THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



January 4, 2026

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy you have joined us for worship today. Wherever you are on your journey with or toward God, you are welcome here—you are a blessing to this assembly. We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Lutherans believe, teach, and confess that in, with, and under the bread and wine in Holy Communion we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. All who are drawn in faith are welcome to join in this confession and receive the Sacrament.

We invite and encourage your full participation in our worship this morning. With this service bulletin you can follow and participate in this morning's liturgy.

New to St. Paul? If you have questions or want more information, please fill out a newcomer form with the QR code at the right. Questions about transferring membership from another Lutheran church, or for beginning the process for baptism, confirmation, membership, or transferring from one of the other Christian traditions, may be directed to the Church Office at 781-646-7773 or parishadmin@stpaularlington.org.





SUNDAY SERVICE

8:15am | Holy Communion

9:00am | Choir Practice

9:30am | Education Hour with Sunday School, Adult Forum, Confirmation

10:30am | Holy Communion & livestreamed

11:30am | Coffee Hour in Goodman Fellowship Hall

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY:

Marie Breitenbach & Kim Fetchel, *Altar Guild*Owen C. and Brick C., *Acolytes*Peter Schmidt, *Cantor*Eric Carlson, *Deacon*Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, *Ushers*Hollie Schmidt & Mat Carter, *Livestream Broadcast Team*Peter & Hollie Schmidt & Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*

LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Arlington Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone. When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable. At the +, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism. The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Air on the G string J.S. Bach (1685-1759)

WELCOME

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

To you, O God,

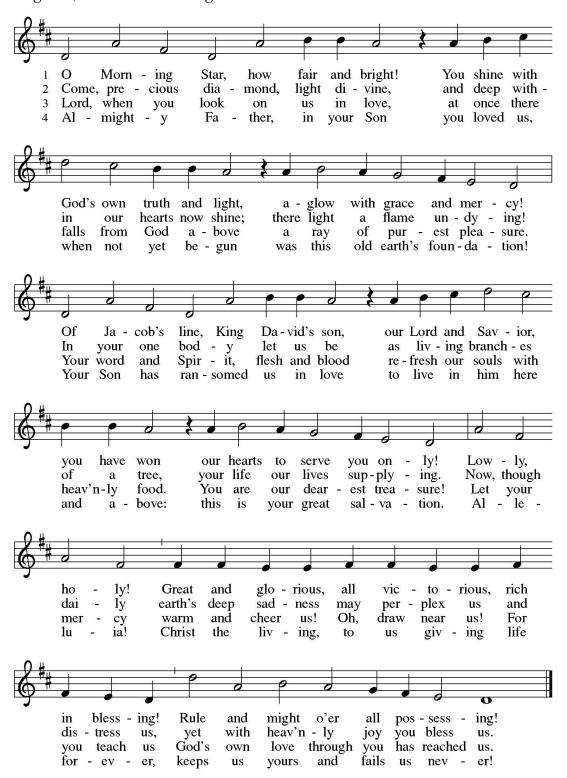
all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of \pm Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**



O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!



* GREETING

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

- 5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
 - Our joy be all with music crowned, our voices gaily blending!

For Christ goes with us all the way—today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!

His love is never ending! Sing out! Ring out!

Jubilation! Exultation!

Tell the story!

Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

6 What joy to know, when life is past, the Lord we love is first and last, the end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace, transport us to that happy place beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus!
Crown of gladness!
We are yearning

for the day of your returning.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;

they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;

your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,

the young camels of Midian and Ephah;

all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

- ¹ Give the king your jus-¹ tice, O God, and your righteousness to ¹ the king's son;
- ² that he may rule your | people righteously and the | poor with justice;
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity ¹ to the people, and the ¹ hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ Let him defend the needy a- ¹ mong the people, rescue the poor, and crush ¹ the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and ¹ moon endure, from one generation ¹ to another.
- ⁶ Let him come down like rain upon ¹ the mown field, like showers that wa- ¹ ter the earth.
- ⁷ In his time may the ¹ righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall ¹ be no more.
- ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the ¹ isles pay tribute, and the kings of Sheba and Seba ¹ offer gifts.
- ¹¹ May all kings bow | down before him, and all the nations | do him service.
- ¹² For the king delivers the poor who cry out ¹ in distress, the oppressed, and those who ¹ have no helper.
- ¹³ He has compassion on the low- ¹ ly and poor, and preserves the lives ¹ of the needy.
- ¹⁴ From oppression and violence he re- | deems their lives, and precious is their blood | in his sight.

SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and

sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



* GOSPEL Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold,

frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Pastor Don Larsen

* HYMN OF THE DAY

As with Gladness, Men of Old

ELW 302



*NICENE CREED

In trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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 INTERCESSION

Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Repairer of the breach, you separate us from our sin and unite us with one another. Heal the animosity in our hearts, and bind us together in love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Author of life, you sent your spirit over the waters, your breath into your children, and guiding stars across the sky. Awaken us to the plight of the planet and send us to care for your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Light that leads the way, you make yourself known to the nations. Illuminate just paths and guide leaders in the church and the world in your holy will. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Voice of the silenced, you cast the mighty from their thrones and fill the hungry with good things. Grant those in need the courage to demand equality and those with abundance the wisdom to share. Respond to any who call out in need this day especially Bobby, Dan, Diane, George, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, Roberta, and Susan. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Proclaimer of promises, you raise up prophets and messengers in the places we least expect. Equip us to listen well to those who bring both good news and painful truths. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Redeemer of the saints, you gift us with many people throughout our lives who point the way to you. We give you thanks for the recently departed and all who have loved us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

*PEACE

Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth and The People That Walked in Darkness from "Messiah"

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Peter Schmidt, bass



MEAL

*OFFERING SONG

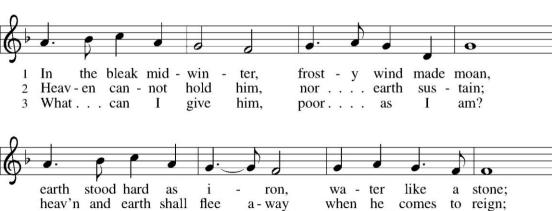
If

I

were

a

In the Bleak Midwinter ELW 294





herd

I would bring

a lamb;

shep -



OFFERING

You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code. You may also make an offering by placing a gift in the offering plate, which is in the narthex.



* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

* GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

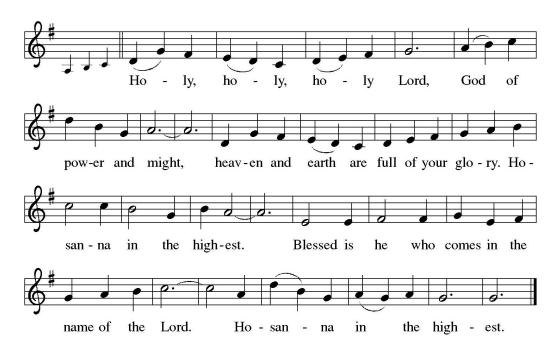
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars, beneath the sea, within each cell, with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water, by night and day, across the wilderness, out of exile, into the future.

We praise you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life, near to those who suffer, beside the sinner, among the poor, with us now.

We praise you, O God.

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering, within this meal, among your people, throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and the power, and the glory,
and forgive us our trespasses,

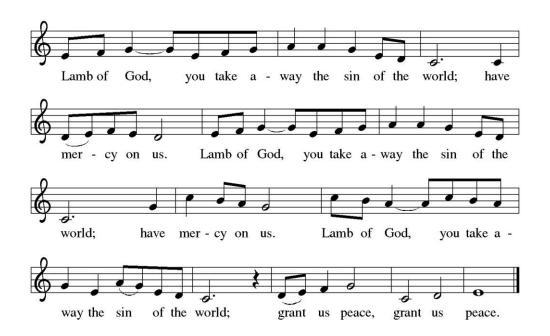
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request. Both wine and grape juice are available in each tray; the wine is red and the grape juice is white.

Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.

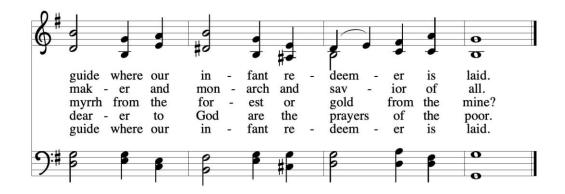


COMMUNION HYMNS

Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

ELW 303





*TABLE BLESSING

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us. **Amen.**

SENDING

*BENEDICTION

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of our Savior, Jesus Christ. And the blessing of God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

ELW 677

- This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine; this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 - 2 Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine; ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 - 3 Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine; Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine; Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let your light shine.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach (1685-1759) arr. Myra Hess



TODAY'S COVER ART is entitled "Three More Kings." The artist Annette Gandy Fortt is a printmaker and painter who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. Her work reflects her surroundings and the people who inhabit them. It is also deeply influenced by her Christian spiritual moorings.

Fortt, Annette Gandy. Three More Kings, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57478 [retrieved December 30, 2025]. Original source: Annette Fortt, hptts//annettefortt.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

at SAINT PAUL



CAROL SING AND POTLUCK BREAKFAST | Sunday, January 4, 9:15 am

Join us in Goodman Parish Hall for "...on the 11th Day of Christmas." Don't put those carols away just yet! Join us for some singing and playing from The Christmas Revels Songbook led by Marie Breitenbach, (recorder) Joan Ellersick (viola) and Tom Berryman (keyboard) and a potluck breakfast.

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR 2025

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is on Sunday, January 25, 2026. The church office plans to make printed copies of the Annual Report available on Sunday, January 18. You can help turn that plan into reality by getting your report to the Parish Administrator, Jennifer White, by Tuesday, January 13. Her email address is parishadmin@stpaularlington.org

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION – JANUARY 25, 2026

We gather for a single Service of Holy Communion at 9:30 a.m. on January 25, with the Annual Meeting immediately to follow.

GENTLE REMINDER: PLEDGES FOR 2026

God willing, St. Paul will call its next Pastor during this new calendar year. You can help prepare the way for this next exciting chapter by pledging financial support for St. Paul's ministry in 2026. Pledges are being received now. You are invited to prayerfully consider making a generous pledge that will help the congregation and its next Pastor move into the future on a solid financial footing. If you are new to the congregation or have not pledged in the past for other reasons, please consider a pledge for the coming year. You may fill out the pledge form and mail it back to St. Paul or put it in the offering plate during worship on Sunday mornings.

ST. PAUL BIBLE STUDY | Thursday Evenings, 7-8pm by Zoom

All are invited to join our bible study! We will gather on Thursday evenings on Zoom from 7-8pm. Each week, we will study the upcoming Sunday's lectionary texts, which are the bible readings we hear in worship. To access the readings and Zoom link, please see St. Paul's Weekly Update email. If you are not a subscriber, you can sign up on our website or email Pastor Larsen for the Bible Study Zoom link <stpaularlington.interim.pastor@gmail.com>.

THE COMING WEEK AT ST. PAUL

Thursday, January 8 7:00pm Bible Study on Zoom

Sunday, January 11 8:15 & 10:30am Service of Holy Communion

9:15am All educational ministries and choir rehearsal

Arlington Eats had not yet posted a list of needed items at the time this bulletin was printed. Go to https://www.arlingtoneats.org/donate-food/to see the updated list."



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

Staff

The Reverend Don Larsen, *Transition Pastor*Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music*Sarah Carter, *Children*, *Youth and Families Director*Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

stpaularlington.interim.pastor@gmail.com anazecicjeffers@gmail.com stpaularlingtonfamily@gmail.com parishadmin@stpaularlington.org

Church Council and Officers

Kerri Frick, President

Sandy Walker, Vice President

Eric Haugen, Treasurer

Elizabeth Heichler, Secretary

Mark Olson, Financial Secretary

Kristen Anderson

Eric Carlson

Dave Hering

Kathleen Kean

Kevin Kreutter

Pierson Oliver

Taryn Walsh

Committees Chairperson

Altar Guild Kelli Oliver Faith Formation Committee Bev Hjorth Intern Committee Kristen Anderson Social Ministry Committee **Janice Sniffen** Nomination Committee Taryn Walsh Worship & Music Committee John Christiansen Finance Committee Eric Haugen **Audit Committee** Eric Haugen **Usher Committee** Dan Ries & Andy Airasian Transition Committee Peter Hedlund & Sandy Walker





Liturgical materials and visuals reproduced by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003024. © Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible. Copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ

in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Music reprinted under OneLicense #A-709763. All rights reserved. Psalm reprinted from St. Martin's Psalter by Thomas Pavlechko. Copyright © 2010 St. James Music Press.