

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.

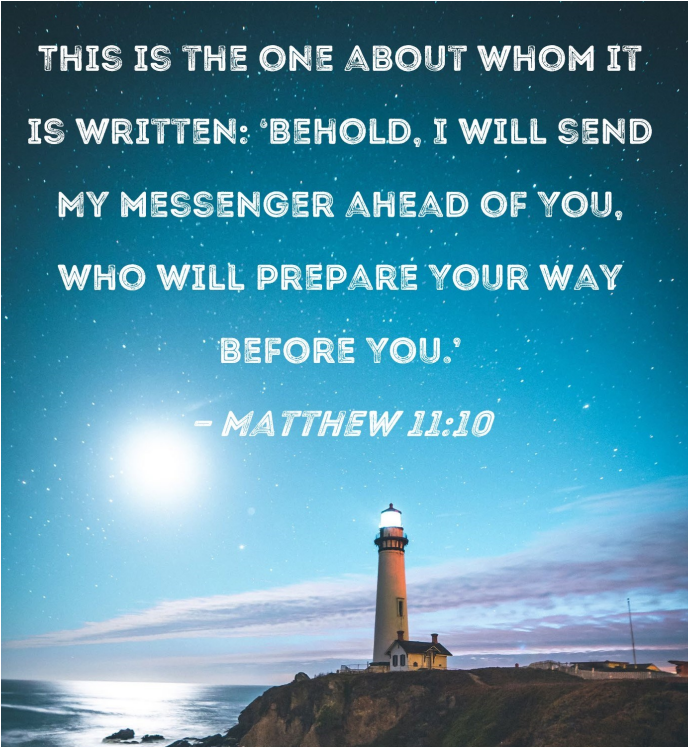
There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

<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.	Carol Kindt
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak
<u>LECTOR</u>	5:30 p.m.	Myra Gapske
	9:00 a.m.	Barb Szczesniak
<u>FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Joan Smolinski
	9:00 a.m.	Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
<u>HEAD USHER</u>		Roy Wekwert
<u>USHERS & GREETERS</u>	5:30 p.m.	Tim and Barb Smith
	9:00 am.	Cathy Kieliszewski, Roy Wekwert
		Paul Kieliszewski, Ryan Panknin
<u>CHILDREN’S CHURCH LEADERS</u>		Joanne Huggler, Rita Chase
		Nena Shipman, Jean Johnson
<u>LITTLES’ WORSHIP CENTER LEADERS</u>		Andrea Dutcher, Evie Bicker
<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:
*Outside Agencies that
Use our Building*



December 13, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
December 14, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.

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.

Scouting America Troop 92 invites you to a Breakfast Fundraiser at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Sunday, December 21st 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 deadline to take names and donations is December 15th.***

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services** will be at 3:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 24th. Holy Communion will be served at all services. **Please join us for our Christmas Day Worship** on December 25th at 9:00 a.m. There will be a Unity Service on December 28th 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. 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.

All are invited to our January Video Educational Experience on Wednesday, January 7th at 6:00 p.m. We will be watching “Unsung Hero” and a meal will be provided with discussion throughout.

The **Epiphany Dessert** event will be January 10, 2026 after the Saturday service. We need volunteers to make desserts and/or host a table. Please contact Doreen if interested, at 989-916-9172. Sign-up sheets are posted.

WEEK AT A GLANCE: <i>DECEMBER 14—21, 2025</i>	
<u>SUN.</u>	Worship/HC – 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship – 10:00; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. - 10:30 a.m.
<u>MON.</u>	Newsletter Deadline; Life Line Screening; Line Dancing – 2:00 p.m.; E.T.A. – 5:30 p.m.; Monday Night Activity—6:00 p.m.
<u>TUES.</u>	Dinner on a Doorknob – 9:00 a.m.; Cub Scouts – 5:30 p.m.; Scouting America – 6:30 p.m.
<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
<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>	Scout Breakfast–8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.; Worship/HC–9:00 a.m.; Fellowship–10:00 a.m.; Contemporary Service/Children’s Church/C.I.A. - 10:30 a.m.; The Adventure Club Christmas Caroling – 5:00 p.m.

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

<u>WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:</u>	Tim Moggie – surgery	Paul Kroll – health issues
Darlene Ackerman – health issues	Nancy Yahne –surgery	Tina Yeager – health issues
Lianna Kruttlin – health issues	Greg Dzieszinski- health issues	Nancy St. Onge – health issues
Mark Byce – health issues	Malary Smith – unspecified	Lisa Dzieszinski-health issues
Katelyn Sims – health issues	Cody Franklin – leukemia	Abby Franklin - recovery
Laura – health issues	Phyllis Robb-unspecified need	Shelly Hoffmeyer-recovery
Karen Wallace–unspecified need	Margaret Lucian – health issues	Lee Werth—health issues
Carol Kuhl – health issues	Ann Martin – medical issues	Dena Stevens – health issues
Ric Schmidt – recovery from surgery	John Wegmeyer– health issues	Herb Schiller – health issues
Adam Schmidt- health issues	Marlis Roznowski–health issues	Mollie Skiba – fell/recovery
<i>(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.)</i>		

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod: Christ Lutheran Church, Michigan Center, Rev. Robert Martin.

We pray for the Dynamic Ministries here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. This week we specifically pray for the Breakfast Belles.

<u>WORSHIP ATTENDANCE</u>		<u>END OF SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
Wednesday 12/03	37	Income 47,394.50	287,906.01
Saturday 12/06 5:30 p.m.	57	<u>Expenses</u> 36,066.24	<u>294,668.04</u>
Sunday 12/07 9:00 a.m.	56	Difference 11,328.26	(6,762.03)
10:30 a.m.	<u>47</u>		
Total	197		

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

The Wednesday Advent Services continue at 12:00 – 12:45 p.m. on December 17th. 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 through December 17th. 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 Book Study is on “A Long Obedience in the Same Direction” by Eugene Peterson and Miss Nena leads a “Faithful Christmas Through Joseph’s Eyes” study.

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.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
December 14, 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.

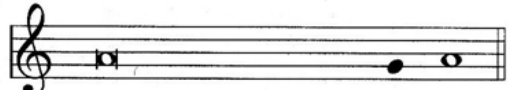
Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and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

GATHERING HYMN “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (Red) #257


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)

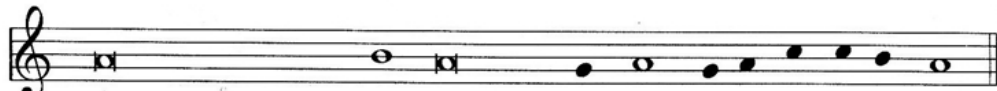
SERMON NOTES




A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



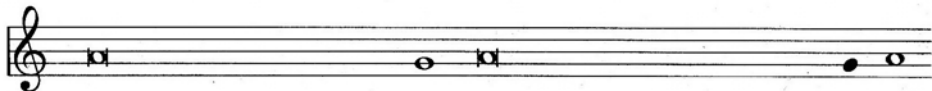
C Lord, have mer - cy.




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




C Lord, have mer - cy.



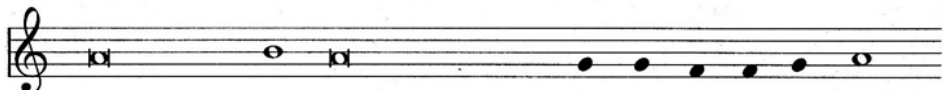
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



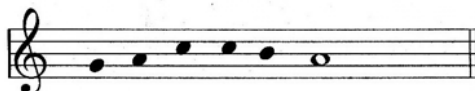
and for the uni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



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

“People, Look East”

(Red) #248

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 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 the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in our coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; 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 victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Light three candles.

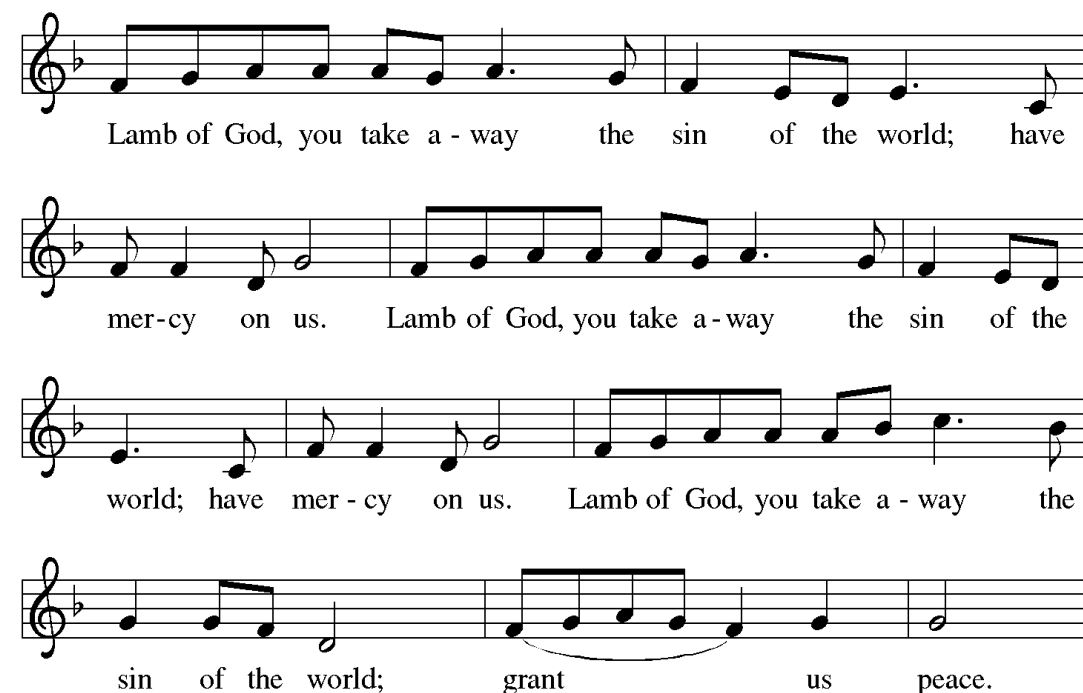
(Please be seated)

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; ⁸ the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁹ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. ¹⁰ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹¹ And the ransomed

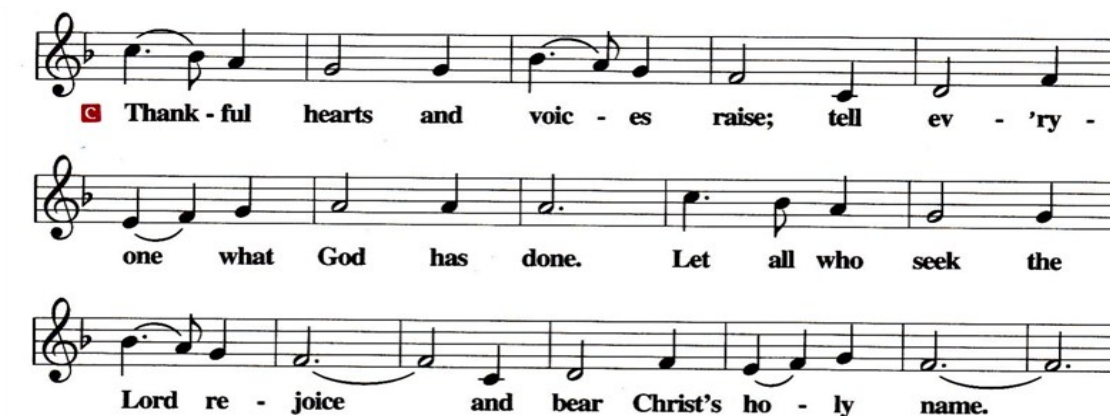
"Lamb of God"

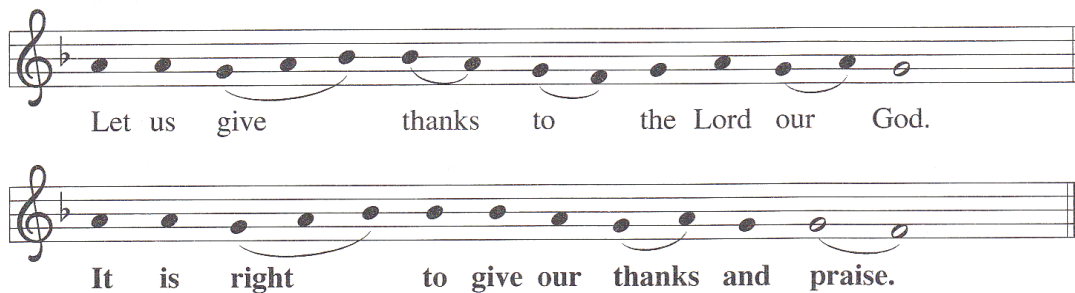


Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

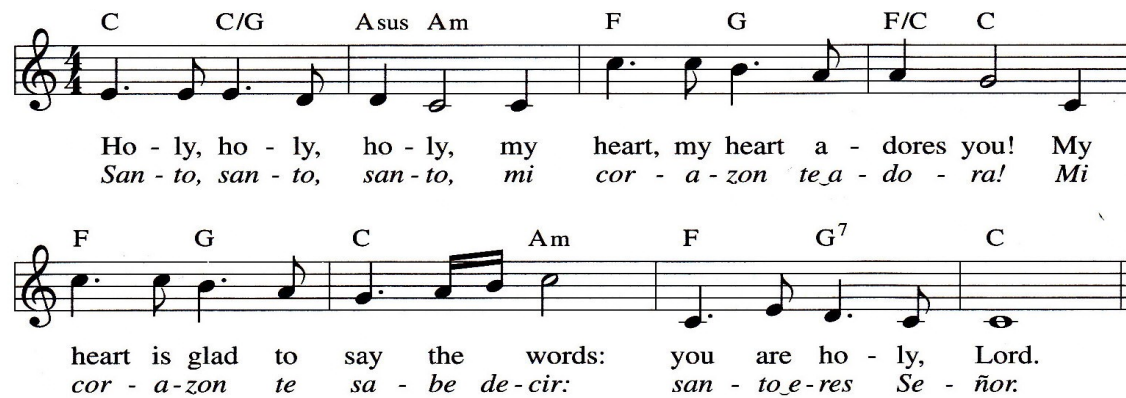
POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

"Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise"





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



EUCHARISTIC 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.

of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 146:5-10 (Read Responsively)

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, **who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith for ever;**
 who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.
 The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
The Lord will reign for ever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

SECOND READING: James 5:7-10 (Sunday 9:00 a.m.)

⁷ Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸ You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹ Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Please Stand)
Gospel Acclamation



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

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2-11

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?’ ⁴ Jesus answered them, ‘Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.’ ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: ‘What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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

Children’s Message

“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

“Waiting For Another” Pastor John Shipman

(Please stand)
HYMN OF THE DAY

“Christ, Be Our Light” (Red) #715

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 also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.