

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,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
the Word who spoke life into being,
the Wind stirring the waters.

Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Mighty God, lover of justice,
**you call us to life in community,
but we have served our own interests
at the expense of our neighbors.
We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.
We say the right words,
but our hearts are far from you.
Turn us to seek your face.
Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,
that we may do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with you, our God.
Amen.**

The former things have passed away,
and new things God now declares:
Like a spring of water that never fails,
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.
May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,
and bless you with the gift of peace.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

- ¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
- ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;
- ³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
- ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

⁷ to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 29

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

Right: Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Left : Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

Right: The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

Left: **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

Right: The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

Left: the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

Right: The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.

Left: The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

Right: 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!"

Left: The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

**ALL: O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.**

Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God

Verse 2 is sung twice

Many Will Come

1* 2

Man - y will come from east and west, and from
OR Man - y will come from east and west, and from

north and south, and will eat in the king - dom, the
north and south, to be washed in the wa - ters, the

king - dom of God. Blest are they, oh, blest are
wa - ters of life. Blest are they, oh, blest are

they who eat bread in the king - dom, the king - dom of God.
they who are washed in the wa - ters, the wa - ters of life.

* May be sung in canon

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.
¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented.
¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon: Pr. Anne Harman

Hymn of the Day: Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Sung to the Hymn Tune – Ellacombe

See ELW 361

- 1 Hail to the Lord's anointed,
great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
your reign on earth begun!
You come to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression
and rule in equity.
- 2 You come with rescue speedy
to those who suffer wrong,
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls, condemned and dying,
are precious in your sight.
- 3 You shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
spring in your path to birth.
Before you on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.
- 4 Kings shall fall down before you,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore you,
your praise all people sing.
To you shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
your kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.

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

Please respond to each invocation: **God of grace, hear our prayer.**

A Sign of Peace and Reconciliation

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Please be seated.

OFFERING

All that we have, physically and spiritually comes from God.
Our offering, of time, talent and treasure is a response to our awareness
that God is the creator of all things and that we are redeemed
through life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Your support of this ministry and the faith life of this community is appreciated.

Hymn: To Christ Belong, in Christ Behold - ACS 958



1 To Christ be - long, in Christ be - hold God's
2 The brood - ing Spir - it moves un - seen as
3 Re - joic - ing in God's prom - ise strong, our

won - ders still un - fold: the bur - ied
liv - ing wa - ters stream to quench all
treasure and our song, in faith we

grain springs forth a - gain with fruit one hun - dred - fold.
thirst and bring to birth a new com - mu - ni - ty.
cling, and glad - ly sing: to Christ we now be - long.

Bap - tized in - to the death of Christ, with
The bind - ing shroud is here re - leased, the
In Christ a - bide, in Christ be - hold the

Christ from death we rise, drawn through the
veil of sin and grief, and in their
world be - loved and whole. In love re -

night by dawn - ing light in - to a - bun - dant
place a wreath of grace and robes of joy and
main, by love pro - claim God's won - ders still un -

life, in - to a - bun - dant life.
peace, and robes of joy and peace.
told, God's won - ders still un - told.

Offering Prayer

God of majesty,
no eye has seen, no ear has heard
what you have prepared for those who love you,
yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.
Use what we have gathered
to feed us with the reign of God come near,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

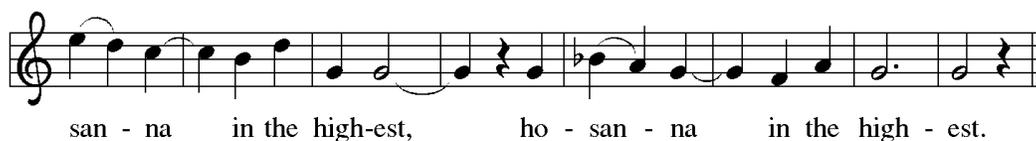
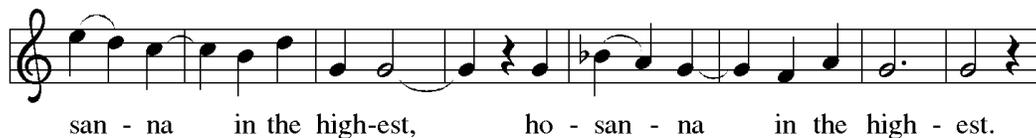
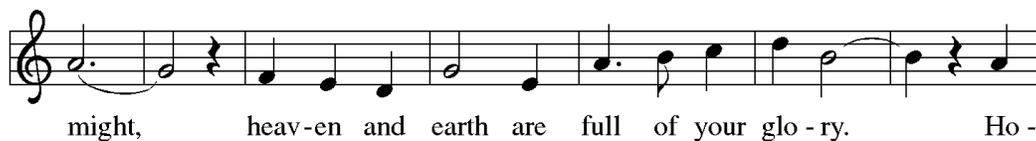
Amen.

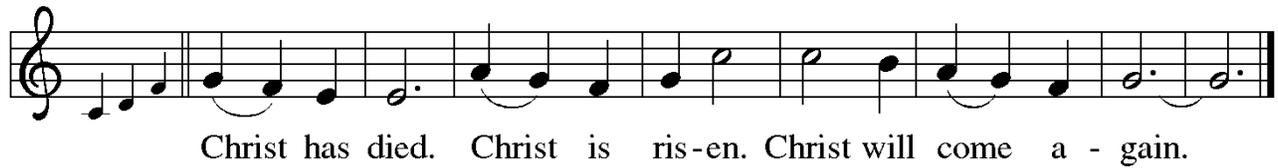
DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

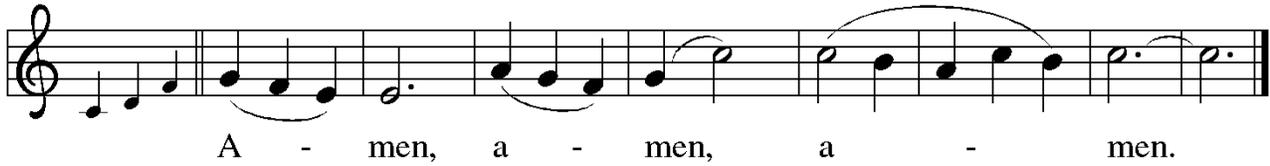
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.





Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.



A - men, a - men, a - men.

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**

Invitation to Communion

We currently receive communion with real bread and wine. If you need to receive a gluten free host, please ask the communion minister when you come forward. They are on a separate dish. For those who prefer to receive grape juice rather than wine you will find white grape juice in the center of the trays as communion is given. If you have a question, please ask the minister as you receive. The bread and wine should be consumed here in the church before you return to your seat. If for some reason, you are unable to consume either the bread or wine please bring what was not consumed to the ushers or the pastor as soon as the service is completed.

LAMB OF GOD – ELW Setting 9

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.

Communion Hymn: Baptized in Water – ELW 456

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 the Spir - it, we are God's
 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 Saward, b. 1932
 Music: BUNESSAN, Gaelic tune
 Text © 1982 Jubilate Hymns, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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Hymn: Lord, Jesus You Shall Be My Song – ELW 808



1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931
 Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community
 Text and music © 1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus
 Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville

Prayer after Communion

Radiant God,
we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.
In the sacrament of his body and blood
you have drawn us to your heart.
Send us from this table with delight,
that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,
and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Announcements:

Blessing

May the triune God,
who has put a new song in your mouth
and tuned your heart for praise
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.
Thanks be to God.

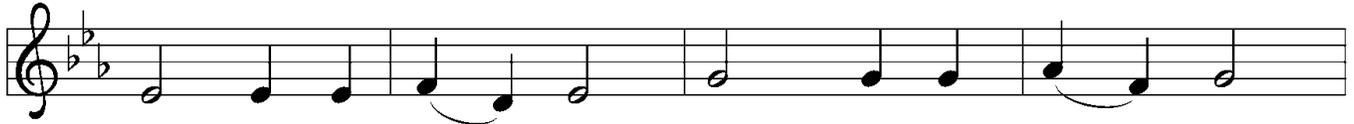
**Please sign up for Silver Foxes and the Book Study
at the CCC table after worship today.**



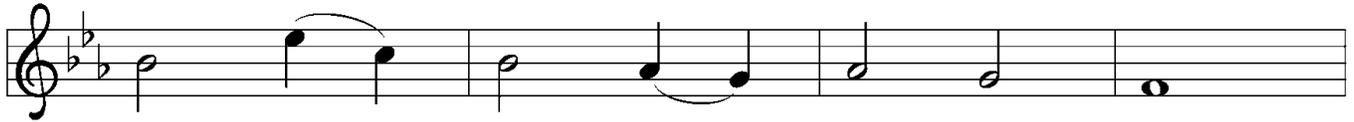
Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 18, 2026
Immediately following worship

There will be a potluck lunch
in the hall after the meeting.
Please bring a dish to share.

Hymn: Beautiful Savior – ELW 838



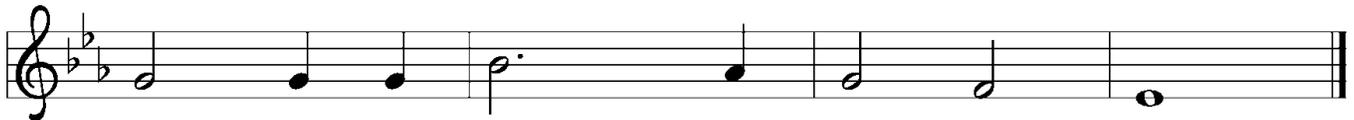
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.



St. Paul's Spirituality Center
 an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Taizé Prayer
Let Me Touch His Cloak
 Wednesday, January 14 - 7:15 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 gathering at St. John's Episcopal
 1676 S. Belcher Rd. Clearwater, FL 33764



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Gathering at St. John's Episcopal 1676 S. Belcher Rd., Clearwater, FL

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, a Reconciling in Christ congregation, embodies God's love, and promise of salvation through faith in Christ by extending inclusion and welcome to all.

We welcome the full, active participation of all who worship and minister with us. If you are interested in learning more about Jesus, God's life and action in the world and our lives, the Lutheran faith, or this congregation and how you can be more involved, please reach out to Pastor Anne.

Phone Number: 727- 446-7718

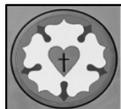
Email: office@stpaulsclearwater.org

Website: <https://www.stpaulsclearwater.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/st.paulslutheranchurch.clearwater.fl>



To reach Pastor Anne
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St. Paul's Spirituality Center

an outreach ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



From sundaysandseasons.com.

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This Week at St. Paul's

Tuesday, January 13 – Drum Circle

Wednesday, January 14 – Taizé Prayer – 7:15 PM

Thursday, January 15 – Quilt Ministry – 9:00 AM

Sunday, January 18 – Annual Meeting – Immediately following worship

We will have a potluck lunch following worship.

Please bring a dish to share.