

December 21, 2025, 4th Sunday in Advent
Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church (LCMS)
321 N 10th, Beatrice, NE 68310

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Opening Hymn 332: Savior of the Nations, Come

Stand

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Silence for reflection

Confession of Sins

LSB 151

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Absolution

LSB 151

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 130:5–8; antiphon: Isaiah 64:1

P: Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.

**C: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;**

P: my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.

**C: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is
steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.**

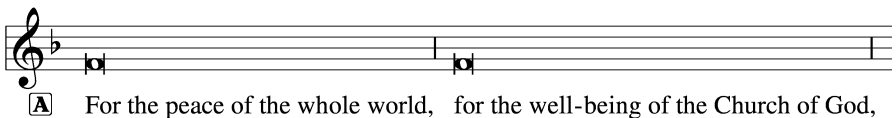
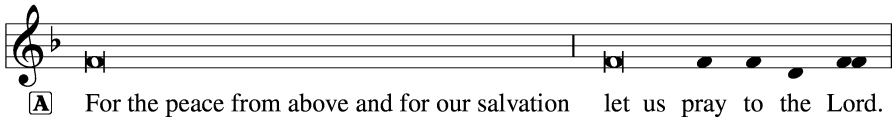
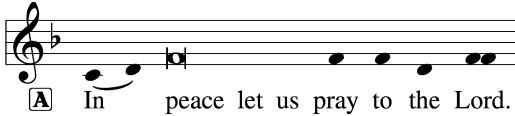
P: And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

***ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

P: Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains might quake at your presence.

Kyrie

LSB 152

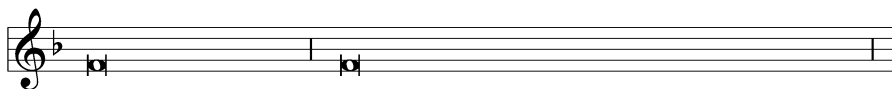




and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



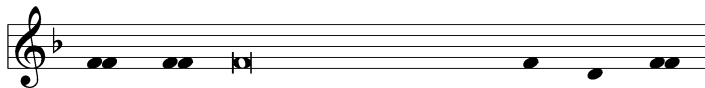
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 7:10–17

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test.” ¹³And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the boy knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land whose two kings you dread will be deserted. ¹⁷The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father’s house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 1:1–7

¹Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the'. The second staff continues the melody with 'words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18–25

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day: 357 O Come O Come, Emmanuel

Sermon

Dedication of Funeral Banner and Stand

Prayer of the Church

Congregation responds “**Lord, have mercy**” after each petition.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Offertory

LSB 159

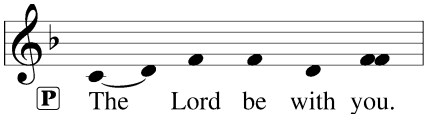


What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all His ben-e-fits to
me? I will of - fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv - ing and will
call on the name of the Lord. I will take the cup of sal-
va - tion and will call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my
vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all His peo-ple, in the
courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je - ru - sa - lem.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

LSB 160



P The Lord be with you.



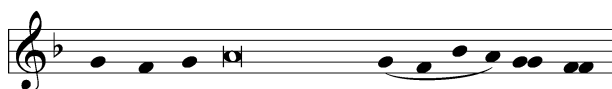
C And al - so with you.



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 Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

Sanctus

LSB 161



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



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. 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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth,

C **Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

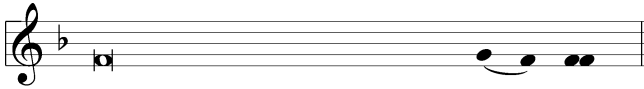
C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,**

**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.**

Pax Domini

LSB 163



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163



C 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.

Sit

Distribution Hymns

341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide

620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing

Thank the Lord

LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev'-ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

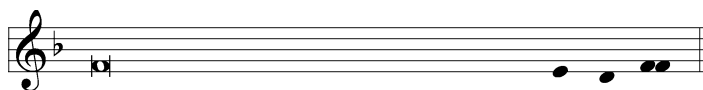
We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Benediction

LSB 166



P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.



C A - men.

Departing Hymn: 361 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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Please remember with prayers, cards, texts, or calls, our sisters- and brothers-in-Christ who are hospitalized or at home: Mary Scheve, Angie Fossler, Mike Holthus, Cheri McConnell, Cindy Weise (all with cancer); Pat Nave; Doris Sohl (Holly Norris' mother); Marge Itzen; Olivia Hatzenbuehler and William Kelley (military,) and the family of Carline Mencl. ****Please contact the church by Thursday morning if you have a prayer request or when you no longer wish to be on the prayer list.**

Welcome! We're glad you're here and hope to see you again soon! Please sign the guest book at the entrance of the church. If you do not have a church home, are interested in the teachings of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod,

or interested in becoming a member of St. Paul's, please speak to the Pastor, Elder, Usher, or the church office.

Communion Guidance: Visitors wanting to commune should speak to the pastor or an elder prior to the service. Our summary of faith is available on our webpage and in print in the pews to help you determine if you share in our confession of faith. LCMS members and those from congregations in fellowship with LCMS are always welcome to participate in communion.

Pastor Karl Hollibaugh, our Interim Pastor, is at church Wednesday afternoons to commune shut-ins and evenings for confirmation class. If you'd like to see him please call him at 225-361-5121 to schedule an appointment.

Serving Today:

Elder: Greg Penner

Pastor: Rev. Karl Hollibaugh

Organist: Arvid Wiest

Reader: Shari Pack

Greeters: Wayne & Chris Schulz

Acolytes: Miley Loomis, Mia Holthus

Ushers: Steve Sandman, Brian Hoops, Vaughn Wright, Colton Siefken

Today's broadcast and bulletin are sponsored by Craig and Julie Fisher in celebration of their wedding anniversary (Dec 22) and birthdays this week (Dec 20 & 21).

Children's Bulletins this quarter are sponsored by Jared & Hannah Himmelberg in honor of Everett's Oct 7 Baptism Anniversary
(Sponsorships are available of broadcasts (\$100), bulletins (\$25) & children's bulletins. Call the church office to schedule.)

Birthdays this week: *(if yours is missing, let us know!)*

20 Craig Fisher

21 Micah Busboom, Julie Fisher

22 Bryan McAllister, Gary Rogge

23 Norma Sohl

25 Christine Morris, Susan Schouboe, Allison Smith

26 Braedyn Carpenter, Lynette Hartman

27 Preston Jurgens, Shelly Luehring, Holli Penner, Justin Smith

28 Bryleigh Boltz, Collin Hartig, Chloe Lerma

Anniversaries this week: *(if yours is missing, let us know!)*

22 Craig & Julie Fisher, 11 years

23 Melvin & Connie Oltmans, 59 years

26 John & Carolyn Bartels, 65 years

28 Norm & Cheri McConnell, 45 years

Pastor Hollibaugh will dedicate a funeral banner and stand in memory of Larry Weishahn and Dorothy Nichols today, donated by Bev Weishahn.

Helpers are needed to **fill communion cups on Saturday mornings and wash them after** services one week a month. Thanks for considering helping with this.

Confirmation Class Pictures wanted! We are looking for group pictures of the confirmation classes of 2010, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2022, 2023, and 2024 for the display in the basement. If you have any of these, would you be willing to put it in an envelope and leave it in the church office? We would appreciate it if you could name the youth in the picture. We will make a 5 x7 copy of the picture and return yours to you. Thank you!

Happening this week:

Sunday, Dec 21	8:00 am KWBE Broadcast of previous week 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Children's Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
Wednesday, Dec 24	4:30 & 7:00 pm Worship (no communion)
Thursday, Dec 25	9:00 am Divine Service
Sunday, Dec 28	8:00 am KWBE Broadcast of previous week 9:00 am Divine Service 10:15 am Adult Bible Study (No Children's Sunday School)
Wednesday, Dec 31	7:00 pm Divine Service

Poinsettias: The church will not be taking orders for poinsettias this year but we invite you to share poinsettias you have purchased personally (from anywhere). You may bring them to church anytime and place it in the chapel area. The altar guild will arrange them in the front of the church. All sizes and colors are welcome! We are excited to see the wide variety displayed!

Call Committee update: As you are aware, congregational members were asked to fill out a questionnaire provided by the district. Once those were completed, the Committee summarized the results and submitted them to District President Snow. President Snow gave a presentation to anyone in the congregation who was interested and made suggestions for additional ideas for our responses. The Committee met again to consider his suggestions and to supply some updated statistical data. That information was submitted to Pastor Snow. The Committee is now waiting for a list of potential candidates from Pastor Snow.

Because of your dedication, the 225 Fall Food Shelf Challenge, Thrivent Member Network, achieved:

- **60,392 items collected**
- **\$5,948 donated**
- **2,867 volunteers** contributing **1,992 hours of service**
- Impact across **35 counties in Nebraska**
- And as a generosity multiplier to your efforts, **\$25,000 will be donated directly to local food shelves**

These numbers represent more than statistics - they reflect hope, generosity, and the power of community. Each can of food, each dollar given, each hour volunteered was a gift to neighbors in need.

Our school saves **Russ's Market Register Receipts** (from September through March), **Our Family and Best Choice UPC** codes. Please turn them in at the school or to the box in the church narthex. Thank you for helping with these collections. Our current total of Russ's receipts is \$164,071.11.

School's Ongoing Scrip Card Fundraiser: Order your gift cards through St. Paul's Lutheran School "Script Card" Program and our school automatically gets money in return at no extra cost to you! Order forms are located at the school office and on our school website. Orders will be placed December 8. Order Forms with payment can be turned in at the school.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

Address: 321 N 10th St, Beatrice, NE 68310 **Office:** 402-228-1540

Website: www.stpaulbeatrice.org **Email:** stpaulbeatrice@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Karl Hollibaugh; 225-361-5121;

revdochollibaugh@gmail.com

St. Paul's Lutheran School, Pre-School & Childcare

Address: 930 Prairie Lane, Beatrice, NE 68310;

Phone: 402-223-3414 **Website:** stpaulbeatrice.org

Email: stpaulschoolbeatrice@gmail.com

Lead Teacher: Jonetta Hagemeier

Childcare Director: Sheridan Martinez

- **Need to reserve the church or school?** Call Wayne Oestreich. (402-440-5054).
- **Busy Bags** for kids are in the narthex under the bulletin board.
- **Church office hours** vary at this time. Please leave a message at 402-228-1540 or email stpaulbeatrice@gmail.com.
- **For immediate or pastoral assistance**, contact Church Chair Rod Aden: 402-239-5305 or Elder Dave Doering: 402-806-1015.
- **Large print hymnals** are available by the elevator and in the back pews.

Remaining Christmas Service Schedule

- **Wednesday, Dec 24, 4:30 pm and 7:00 pm, Candlelight Services**
- **Thursday, Dec 25, 9:00 am, Divine Service**
- **Sunday, Dec 28, 9:00 am Divine Service**
- **Wednesday, NY's Eve, Dec 31, 7:00 p.m. Divine Service**

