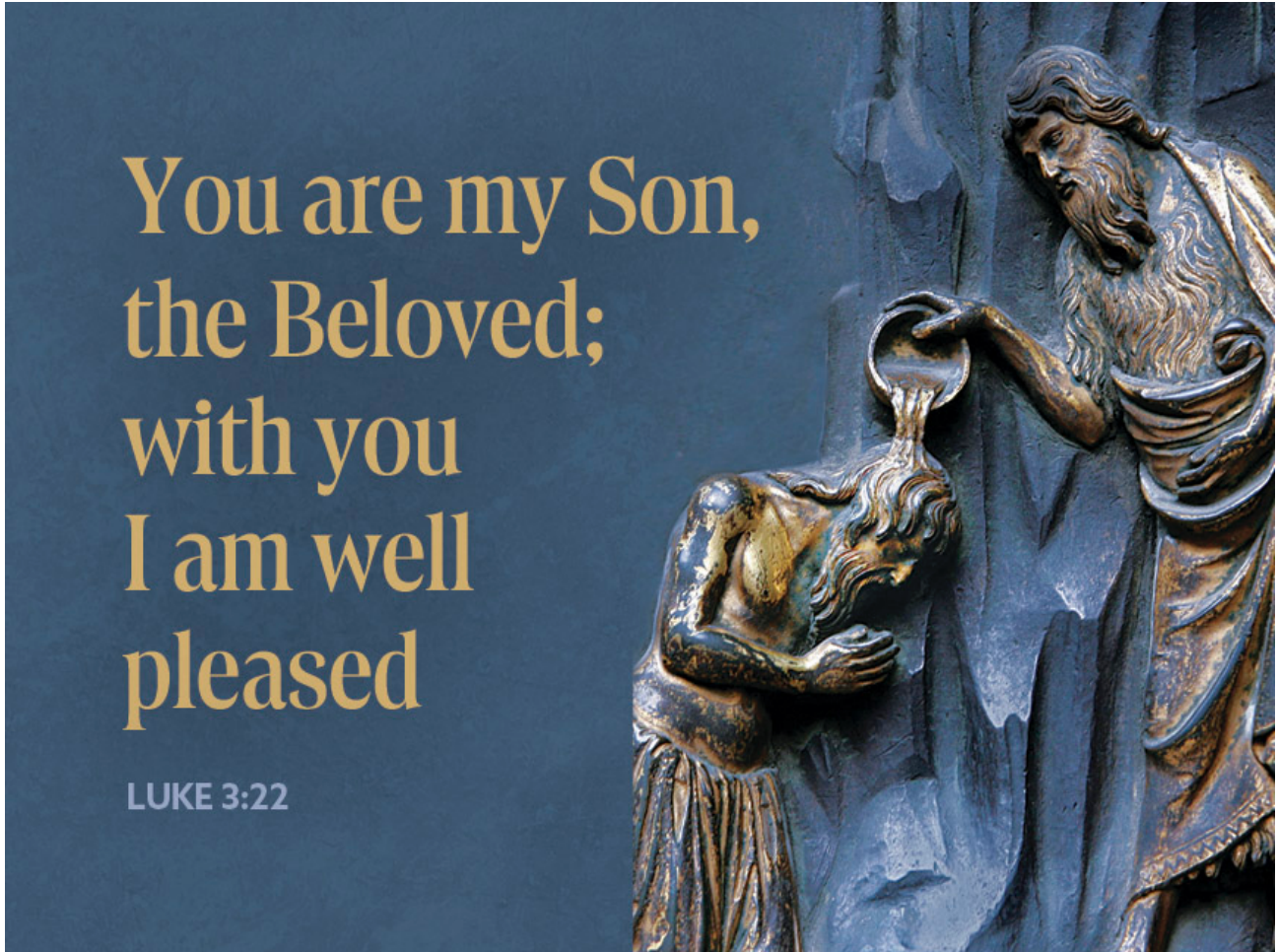


# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025



# *WELCOME*

## To our Church Family

*We're Glad You're Here!*



## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our new St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag.

For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

### *You are welcome at the table!*

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

### **Altar Flowers**

The **Altar flowers** were given today by Sue Ambrosic to the Glory of God.

### **Introduction**

Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Isaiah 43:1-7**

*When you pass through the waters, do not fear, for I am with you*

#### **Psalm 29**

*The voice of the LORD is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)*

#### **Acts 8:14-17**

*Prayer and laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit*

#### **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

*The baptism of Jesus with the descent of the Holy Spirit*

**The Westminster Strike  
Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude**

Aria

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector,  
our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways.**

**Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

Shall We Gather at the River

**ELW 423**

**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.**

## KYRIE

*Refrain*



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all;  
for this holy house, for all who worship and praise,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor;  
that we may live out truth and justice and grace,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family;  
for life and for love, for our work and our play,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word;  
that you nourish our souls with your body and blood,  
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord. *Refrain*

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7

- <sup>1</sup> But now thus says the LORD,  
he who created you, O Jacob,  
he who formed you, O Israel:  
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine.
- <sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;  
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,  
and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the LORD your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,  
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight,  
and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you;  
I will bring your offspring from the east,  
and from the west I will gather you;

<sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up,"  
and to the south, "Do not withhold;  
bring my sons from far away  
and my daughters from the end of the earth—

<sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name,  
whom I created for my glory,  
whom I formed and made."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm: Psalm 29



The voice of the LORD is up - on the wa - ters.

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,  
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;**  
**worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

<sup>3</sup> The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;  
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

<sup>4</sup> **The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;**  
**the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor. R**

<sup>5</sup> The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;  
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

<sup>6</sup> **the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

<sup>7</sup> The voice | of the LORD  
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

<sup>8</sup> **The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;  
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh. R**

<sup>9</sup> The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.  
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;  
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

<sup>11</sup> O LORD, give strength | to your people;  
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace. **R**

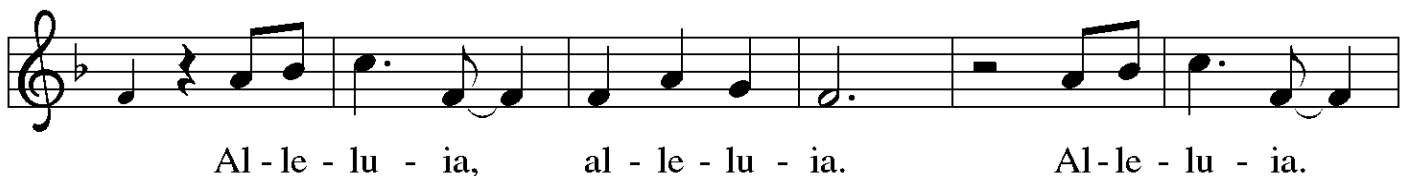
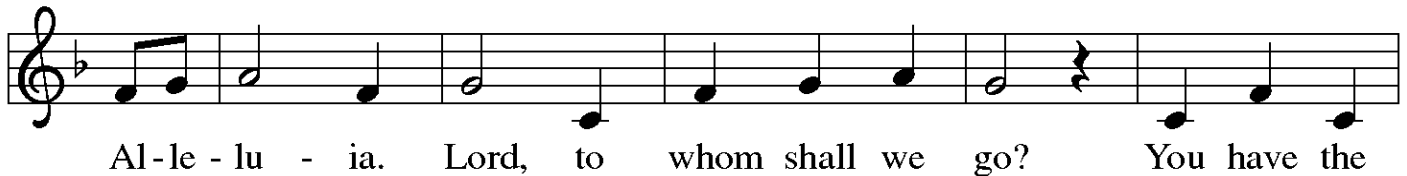
### Second Reading: Acts 8:14-17

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### ALLELUIA VERSE





## **GOSPEL: Luke 3:15:17, 21-22**

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>14</sup> King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching,] for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup> But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup> But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

<sup>17</sup> For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. <sup>18</sup> For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup> And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, <sup>20</sup> for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup> But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup> When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." <sup>23</sup> And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup> She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." <sup>25</sup> Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup> The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. <sup>27</sup> Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup> brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. <sup>29</sup> When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*Rev. Mark Kreemer*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

Baptized in Water

**Bulletin p. 16**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*After each petition the following response is given:*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **ANTHEM**

Down to the River to Pray  
Chancel Choir

Robert E. Lee (b. 1951)

## **OFFERTORY**



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, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

**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, .....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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

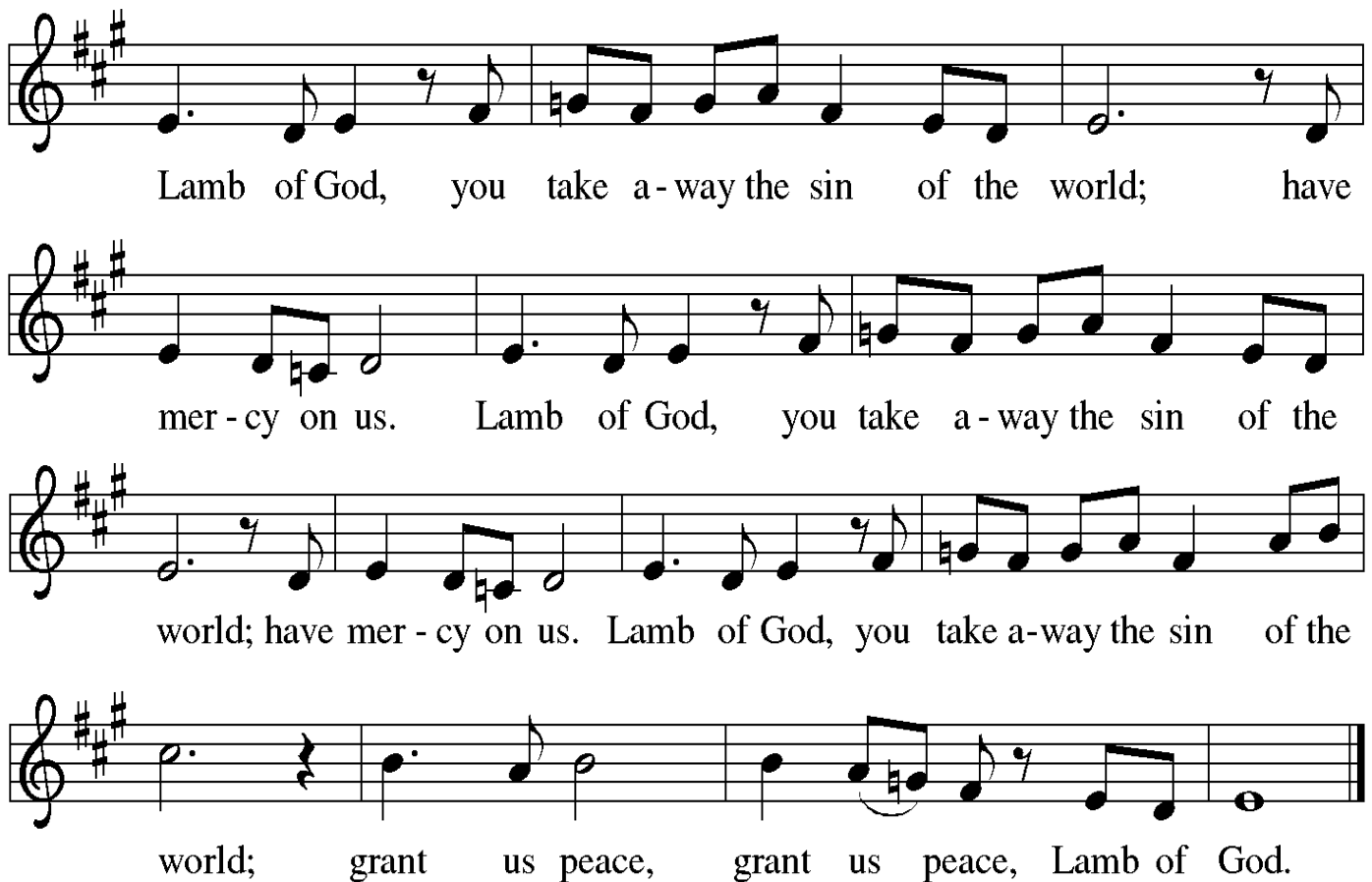
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, 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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength.  
 Come, eat this meal of gladness.

## COMMUNION SONG



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, Lamb of God.

## COMMUNION

Christ When for Us You Were Baptized

ELW 304

## 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

Let us pray.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.

Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

ELW 445

## BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy,  
anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.  
**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

March in Eb Major

Daniel Ficarri (b. 1996)

## In our prayers today we will remember

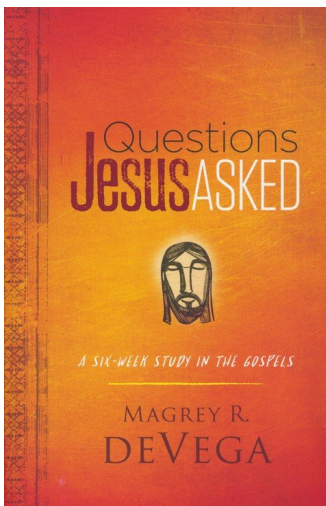
*Shirley Douglas, Matt Moore, Amy Williams, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Mark King, Rick Theiss, Ariane Roberts.*

## Adult Sunday School Class

### God is Faithful - Always!

*Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God... (Deut. 7:9a)*

As we begin a new year, we continue our study in Genesis and see the faithfulness of God as he keeps his promises to Abraham and Isaac, often in astounding ways. Yes, grace upon grace! The class meets each Sunday at 11:30, top floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience.



## Thursday Morning Bible Study Beginning January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Jesus was fond of asking questions, many of which cut right to the heart of what it means to be human. Why are you terrified? What do you live for? Who do you say that I am?

Magrey deVega explores six of the most provocative questions Jesus posed to others and guides us in answering them for ourselves. Asking these questions takes courage. Not only do they reveal what Jesus really cares about, they open a window into our hearts. When we dare to raise them, these questions bring us a fuller appreciation for the wisdom, power, and presence of God in our lives.

Are you ready to answer the *Questions Jesus Asked*?

## **Women's Lenten Retreat**

Prayer: Let's Talk to God

March 1, 9 am to 3 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

You are invited to attend a Women's Lenten Retreat on Saturday, March 1 from 9 am until 3 pm at the church. The theme of the retreat is prayer. Bible study, practical strategies to improve a life of prayer, and worship will be included. The retreat is being led by LaShell Williamson and Patty Long. So that all women might enjoy the full day, you are asked to bring your own light lunch. Beverages will be provided.

## **Capital Campaign Report**

<b>Remaining Phase One Projects</b>	<b>\$377,000</b>
<b>Funds raised</b>	<b>\$339,270</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Remaining funds to be raised</b>	<b>\$ 37,730</b>

## **Monday Evening Bible Study**

**Exploring God's Promises: A Bible Study on Biblical Covenants**

**Beginning January 13<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm**

Join us for an inspiring Bible study series as we dive into the Biblical covenants that shape the story of God's relationship with humanity. Each week, we'll explore a different covenant found throughout Scripture and reflect on how these promises reveal God's love and faithfulness.

This study is co-led by Pastor Tina Crog of St. Jacob Lutheran Church and Pastor Ash Welch of Christ Lutheran Church. We will gather in the welcoming atmosphere of Tremont Coffee shop in downtown Massillon (215 Erie St N, Massillon, OH). Whether you're new to Bible study or have been studying Scripture for years, all are welcome to come, learn, and grow together in faith. Bring your Bible and a friend!

## **Art Show in Gleitsman Lounge**

Come see the beautiful photos by Peg Gibbs in the lounge. Sign up for which photos you would like to purchase (\$25 each), and then payment and the last pick up day will be today, Sunday, January 12. A portion of the proceeds will go to the church.

## Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.

Then click on the St Paul's logo—that's it.

To take advantage of all the app's features you must create an account. Get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, access our live stream worship and worship bulletins, send prayer requests, and see the church calendar. You can even give electronically.



## Community Social Media Pages

### Facebook & Instagram

Search "*Massillon Lutheran Churches*"

### Facebook

Search "*St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon*"

Search "*Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's*"

### Hymns, Liturgies, and Live stream permissions granted by the following:

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License # **SAS027923**

Copyright © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

**GATHERING HYMN**                      Shall We Gather At the River                      **ELW 423**  
Public Domain

**HYMN OF THE DAY**                      Baptized In Water                      **Pg 16**  
Public Domain

**COMMUNION**                      Christ When For Us You Were Baptized                      **ELW 304**  
"Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-734490. All rights reserved

**SENDING HYMN**                      Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters                      **ELW 445**  
"Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-734490. All rights reserved



## **Thank you to those serving today:**

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Kreemer</b>
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Dr. Abigail Haake</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Sue Reid</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Scott Larson</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Sue Ambrosic</b>
<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Jackie Pritchett &amp; Greg Klein</b>
<b>Sacristan</b>	<b>Mary Ann Poling</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Chuck Gesen, Dick Longworth, Chuck Richards &amp; Mike Skelly</b>
<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>Jim Johnson</b>
<b>Video/Live-Stream</b>	<b>John Stanko</b>

# Baptized in Water



1. Bap-tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Cleansed by the  
2. Bap-tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Dead in the  
3. Bap-tized in wa - ter, Sealed by the Spir - it, Marked with the



blood of Christ our King: Heirs of sal - va - tion, Trust-ing his  
tomb with Christ our King: One with his ris - ing, Freed and for -  
sign of Christ our King: Born of one Fa - ther, We are his



prom - ise, Faith - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
giv - en, Thank - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.  
chil - dren, Joy - ful - ly now God's praise we sing.

Text: Michael Seward, b.1932, © 1982, Jubilate Hymns, Ltd. (Administered by Hope Publishing Co.)  
Tune: BUNESSAN, 5 5 8 D; Gaelic melody; acc. by Marty Haugen, b.1950

# Shall We Gather at the River



- 1 Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, where bright an - gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar - gin of the riv - er, wash - ing up its sil - ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, soon our pil - grim - age will cease;



with its crys - tal tide for - ev - er flow - ing by the throne of God?  
we will walk and wor - ship ev - er, all the hap - py gold - en day.  
grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, and pro - vide a robe and crown.  
soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er with the mel - o - dy of peace.

## *Refrain*



Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, the beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;



gath - er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899  
Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

## Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you  
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant  
3 Straight-way and stead - fast un - til death you then o - beyed the  
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as  
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's  
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to  
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.  
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.  
give your life for all, to give your life for all.  
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

Text © 1985 The Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.  
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.  
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.  
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.  
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.  
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN.  
All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.