

Worship Notes for Visitors & Members

Welcome to worship - Welcome to all, and especially to our visitors, we are glad you are here today, and hope that you will worship with us again soon and often. Please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate. These will aid our record-keeping. Thank you. Large print bulletins are available from an usher in the narthex. *“It is good to worship the Lord together, and to come into his presence with thanksgiving.” Psalm 95*

Welcome children - Jesus said “Let the children come to me.” Children are welcome and encouraged to worship here at St. Paul. We rejoice that they are among us; however, if you need it, our nursery is available at all services and you can hear the service on audio. An usher will guide you.

St. Paul welcomes all to the Communion Table. Christ is the Host and the Meal. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good. Grape juice is available for those who prefer it rather than wine. Children and those choosing not to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

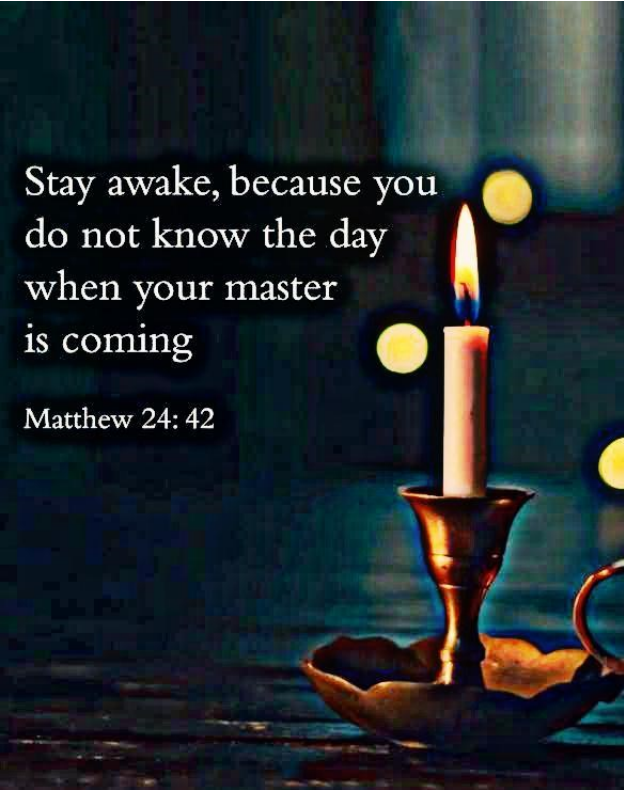
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

| <u>PARTICIPANTS</u> | | |
|--|-----------|--|
| <u>MINISTERS</u> | | The People of God |
| <u>PASTOR</u> | | Rev. John Shipman |
| <u>ORGANIST</u> | | Marvis McNeil |
| <u>CHOIR DIRECTOR</u> | | Marty Cantleberry |
| <u>ASSISTING MINISTER</u> | 5:30 p.m. | |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Dawn Grzeskowiak |
| <u>LECTOR</u> | 5:30 p.m. | Gail Atkins |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Dawn Grzeskowiak |
| <u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u> | 5:30 p.m. | Sue Robb |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Zully Dameworth, Sandra Christopherson |
| <u>HEAD USHER</u> | | Roy Wekwert |
| <u>USHERS & GREETERS</u> | 5:30 p.m. | Patti Byce, Jimmy Nensewitz |
| | 9:00 am. | Roy Wekwert, Ryan Panknin |
| | | Jesse & Jessica O’Neil |
| <u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u> | | Nena Shipman, Ashley MacKay |
| | | Bonnie Duby, Cathy Kieliszewski |
| <u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u> | | Jesse & Jessica O’Neil |
| <u>ALTAR CARE</u> | | Patti Byce and Laurie Stafford |

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Worship Service
celebrates and shares God’s love and compassion
727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707
Phone 989-356-1658
www.stpaul.org
A Stephen Ministry Congregation

Monthly Ministry Highlight:
Scholarship Ministry



November 29, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
November 30, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

Pastor John and Miss Nena have planned Advent Educational Opportunities, that will run December 3rd – 17th
Pastor John’s Class will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class will also meet on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. Pastor John will hold a Book Study on “A Long Obedience in the Same Direction” by Eugene Peterson and Miss Nena will lead a “Faithful Christmas Through Joseph’s Eyes” Study.

Grace Lutheran Church is having a Christmas Bake Sale on Saturday, December 6th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. It will feature assorted cookies, bread, candy and other baked items.

The Taste from Home Group will be meeting on Monday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. for our annual cookie packing event. If you would like to join our group, please contact Nancy Smith at mrsmith6@gmail.com or 989-255-0976.

The Forget-Me-Nots will meet at noon on Tuesday, December 9th at the 19th Hole. If you have not already signed up for the luncheon, call Ann at (989) 590-2055.

The Soul Sisters are gathering on Monday, December 9th, at 5:30 p.m. in the education rooms on the 2nd floor. We will have light meal followed by Christmas card signing for St. Paul shut-ins and MediLodge residents. If you have Christmas cards you would like to donate that would be appreciated. Please contact Val by email, vurban_63@hotmail.com, or phone 989-356-4613 or 989-916-5560, if you plan on attending. Come join us.

Life Line Screening, the nation’s leading provider of preventive health screenings will offer non-invasive and painless health screenings at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Monday, December 15th. A package of four screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered for \$129.00. Please call 1-888-324-9458 to register or visit LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA. Three discount tickets are available.

The Adventure Club will go Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 21st at 5:00 p.m. Please join us at the church as we head out to share God’s love with our voices in the community.

The December Service Activity is Sanborn Elementary School. Items needed: Chapstick, non perishable snacks - like single serve beef sticks and crackers, mini or travel size lotions, hair brushes, boys jogging pants—gray or black sizes 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, Crayola colored pencils, dry erase color marker sets. reusable water bottles, heavy duty gloves or mittens - larger children sizes made for winter weather, winter scarves in child sizes. Leave items on the altar.

Stephen Ministry call to service: The Stephen Ministry team is looking for a few more servant leaders to be trained as Stephen Ministers to reach out a listening ear to those going through challenging times in their lives. Three individuals (two men) are approved to begin training on January 8th. Keep this vital ministry in your prayers.

| WEEK AT A GLANCE: NOVEMBER 30—DECEMBER 7, 2025 | |
|--|---|
| <u>SUN.</u> | Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. - 10:30 |
| <u>MON.</u> | Church Decorating–2:00 p.m.; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:30 p.m.; Monday Night Activity—6:00 |
| <u>TUES.</u> | Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Education – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m. |
| <u>WED.</u> | Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Prayer Shawl – 10:30 a.m.; Advent Lunch/Worship – 12:00 p.m.; Bible Study (Pastor John) – 1:00 & 5:30 p.m.; Choir – 4:30 p.m.; Bible Study (Nena) – 5:30 p.m. |
| <u>THURS.</u> | Men’s Breakfast (JJs) – 7:00 a.m.; Open Line Dance – 1:00 p.m.; Chair Yoga – 3:00 p.m.; Trust – 3:30 p.m.; Singles – 5:30 p.m. |
| <u>FRI.</u> | Line Dancing – 11:00 a.m. |
| <u>SAT.</u> | Fellowship – 4:30 p.m.; Worship/HC – 5:30 p.m. |
| <u>SUN.</u> | Worship/HC–9:00 a.m.; Fellowship–10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. - 10:30 |

St. Paul Lutheran Church celebrates and shares God’s love and compassion.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bob Arthur – health issues | Tim Moggie – surgery | Paul Kroll – health issues |
| Lianna Kruttlin – health issues | Geraldine Wyman – health issues | Katelyn Sims – health issues |
| Mark Byce – health issues | Greg Dziesinski- health issues | Lisa Dziesinski-health issues |
| Katelyn Sims – health issues | Tina Yeager – health issues | Mollie Skiba – fell/recovery |
| Laura – health issues | Cody Franklin – leukemia | Abby Franklin - recovery |
| Karen Wallace–unspecified need | Phyllis Robb-unspecified need | Shelly Hoffmeyer-recovery |
| Carol Kuhl – health issues | Margaret Lucian – health issues | Lee Werth—health issues |
| Ric Schmidt – recovery from surgery | Ann Martin – medical issues | Dena Stevens – health issues |
| Adam Schmidt- health issues | John Wegmeyer– health issues | Herb Schiller – health issues |
| | Marlis Roznowski–health issues | Malary Smith – unspecified |

We also remember our homebound members. They are Geraldine Wyman, Phyllis Robb, and Norm Dutcher.
(Prayer is the best medicine and we are prepared to pray indefinitely for folks. Would you help the church office keep our list current? Unless we know otherwise, our normal practice is to remove names after a month. Thank you.)

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Trinity Lutheran Church, Manton, Rev. Rosanne Anderson.

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the 3 M Men’s Breakfast Group.

| <u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u> | <u>END OF SEPTEMBER</u> | <u>YEAR TO DATE</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Saturday 11/22 5:30 p.m. 39 | Income 47,394.50 | 287,906.01 |
| Sunday 11/23 9:00 a.m. 56 | <u>Expenses 36,066.24</u> | <u>294,668.04</u> |
| 10:30 a.m. <u>50</u> | Difference 11,328.26 | (6,762.03) |
| Total 145 | | |

Condolences to: the family and friends of Lyla Wyman who joined our Lord in eternity November 20, 2025. Her funeral service was held at Bannan Funeral Home on November 25, 2025.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL (foot of the cross) are given as a “Happy Anniversary” to Patrick and Nancy Smith on their 38th Wedding Anniversary, November 28th.

The Advent Devotionals are done and in the Narthex. Pick one up today and be inspired by the stories shared.

The remaining items from the Christmas Bazaar are in the dining room until the end of this month, so check them out. If you brought items for the bazaar, you may pick them up after today or they will be stored for next year

Reminder: Next Sunday is Popcorn/Movie Day for Children’s Church! Adults can sneak some too.

Come join the celebration, servant volunteers needed to help decorate the building for the Advent and Christmas Season on Monday, December 1st beginning at 2:00 p.m. Call Donna Kensa if you can help at 989-464-5385. Thanks!

This year we will have Advent Services on Wednesdays at 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. on December 3rd, 10th, & 17th. We will have a meal at noon followed by a short service at 12:25 p.m. Come and share this time of preparation for the Christ Child. We need volunteers to help prepare a simple meal.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
November 30, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

*Congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

Welcome! Celebrations of birthdays, anniversaries and a time to welcome our guests. We ask that you fill out the communion card and place it in the offering plate.

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Please Stand)
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

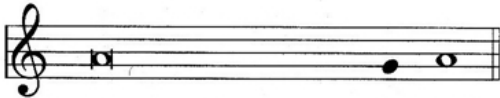
Long-expected God,
we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God’s timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” (Red) #244

GREETING
Pastor: The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
People: And also with you.

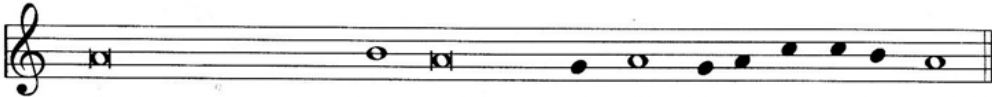
KYRIE (Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service)



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



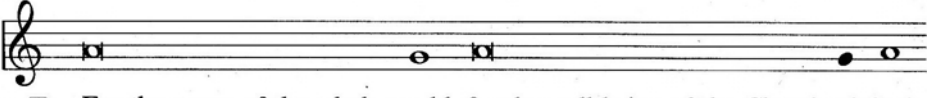
C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



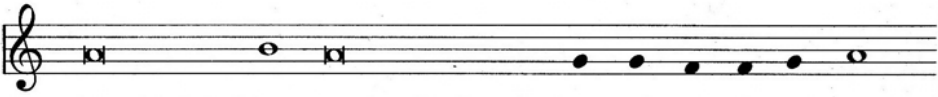
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



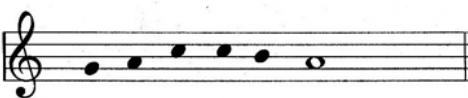
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.

SERMON NOTES

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“Fling Wide the Door”

(Red) #259

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.
Thanks be to God.

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HYMN OF PRAISE *(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service)*

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and




strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

Refrain




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

2



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Light the first candle.

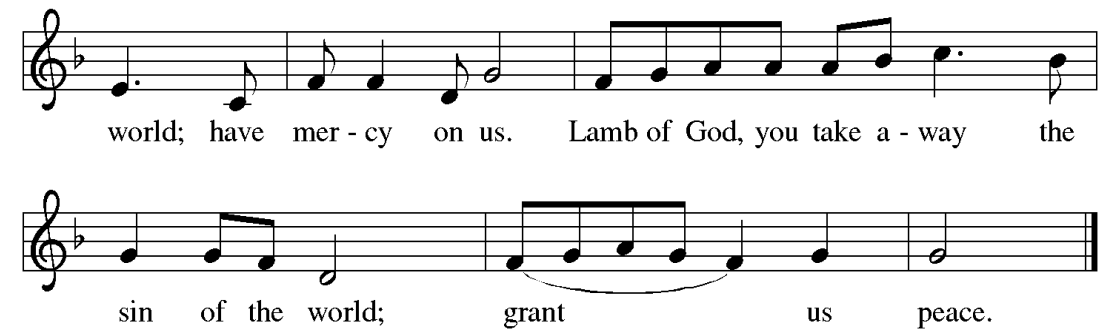
(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. Judgement Pronounced on Arrogance ⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



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

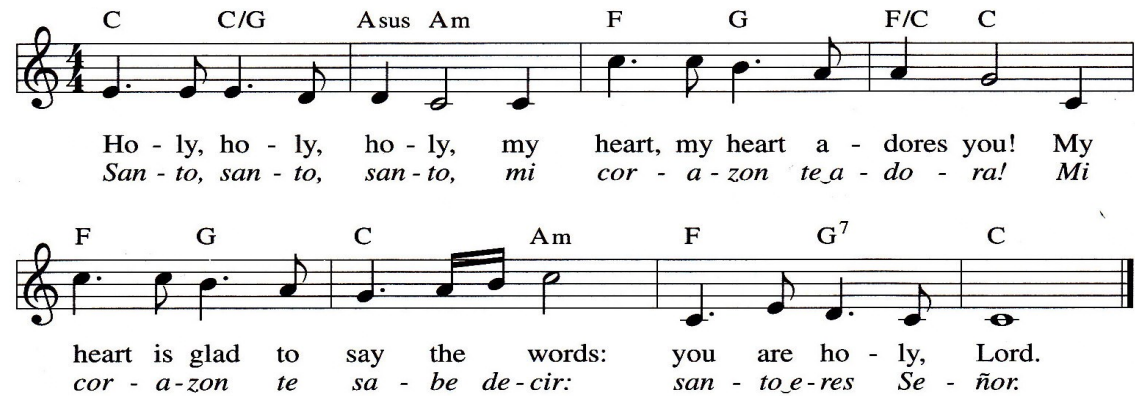
POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"



Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

C C/G Asus Am F G F/C C



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dore you! My
San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.
cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

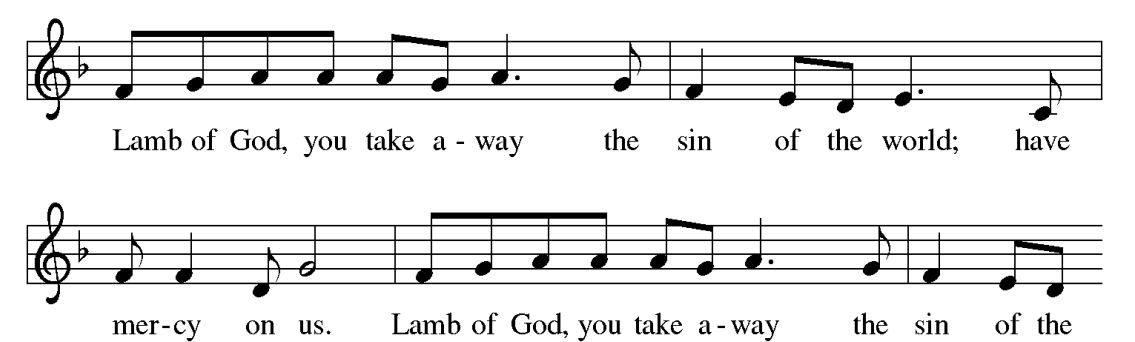
Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**People: 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.**

(Pleased be seated)
HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Christ is both the host and the meal. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. Those not receiving Communion are invited forward for a blessing. There is grape juice for those who prefer it.

"Lamb of God"



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

PSALM: Psalm 122 (Read Responsively)

I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'
Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.
Jerusalem—built as a city that is bound firmly together.
To it the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, as was decreed for Israel, to give thanks to the name of the Lord.
For there the thrones for judgement were set up, the thrones of the house of David.
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: 'May they prosper who love you.
Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers.'
For the sake of my relatives and friends I will say, 'Peace be within you.'
For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek your good.

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; ¹³ let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)
Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

³⁶ 'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew

nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

The Gospel of Our Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Children's Message/Noisy Offering

“Jesus Loves Me”
 Jesus loves me this I know
 For the Bible tells me so
 Little ones to Him belong
 They are weak but He is strong
 Yes Jesus loves me. Yes Jesus loves me
 Yes Jesus loves me the Bible tells me so

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(Please be seated)

SERMON “The Days of Noah” Pastor John Shipman

(Please stand)

HYMN OF THE DAY “He Came Down” (Red) #253

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

People: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH God of grace,
hear our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

(Please stand)

(Sung at the 9:00 a.m. service.)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise . . . *(concluding)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn: