

## **SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**

**January 4, 2026 - 8:45 AM**



### **SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A CONGREGATION OF THE DELAWARE-MARYLAND SYNOD  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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**Vertrau Auf Gott!**

**Trust in God!**



## **WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH**

as we gather in person and virtually to  
Worship in the name of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and Lord.

**Bold portions** of the bulletin are read by congregation.

### **Our Mission**

We affirm that:

God has planted us in fertile soil;  
Unified us in the waters of baptism;  
Nurtured us with Word and Sacraments;  
And called us to harvest in bountiful faith.

Therefore, the mission of Saint Paul's Cordova is to:

Be led by the Spirit of Jesus;  
Praise and worship the Trinity;  
Grow our membership with faith and love;  
And share our blessings with all God's people.

### **Holy Communion at Saint Paul's**

In the Lutheran tradition we invite persons baptized with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit to come forward to receive Holy Communion. In the mystery of this most Holy Sacrament, we receive the true Body and precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and for eternal life. Please come forward as directed by the ushers. On your way to the altar rail, please pick up a communion cup from the small table.

A note for parents – we also welcome all baptized children, regardless of age, to receive Holy Communion. Some parents wish for their children to wait until a later age to receive. If you do not wish for your children to receive, please make sure the Pastor knows that. It is not Pastor's practice to deny children Holy Communion at the altar, unless parents indicate otherwise. Welcome and hospitality are very important at this altar.

For those who have need of gluten-free hosts or unfermented grape juice, please indicate that to the Pastor and the assistant.

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## Announcements & Prelude

A Hymn in Procession – “*Bright and Glorious Is the Sky*”

Hymnal #301

### The Invocation

*Celebrant* In the Name of the Father, and of the †Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
*People* **Amen.**

### The Prayer of Invocation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### The Confession of Sin and Absolution

*Celebrant*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ said: You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.**

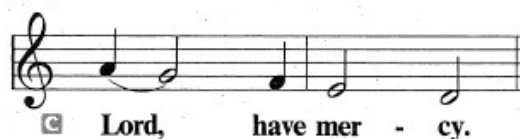
*The Celebrant declares the Absolution.*

### The Apostolic Greeting and Kyrie Eleison – “*Lord, have mercy*”

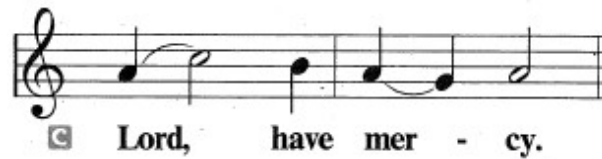
*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (Response: **And also with you.**)

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

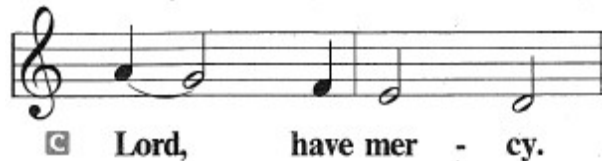
*People*



*Celebrant* For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.  
*People*



*Celebrant* For the peace of the whole world, for the wellbeing of the Church of  
*People* God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



*Celebrant* For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,  
*People* let us pray to the Lord.



*Celebrant* Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord.  
*People*



**The Canticle – “Angels We Have Heard on High”**

**Hymnal #289**

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you. *People* **And also with you.** *Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **A Reading of Jeremiah 31:7-14**

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See,

I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

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

**Psalm 84:1-8**

*Quam dilecta!*

Read responsively by verse.

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 **The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.**
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.
- 4 **Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 **They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

### A Reading of Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

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

**The Gospel Acclamation – “Let Our Gladness Have No End”** **Hymnal #291,**  
**verses 1-2**

### A Reading of the Gospel according to Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Alleluia!

*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

*People* **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

*People* **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

*Celebrant*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*          Praise to you, O Christ.

**The Gospel Acclamation – “Let Our Gladness Have No End” Hymnal #291, verses 3-4**

**The Sermon** *The Reverend Jonathon Moyers, S.T.M.*

**A Hymn – “In the Bleak Midwinter” Hymnal #294**

**The Nicene Creed**

*The Celebrant and People together*

**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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He 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 Intercession**

*After each petition, (Hear us, O God) the congregation responds: Your mercy is great.*

**The Offertory Hymn – “Brightest and Best of the Stars”**

**Hymnal #303**

#### **The Offertory Prayer**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* Eternal God, with Mary we treasure the gift of your Son, and in our hearts we ponder the mystery of his birth. Receive these offerings, that our lives may declare the wonders of your love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## The Great Thanksgiving

**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.

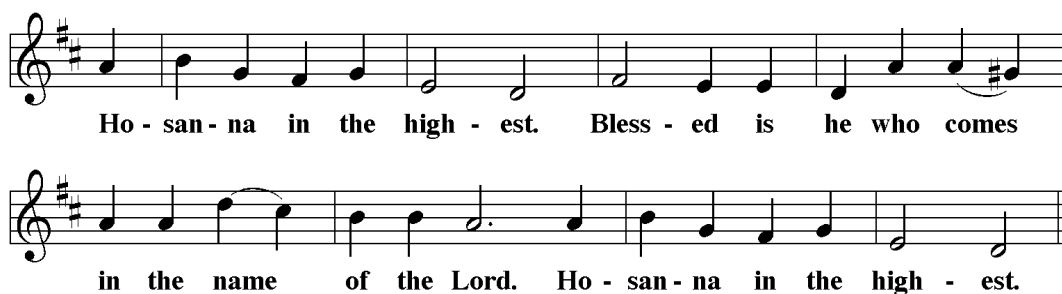
### *The Celebrant continues*

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with angels and archangels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### *The Celebrant and People together*

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

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



*The Celebrant continues*

Praise be to you, Lord of heaven and earth. You have revealed your mercy towards your people in giving your only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through this holy child born in Bethlehem's manger.

Our Lord Jesus, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

*People*                    **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, heavenly Father, we celebrate this supper in remembrance of your Son's passion and death, his resurrection and ascension. We will eat the Bread of Life and drink the Cup of Blessing until the day when he comes again in glory.

Let your Holy Spirit come into our hearts to enlighten us with a living faith. Sanctify by your Spirit this bread and wine, which earth has given and human hands have made. Here we offer them to you, that through them we may partake of the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We ask you: remember the perfect and eternal sacrifice through which, in Christ, you have reconciled us with yourself. Grant that we may be united, with Blessed Mary, ever-Virgin, Saint John the Evangelist and all the saints, into one body, and be made a † perfect living sacrifice in Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him, by the power of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

*People* (Sung) **Amen! Amen! Amen!**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant* Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

*The Celebrant and People together*

**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.**

### **The Agnus Dei – “Lamb of God”**



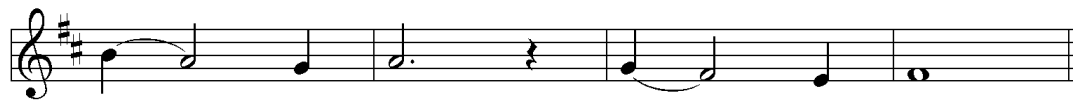
**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.**



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



**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;**



**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

### **Invitation to Holy Communion**

*Celebrant* Behold the Lamb of God. Behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his Supper.

*People* **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you. But only say the word and I shall be healed.**

## **The Distribution of Holy Communion**

*In the Evangelical-Lutheran tradition, we invite all baptized persons to receive Holy Communion at the altar. We believe that in the Blessed Sacrament we receive the true Body and precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Please come forward as directed by the usher and return by the side aisle. If you are unable to come forward, the Celebrant will bring Holy Communion to you.*

## **Post-Communion Prayer**

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

*The Celebrant and People together*

**We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

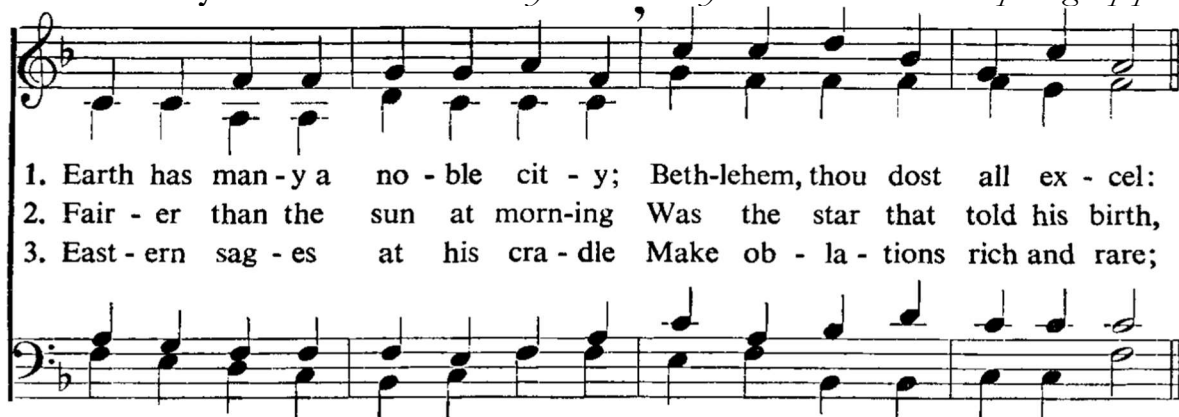
## **The Blessing**

*The Celebrant*

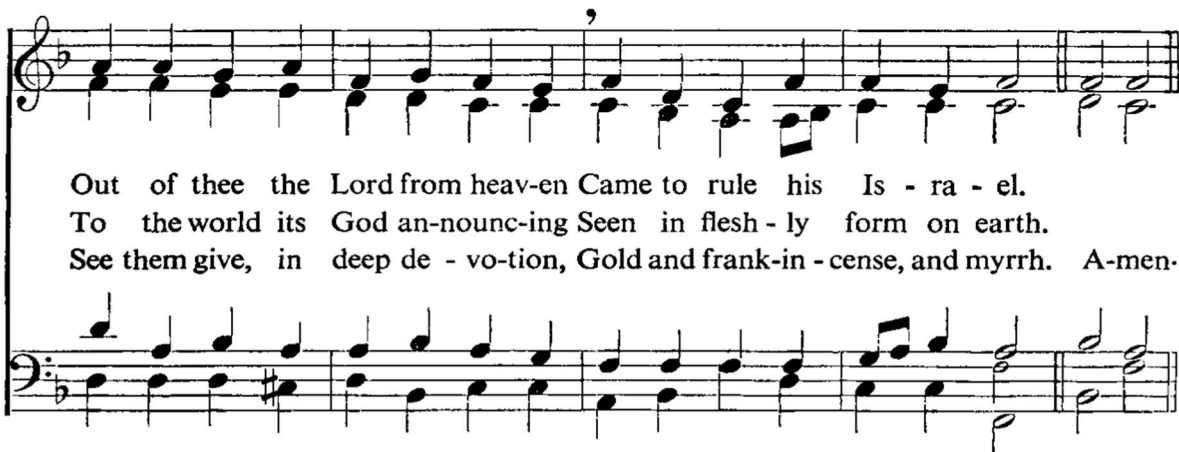
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the Name of the Father, and of the **†** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## The Final Hymn – “Earth Has Many a Noble City”

*Antipating Epiphany*



1. Earth has man - y a no - ble cit - y; Beth-lehem, thou dost all ex - cel:  
 2. Fair - er than the sun at morn-ing Was the star that told his birth,  
 3. East - ern sag - es at his cra - dle Make ob - la - tions rich and rare;



Out of thee the Lord from heav-en Came to rule his Is - ra - el.  
 To the world its God an-nounc-ing Seen in flesh - ly form on earth.  
 See them give, in deep de - vo-tion, Gold and frank-in - cense, and myrrh. A-men.

4 Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:  
 Incense doth their God disclose,  
 Gold the King of kings proclaimeth,  
 Myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.

5 Jesu, whom the Gentiles worshipped  
 At thy glad Epiphany,  
 Unto thee, with God the Father  
 And the Spirit, glory be. Amen.

*Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413*  
*Tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78*

## The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God!