

Photo courtesy of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The Second Sunday after Christmas

January 4, A+D 2026



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

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DIVINE SERVICE

Setting 1 – Page 151

Lutheran Service Book

The Lord Jesus Is Found in the Temple of His Church

The Lord Jesus “grew and became strong” (Luke 2:40); He “increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). As His body grew and developed, His mind also increased in knowledge and understanding. For as our brother in the flesh, that we might “have redemption through his blood” (Eph. 1:7), He lived by faith in the Word of His Father. Thus, He was catechized by His parents, who took Him up “to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover” (Luke 2:41); and when He was of age, He gave attention to the Holy Scriptures in His Father’s house (Luke 2:46, 49). Christ Jesus is still found in His Church, in “the word of truth, the gospel,” by which we are adopted by His Father and sealed with His Spirit (Eph. 1:5, 13). Thus do we gain “an understanding mind” to go about our vocations, discerning “between good and evil” (1 Kings 3:9). And so do we also go up to Jerusalem to stand “before the ark of the covenant of the Lord” (1 Kings 3:15), that is, in the Holy Communion of His body and blood.

Ringing of the Bells

Welcome

Confession and Absolution

850 God of Grace and God of Glory

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Exhortation

LSB 151

- 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 on God's Word and for self-examination.

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.**

Declaration of Grace

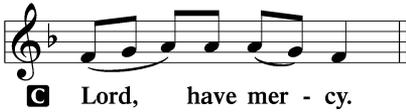
LSB 151

- P** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
C **Amen.**

- A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



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



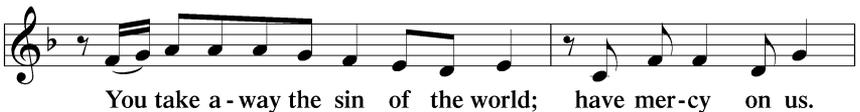
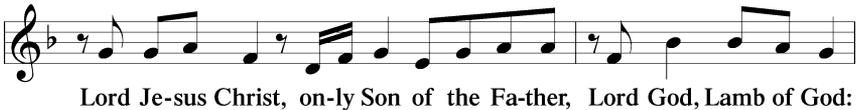
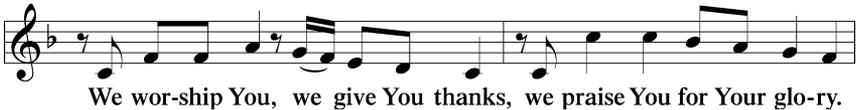
- A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 154

- A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.





You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



C And al - so with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You have poured into our hearts the true Light of Your incarnate Word. Grant that this Light may shine forth in our lives; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

1 Kings 3:4-15

A The Old Testament Reading for The Second Sunday after Christmas is from the third chapter of the First Book of Kings.

⁴ The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. ¹³I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. ¹⁴And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

¹⁵And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Ephesians 1:3–14

A The Second Reading is from the first chapter of the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

¹¹In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹²so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

LSB 156



C 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.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:40–52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.



C Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

⁴⁰The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

⁴¹Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise to You, O Christ.

Sit

410 Within the Father's House

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

159

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.

Sit

Gathering of Tithes & Offerings

If you are submitting a prayer request on a prayer card, kindly hand it directly to the usher. Do not place it into the offering plate.

Stand

Offertory

LSB 159

C 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.

Prayer of the Church*Responsive Form*

- P** ... Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

Lord's Prayer

162

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
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**

Concluding Collect

- P** Visit our dwellings, O Lord, and drive from them all the snares of the enemy; let Your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let Your blessing be on us always; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

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.

394 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

Silent Prayer

Announcements

Acknowledgments

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Prayer of the church is adapted from “Let us Pray” a service of the Commission on Worship of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

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SPLCMS.ORG



THE GLAD SPIRIT



The Glad Spirit

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church

January 4, 2026

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

ST. PAUL'S FAMILY

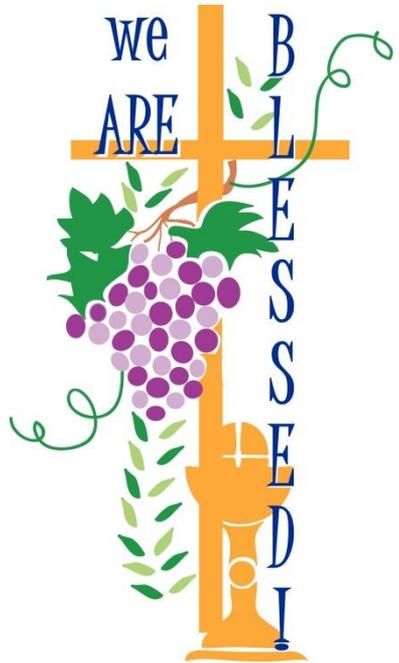
Abby Ignowski family, Lucian, Corbin
 Dana & Kevin Krieger
 Kaylee Krieger
 Hope Krieger

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Pray for Sandy Bodza, Sondra Budde,
 Pastor Collins, Carmen Dampier,
 Judy Diekleman, Shirley Emerick,
 Latricia Harris, Ed Hoeksema Jr.,
 Chester Orendorff, Violet Rich,
 Bill Sommer, Dolly Tegenhorst,
 Warren & Chris Van Mynen,
 Jean and Gene Wiltjer,
 Ray & Madelaine Zander.

Serving in the Military –
 Austin Brandy, Jessica Calderon-
 Phillips, Dakota Gaut and
 Nathan Lopez.

Serving as First Responders –
 David Allen, Dave Bloom,
 Nathan Conway,
 Harrison & Arianna Cromeey,
 Brianne Giba, Melanie Hudson,
 Brian Orth, Dana Tatgenhorst,
 Taylor VanDommelen and Dan Zander.



NEWS UPDATE



St. Paul Book Club will meet on Wednesday January 14th at 10:00 am, to review *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods. We always welcome new members. We enjoy fellowship and lunch following the discussion.

Christ For You the week of January 4th on KFUF.org: A blessed New Year and Happy Epiphany! This week on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT), we're launching into a new study of the book of Genesis. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as we begin "The Magnificent 37", a new series on the miracles of Jesus! On the Coffee Hour this week (weekdays at 9 a.m. CT), we have some fun things to share, including a new series on the history of the Augsburg Confession with Dr. Cameron MacKenzie and an introduction to this year's Searching Scripture theme! Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuf.org or in the KFUF Radio app.

The Week of January 4th Study God's Word In 2026... The Word of the Lord Endures Forever is a daily 15-minute, verse-by-verse Bible study produced by Lutheran Public Radio and hosted by LCMS Pastor Will Weedon. You can listen by phone, (618) 262-0078. You can also listen at thewordendures.org, the LPR mobile app and a podcast provider.

Let's Discuss

ZOOM ROOM

MONDAY – FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

Portals of Prayer 8:00am to 8:15am

Lutheran Hour 8:00pm to 8:15pm

For the Link:

Call or Text Church Cell: 312-533-1896

Email: letsdiscuss@splcms.org



“Your story might not look as extraordinary as Esther’s. It might not be as exciting as David’s or as tumultuous as Rahab’s or as terrifying as Mary’s. But you don’t have to be extraordinary for God to work through you. He can accomplish great things through something as unassuming as prayer or as simple as a meal for a new mother.” Grace MacPherson – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org

The Boy Jesus in the Temple

After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Luke 2:46 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 2:41-52

Q L U T E M P L E R E T U R N
 A C T L S A R P R V Q I E D M
 E T F R E U M E A N U P H I O
 U T E Y A P P A L R P T B R T
 D D I A R V T L Z A E S L H H
 P H Q H C A E A N E T N J K E
 E Y M O H H R L N L D I T C R
 J K P M I B E Q E S H A V S V
 L U W E N K X R M D W B C E W
 L Y L D G B W S S U D E B I S
 P Z A F R I E N D S T E R Z C
 W F E V C L G N J S X C O S Z
 G W B B F J Q M A R D I R P E
 X W P V J O M E P F A T H E R
 U E F V F C F O U N D Z X A W

FRIENDS	ANSWERS	FOUND	AMAZED	TEACHERS
MOTHER	FEAST	SEARCHING	FATHER	RELATIVES
PARENTS	RETURN	TEMPLE	HOME	TRAVELED

GOD'S PEOPLE IN ACTION

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS



December 24th Attendance 32
 December 28th Attendance 21, 17 Communed, 1 Online

Envelopes	801.00	Weekly Missions	20.00
Basket	660.00	Luth. Church Charity	10.00
Christmas	105.00	Church Maint	10.00
Christmas Eve	601.00	Coin Folder	130.00
General Fund	250.00		
Budgeted Total	2,417.00	Non-budgeted Total	\$170.00
Offering Needed	1,423.00		
	\$994.00		



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Today 9:30 am Worship Service
 10:30 am Coffee &...

Monday
 Tuesday
 Wednesday
 Thursday
 Friday
 Saturday
 Sunday

9:30 am Worship Service
 10:30 am Coffee &...

SERVANT SCHEDULE

Sun, Jan 4, 9:30 AM Sun, Jan 11, 9:30 AM
 Pastor Dr. Steven Simon
 Lay Reader Deb Brandy

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