

**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.	Phil Wickstrom
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Phil Wickstrom
	9:00 a.m.	Shirley Jones
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Sue Robb
	9:00 a.m.	Janice Boboltz
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS &amp; GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Dawn Grzeskowiak and Michael Yakes
	9:00 am.	Richard Miller, Dennis Dziesinski
		Jeff Ciupka, Barb Szczesniak
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Karen Wekwert, Sue Robb, Amy DeRosia
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Cathy Kieliszewski and Mary Courtney
<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. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Alpena, MI 49707  
Phone 989-356-1658  
[www.stpaul.org](http://www.stpaul.org)  
***A Stephen Ministry Congregation***

Monthly Ministry Highlight:  
*Outside Agencies that  
Use our Building*



**December 6, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**December 7, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.**

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

**The Soul Sisters are gathering on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, and inviting all ladies to join them,** at 5:30 p.m. in the education rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. We will have light meal followed by Christmas card signing for St. Paul shut-ins. Bring Christmas cards if you would like to donate. Contact Val Urban or Shirley Jones if you plan on attending.

**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 15<sup>th</sup>. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Scouting America Troop 92 invites you to a Breakfast Fundraiser at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> from 8:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.** Free Will Offering. All you can eat plus take-out option. If you have any questions please contact Scoutmaster Steve Donajkowski at 989-255-6521.

**If you would like** to donate funds to go toward enhancing decorations for the sanctuary at Christmas as a memorial to loved ones or in honor of someone, forms are available for you to fill out in the Narthex and in the church office. The names of the memorials will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** will be at 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>. Holy Communion will be served at all services. **Please join us for our Christmas Day Worship** on December 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. There will be a Unity Service on December 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Please note: that will be the only service that weekend. So, plan now to join us.

**If you would like to serve** as an usher, acolyte, or cross-bearer for one of the Christmas Eve services, please sign up today on the sheet in the Narthex. Thank you!

**The December Service Activity is Sanborn Elementary School.** See your December newsletter or look online for items needed. Please leave your donated items on the altar. Thank you.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>DECEMBER 7—14, 2025</i>	
<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>	Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:30 p.m.; Christmas Bazaar Wrap-Up Meeting – 5:30 p.m.; A Taste from Home – 6:00 p.m.; Monday Night Activity—6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Forget-Me-Nots – 12:00 p.m.; Soul Sisters & Ladies Christmas Card Signing and Light Meal – 5:30 p.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Ushers Meeting – 5:30 p.m.; Church Council – 6:00 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30
<u>WED.</u>	Breakfast Belles – 7:30 a.m.; Advent Lunch/Worship – 12:00 p.m.; Bible Study (Pastor John) – 1:00 and 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.; Stephen Ministry – 3:30
<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:

Darlene Ackerman – health issues	Tim Moggie – surgery	Paul Kroll – health issues
Lianna Kruttlin – health issues	Nancy Yahne –surgery	Tina Yeager – health issues
Mark Byce – health issues	Greg Dziesinski- health issues	Lisa Dziesinski-health issues
Katelyn Sims – health issues	Malary Smith – unspecified	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	

ARMED SERVICES: Katie Copping, Jake Przysiecki, Noah Hardesty, Dominick Christou, Sawyer Hein, Rachael Mayes, Brandon Sloan, Andrew Hein, Justin A. Smith, Maragely Hein, Amelia Berles, Josh Gapske, Nicole Stafford, Chuck Dziedzic, and Dale Kirkendoll. *(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: All Saints Lutheran Church, Mason, Rev. Gerald Ferguson.

**We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church.** This week we specifically pray for the 3 M Men’s Quarterly Evening Fellowship.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

Saturday 11/29	5:30 p.m.	52
Sunday 11/30	9:00 a.m.	Snow
	10:30 a.m.	<u>Storm</u>
	Total	52

END OF SEPTEMBER

Income	47,394.50
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>36,066.24</u>
Difference	11,328.26

YEAR TO DATE

287,906.01
<u>294,668.04</u>
(6,762.03)

**CONDOLENCES TO:** the family and friends of Robert Arthur who joined our Lord in eternity on November 27, 2025. His memorial service was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on December 4, 2025.

**CONDOLENCES TO:** the family and friends of Geraldine Wyman who joined our Lord in eternity on November 28, 2025. Her funeral service was held at St. Paul Lutheran Church on December 5, 2025.

**THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL** (foot of the cross) are given to the glory of God.

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

**The Wednesday Advent Services continue** at 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. on December 10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>. We 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.

**Pastor John and Miss Nena have planned Advent Educational Opportunities, that will run December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>.** Pastor John’s Class meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and Miss Nena’s class also meets 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.

**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](mailto:mrsmith6@gmail.com) or 989-255-0976.

**GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 6, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.**

**December 7, 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**

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

(Red) #239

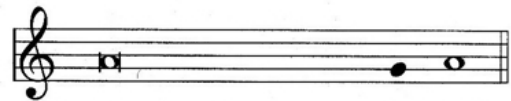
**GREETING**

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)

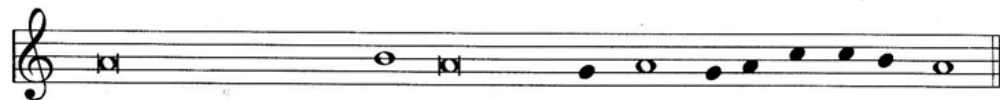
SERMON NOTES



**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



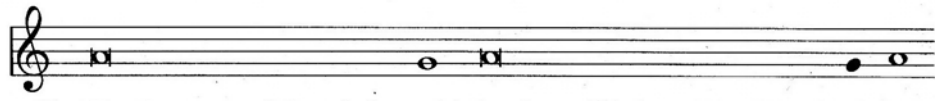
**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



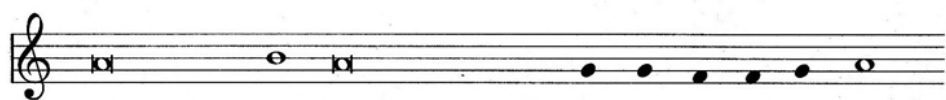
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



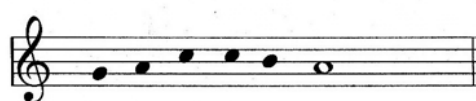
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**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.

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God,  
and lead us forth in joy with shouts  
of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

## 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

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

(Red) #264

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

**Thanks be to God.**

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS103345

## 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 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Pastor: We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

*Light two candles.*

*(Please be seated)*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup>The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

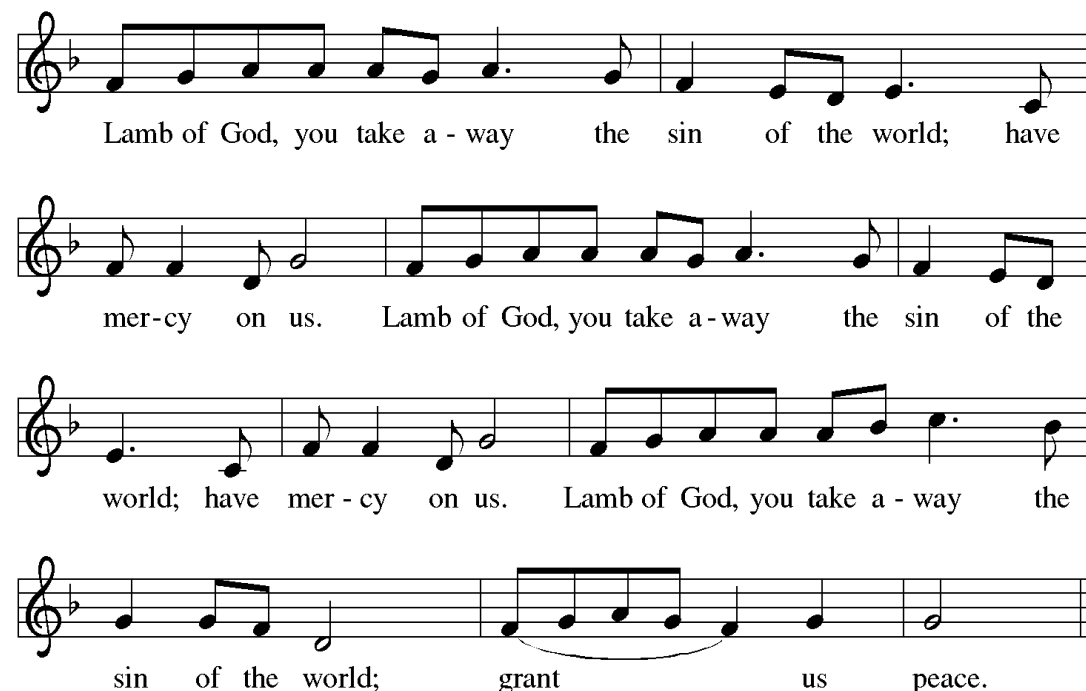
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever and ever. **Amen.**

*(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"



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"

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:  
 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores 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,**

**PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 (Read Responsively)**

Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to a king's son.  
**May he judge your people with righteousness, and your poor with justice.**  
 May the mountains yield prosperity for the people, and the hills, in righteousness.  
**May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy, and crush the oppressor.**  
 May he live while the sun endures, and as long as the moon, throughout all generations.  
**May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass, like showers that water the earth.**  
 In his days may righteousness flourish and peace abound, until the moon is no more.  
**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.**  
 Blessed be his glorious name for ever; may his glory fill the whole earth.  
 Amen and Amen.

**SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)**

<sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; <sup>10</sup>and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; <sup>11</sup>and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; <sup>12</sup>and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.' <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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 3:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup> ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>3</sup> This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”’

<sup>4</sup> Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup> Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup> Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with[c] the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

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

CCLI Song No. 5152333; © 2001 Stormey Music | P.E. Velvet Music (Admin. by Integrated Copyright Group, Inc.); Billy Aerts | Kenneth Harding; All rights Reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com); CCLI License No. 2311887

*(Please be seated)*

SERMON

## “The Voice of One”

Pastor John Shipman

*(Please stand)*

HYMN OF THE DAY      “On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

(Red) #249

## 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.**

## PRAVERS 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