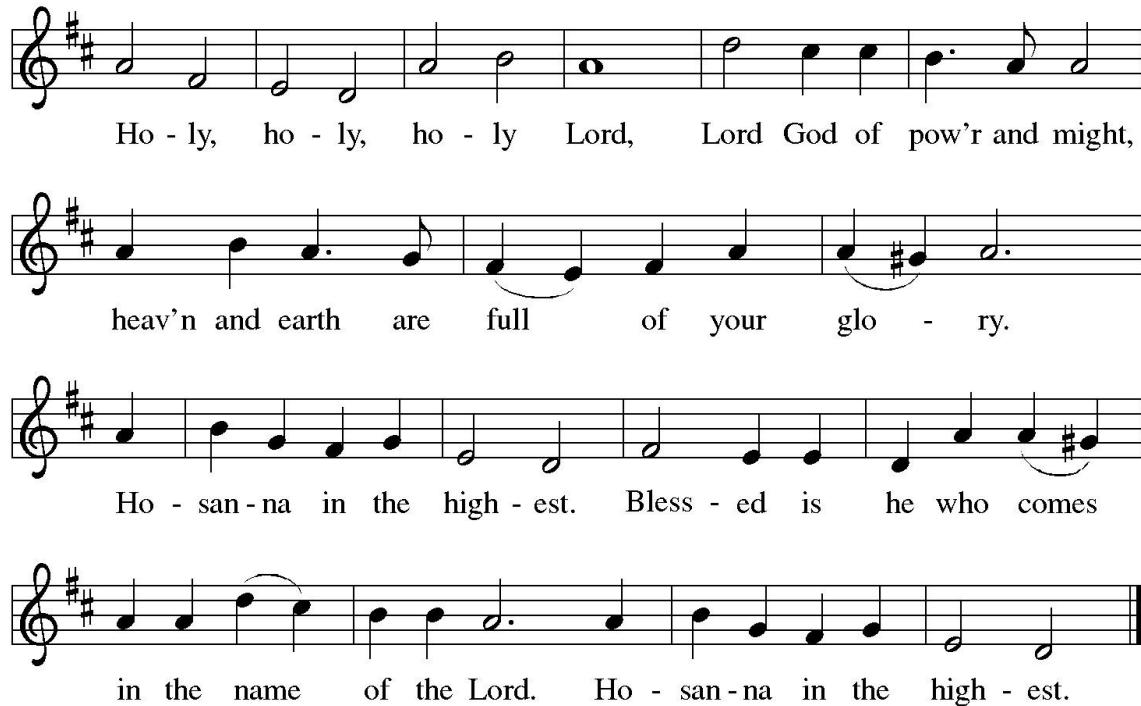
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

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

*THE PROPER PREFACE

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, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

P: 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.

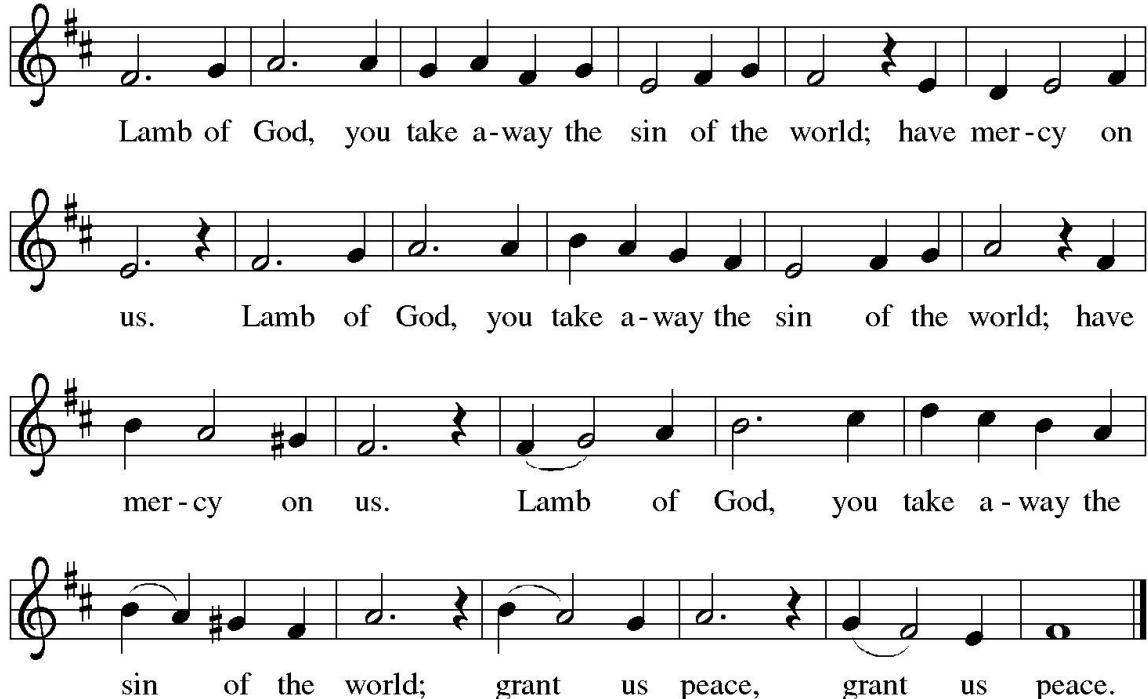
And so Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as our Lord Jesus taught us.

C: **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

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

COMMUNION MUSIC



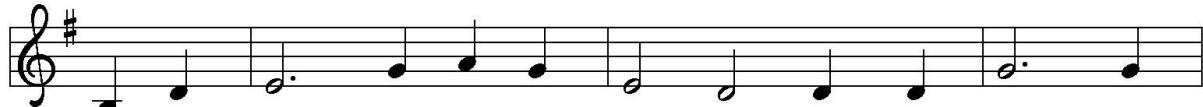
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. **Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have**

mer-cy on us. **Lamb of God, you take a-way the**

sin of the world; grant us peace, **grant us** **peace.**

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus, Come! For We Invite You



1 Je - sus, come! for we in - vite you, guest and mas - ter,
2 Je - sus, come! trans-form our plea - sures, guide us in - to
3 Je - sus, come! in new cre - a - tion, heav'n brought near in
4 Je - sus, come! sur - prise our dull - ness, make us will - ing



friend and Lord; now, as once at Ca - na's wed - ding,
paths un - known; bring your gifts, com-mand your ser - vants,
pow'r di - vine; give your un - ex - pect - ed glo - ry,
to re - ceive more than we can yet im - ag - ine,



speak and let us hear your word: lead us through our need or
let us trust in you a - lone: though your hand may work in
chang-ing wa - ter in - to wine: rouse the faith of your dis -
all the best you have to give: let us find your hid - den



doubt - ing, hope be born and joy re - stored.
se - cret, all shall see what you have done.
ci - ples— come, our first and great - est Sign!
rich - es, taste your love, be - lieve, and live!

Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938

Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958

Text © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

SENDING

***PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION**

P: And now may this, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, strengthen and keep you in his grace forever.

C: Amen.

A: 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.

C: Amen.

***BENEDICTION**

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

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn (See next page)

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SENDING HYMN

How Marvelous God's Greatness

1 How mar - vel - ous God's great - ness, how glo - ri - ous God's might!
2 Each ti - ny flow'r-et whis - pers the great life - giv - er's name;
3 The o - cean's vast a - byss - es in one grand psalm re - cord
4 The star - ry hosts are sing - ing through all the light - strewn sky

To this the world bears wit - ness in won - ders day and night;
the might - y moun - tain mass - es his maj - es - ty pro - claim;
the deep mys - ter - ious coun - sels and mer - cies of the Lord;
of God's ma - jes - tic tem - ple and pal - ace courts on high;

in form of flow'r and snow - flake, in morn's re - splen-dent birth,
the val - leys deep are hymn - ing God's shel - ter for his own;
the ic - y waves of win - ter are thun - d'ring on the strand;
when in these out - er cham - bers such glo - ry gilds the night,

in af - ter - glow at eve - ning, in sky and sea and earth.
the snow-capped peaks are point - ing to God's al - might - y throne.
and grief's chill stream is guid - ed by God's all - gra - cious hand.
oh, what tran - scen - dent bright - ness is God's e - ter - nal light!

Text: Valdimar Briem, 1848–1930; tr. Charles V. Pilcher, 1879–1961, alt.
Music: DEN BLOMSTERID NU KOMMER, *Koralpsalmbooken*, Stockholm, 1697
Text © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Acknowledgments

**BRANDING & DESIGN BY
REV. LAUREN WRIGHT PITTMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY REV. LISLE
GWYNN GARRITY
USED WITH PERMISSION - A
SANCTIFIED ART LLC**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
BRANDING & DESIGN BY
REV. LAUREN WRIGHT PITTMAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY REV. LISLE
GWYNN GARRITY
USED WITH PERMISSION - A
SANCTIFIED ART LLC**

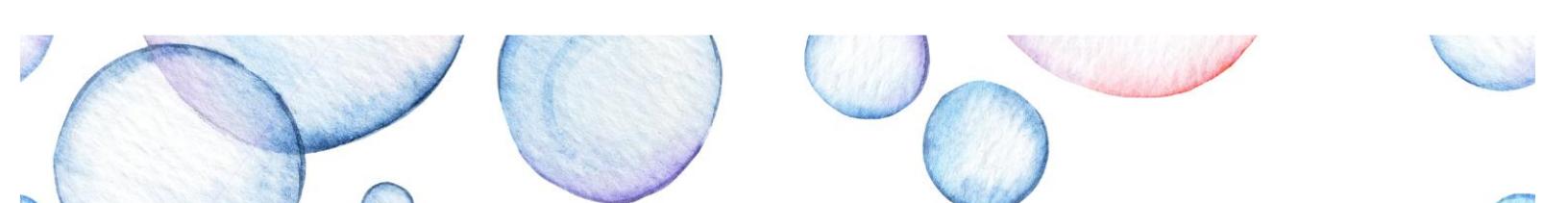
COVER IMAGE: PAUL OMEN

**AUGSBURG FORTRESS
LICENSING NUMBER:
1062730101**



**What do
you fear**

INSISTING ON HOPE THIS ADVENT



St. Paul's Social Ministry committee is excited to announce a new effort which we are calling "Wash Me Clean." This will be a personal and household hygiene pantry, supplying products that benefits do not cover. We have all seen how prices have skyrocketed. We all know what it costs just to put food on the table and provide stable housing. Many benefits have been severely cut or completely discontinued, leaving people with the choice of feeding their families and keeping their roof and walls, or being able to purchase the necessary items to keep their environment and themselves clean. This has long been an unmet need, and it has increased markedly.

Wash Me Clean (WMC) will stock cleaning, laundry and other housekeeping supplies, as well as stocking personal hygiene supplies. We will be relying on donations in order to make this successful, and a donation bin will be located in the foyer where we normally collect items for our individual drives (we are asking for full sized products). Much like Sleep in Heavenly Peace, this effort will be ongoing, so if you're shopping and see something on sale, grab it if the spirit moves you and toss it in the bin. A list of needed supplies with an Amazon link will be out shortly. Monetary donations in the form of cash or gift cards will be gratefully accepted, just hand your donation to Joe Somma, Sue Gibbons or Pastor and it will be used to purchase things as needed.

Wash Me Clean will be a ministry of St. Paul's, with a goal of involving other churches and organizations in the near future. We will be reaching out to the community to determine areas of need. This effort is unique in that we've chosen to serve the northern suburbs (Amherst, the Tonawandas, Grand Island, Clarence and Akron), as there are many struggling financially outside of the urban area with few resources. We are also here to take care of our own St. Paul's family, so if you or someone you know has a need, please don't hesitate to reach out. Everything will be kept confidential.

Please pray for this new endeavor. We are hoping to shine the light of Christ and make a real difference in people's lives.

Peace,
St. Paul's Social Ministry Committee



Announcements

WE PRAY FOR...

- Rosemary Rizzo - Tony Rizzo - Erin Jankowski -
-Dee Marinov- Diane Busdiecker-Elaine Wolffer-
-Brian Freeburg- Maryann and Chip Orlando-

George Troester- Son of Maureen Sieteski
Maya Chakraborty
Katherine Sikorski
Brooke- Great-niece of Annette Berg
Angela Roeser
Emily- Niece of Patty Walker
Frank Senn- Brother of Nancy Noble
Janice Darveau- Friend of Kathy Busdiecker
David Jinks- Sarah Kuehfus' Father
The family of Pete & Gayle Ciraolo- Vince
Ciraolo's cousin
Jessica Ekman- Friend of Karl and Judy Kristoff
Diane Byers- Friend of Nancy Stoehr
Reed White- Friend of Nancy Stoehr

The annual meeting of the St. Paul's congregation will take place on Sunday, January 25th following the service.



SCAN HERE FOR ST. PAUL'S DONATION PAGE



ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH



Seeing and Telling Who Jesus Is

The time after Epiphany is the church's time to invite us to come and see who this one born in a manger will be, and to discover what this one born to a young woman might mean for us and for the world. Today's gospel tells us that Jesus is the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world," "the Son of God," and "the Messiah." These appellations show us that the coming of Jesus has meaning not just for those who follow him, but for all people and all the world. In the gospel, neither John nor Andrew can contain their testimony about who Jesus is. They have had an encounter with Christ that has had such an impact on their lives that they cannot help but tell others about it. John tells his disciples and everyone else within earshot about Jesus. Andrew runs to find his brother, Peter, and brings him to Jesus so that Peter might have the same life-changing encounter he himself has experienced.

We are invited to "come and see" who Jesus is. We are reminded that God's forgiveness and love proclaimed in Jesus Christ is meant to be good news for us and for all people. As we encounter Christ, our lives are changed. Like John and Andrew in today's gospel, we are called to share with others who we have seen Jesus to be.

PASTOR ASHLIN MARCHESE
PREACHER/PRESIDER

PATRICK GARD
ORGANIST

DAVID JOHNSTON
LITURGICAL ASSISTANT

JOE BROWN
LITURGICAL ASSISTANT

JOE BROWN, KARL KRISTOFF
USHERS

ANNETTE BERG & PAT NOWAK
ALTAR GUILD