

*The Word became flesh and
made his dwelling among us.*



John 1:14

**2nd Sunday after Christmas
January 4, 2026**

Welcome to
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Lakewood, Colorado

A Warm Welcome in Christ to our Worship Guests! We are glad for the opportunity to share with you the Gospel of forgiveness through Jesus. Please introduce yourself to the pastor and sign our guest book. We invite you to come worship with us again. If you would like to know more about St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and our national organization, the Church of the Lutheran Confession, please speak with the pastor. He will be happy to call on you to share our confession and mission with you. Questions? Please speak with one of the ushers. They will happy to assist you!

To Our Guests Seeking an Altar at Which to Commune: We believe that those who partake of the Lord's Supper together are giving expression to the close-knit bond of fellowship God has created among them in *all* that the Bible teaches. For this reason we ask only those who have publicly professed such oneness of faith and belief with us, by membership here or at another CLC church, to come forward to receive the Sacrament. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith but an expression of ours. If you have the desire to commune with us in the future, please speak with the Pastor at your convenience. We'd love to have you!



SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT
based on Worship Supplement 2000 (pp. 12-21)

Opening Prayer

Hymn

LSB 384 (1-4) *"Of the Father's Love Begotten"*

The Invocation

P: Welcome ... in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession of Sins & Announcement of Forgiveness

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are His own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

C: Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

The Kyrie

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, hymn-like style with quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics 'C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics 'on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.' written below it. The notation is clean and easy to read, suitable for a church service.

Glory to God in the Highest

The Gloria in Excelsis

C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,

Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:

We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,

Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray ...

C: Amen.

First Lesson

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. | 15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 148

P Praise the LORD from the heavens:

C Praise Him in the heights!

P Praise Him, all His angels:

C Praise Him, all His hosts!

P Praise Him, sun and moon:

C Praise Him, all you stars of light!

P Praise the LORD from the earth:

C Fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling His word.

P Mountains and all hills; fruitful trees and all cedars:

C Beasts and all cattle; creeping things and flying fowl.

P Kings of the earth and all peoples:

C Both young men and maidens; old men and children.

P Let them praise the name of the LORD:

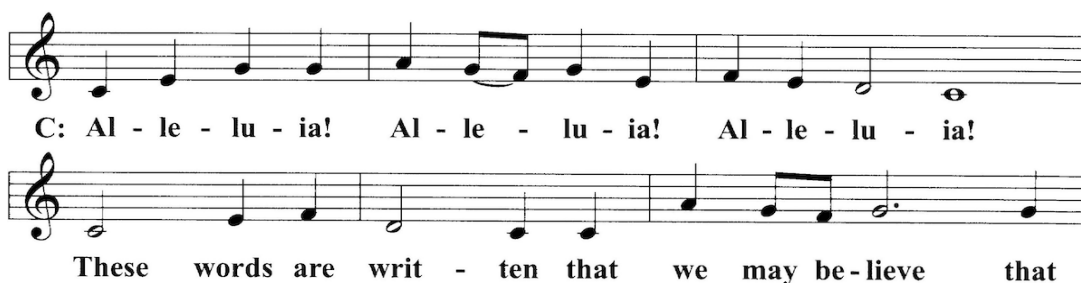
C For His name alone is exalted.

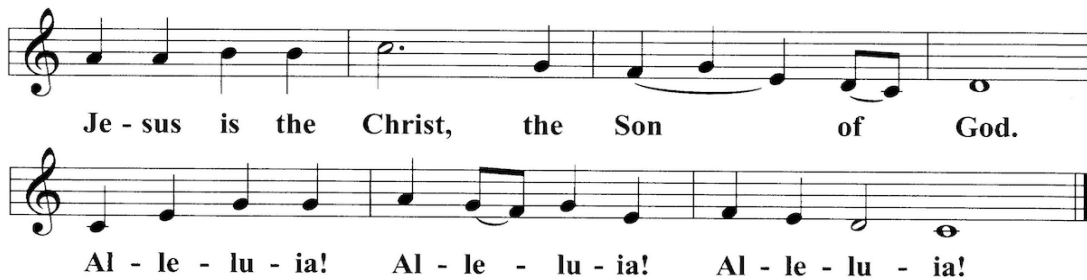
Second Lesson

John 1:14-18

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’” 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it. Alleluia!





Confession of Faith

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

LSB 392 *"God Loves Me Dearly"*

Sermon

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

"The Grand and Glorious Oaks of Righteousness"

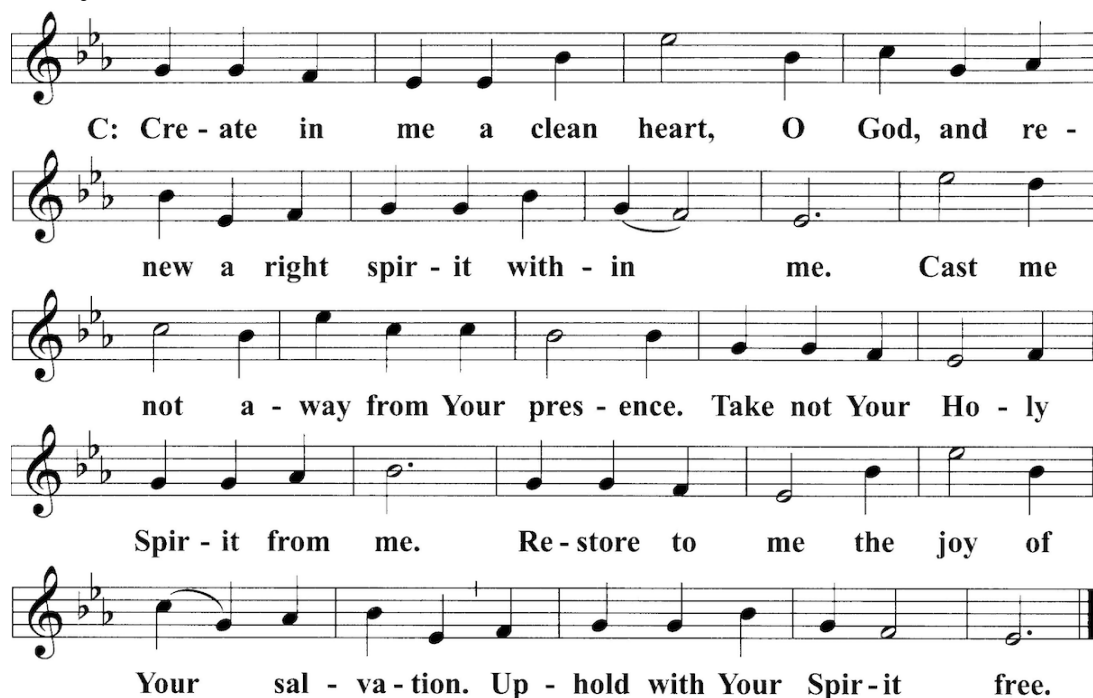
1. Planted by the Lord. 2. Decorated by Christ. 3. Resounding to His praise.

(a CLC Ministry-by-Mail sermon)

61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its

sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations. 62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. 2 The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. [ESV]

Offertory



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me
not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

Offering of Thankful Hearts

Prayer of the Church

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Hymn

LSB 563 "*Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness*"

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give You thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, for in the wonder and mystery of His birth You have opened our eyes to the glory of Your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of Your love. Therefore with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise Your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of Sa - ba-oth, a-dored; Heav'n and
earth with full ac-claim shout the glo - ry of Your name. Sing ho -
san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord; Tru - ly
blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

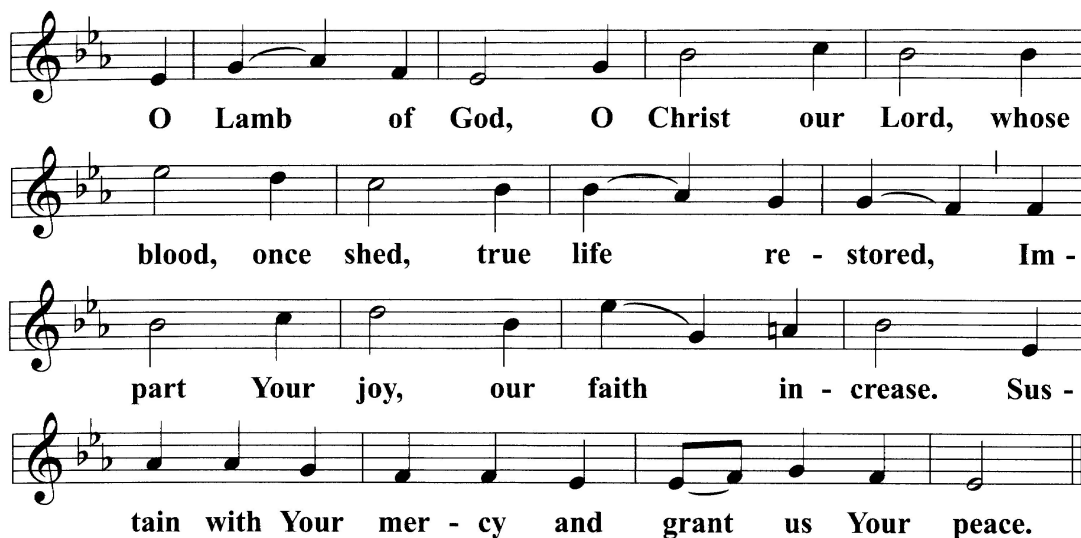
Words of Institution

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He 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 He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose
blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -
part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -
tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.

Distribution of the Sacrament

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

Nunc Dimittis

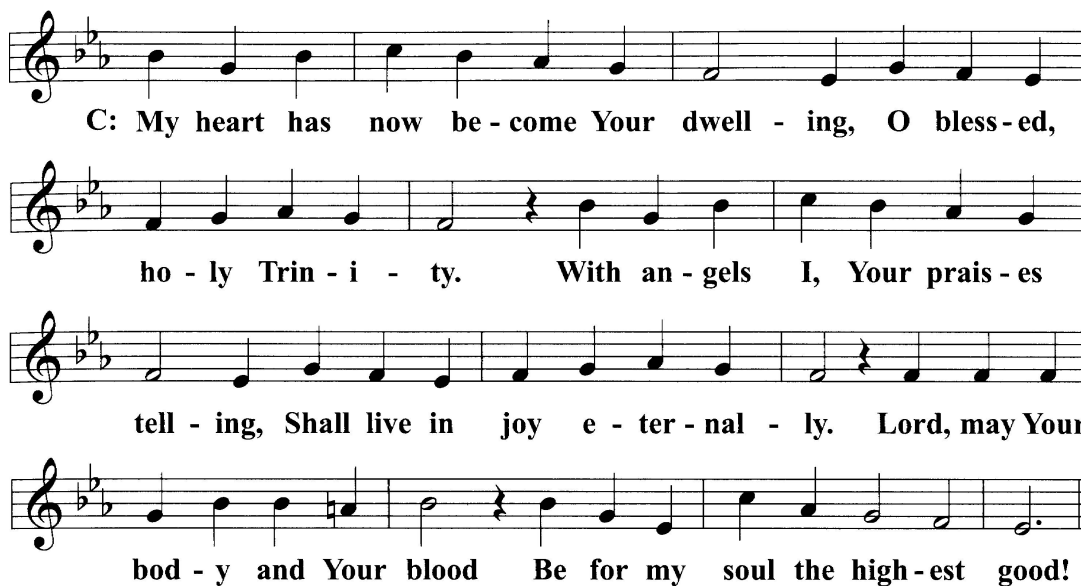


C: 1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace: A
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three - in - One; For
light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -



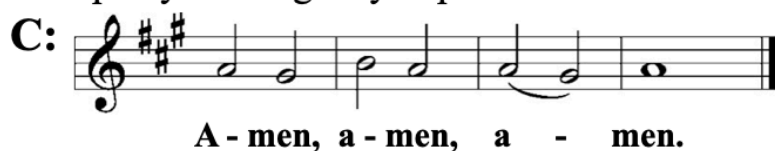
P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

Thanksgiving



Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.



Closing Hymn

LSB 384 (5)



This Week at St. Paul

Today (1/4)	9:30 am	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	10:45 am	Undecorating
Sun (1/11)	8:30 am	Church Council Meeting
	9:30 am	Worship Service
	10:45 am	Sunday School
	10:45 am	Mary/Martha Ladies Meeting

Up-coming Meetings

Jan 18 – Church Council Meeting, 8:30 am

Jan 25 – Annual Voters Meeting, 10:45 am

Thank You: "Dear parishioners of St. Paul, I would like to express my gratitude for the cards and gifts you shared with me for Christmas and for your many expressions of kindness through the year. God's blessing to you all! Pastor Schuetze"

January Birthday Blessings To . . .

Jesse J. Cornish, Jan 11 Crystal Ruegge, Jan 19

Julie Whitmer-Wright, Jan 11 Marty Schmoldt, Jan 21

Jim Wamboldt, Jan 16 Jesse W. Cornish, Jan 30

Synod News & Notes

A National CLC Women's (Virtual) Retreat will be held via Zoom on Saturday, January 31, 2026, 10:00 am to Noon (Mountain Time). To register visit: <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause26>. This is a free event.

Mission Helper Trip: "The CLC Mission Helper Program is making preparations for another Mission Trip to Africa for the summer of 2026. The main focus of this trip will be presenting the Gospel, through a series of child evangelism lessons, to member and non-member children in village congregations. Possible areas of evangelism include the CLC–Tanzania, CLC–Kenya, CLC–Zambia, and CLC–Uganda. CLC members are welcome and encouraged to apply. For more information and to apply, visit www.mht.lutheranmissions.org." (from Tom Naumann, Africa Mission Helper Coordinator). A bulletin insert is also being shared today with information about this mission outreach opportunity.

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Sunday School Superintendent: Derek Barthels

Serving Us Today

Organist Jeana Kettner

Ushers Wayne Ruegge, Ed Chiappetti

Communion Usher Mike Sprengeler

www.denverlutheran.com

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Member Congregation: Church of the Lutheran Confession

www.clclutheran.org