



Advent 4

December 21, 2025

WELCOME! We are blessed to worship with you today!
If you are visiting, we are delighted that you're here. If you have any questions, please ask anyone near you. To find out everything going on at St. Paul's, visit www.stpaulsokc.com.

SERVING TODAY:

Reader:	Marci Waguespack
Prayer Leader:	Joyce Martin
Ushers:	Robert Adair, Russ Bainbridge, Steve Krause, Benji Sitton & Kenrick Veit
Children's Message:	Patricia Ayling
Altar Guild:	Cindy Bench
Communion Assistant:	Carolyn & Elie Behrens, Marci Waguespack, Robert & Alana Adair, Jill & Bali Botkin
Video assistant:	Tracy Caine
Acolyte & Crucifer:	Pippa & Viktor Teske

PRELUDE: *God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman* Arr. by Rob Roy McGregor Blackwelder Brass

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: The Brittain Family

(Please see the insert in the back of your pew, we will begin with congregational responses and end with the song.)

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(Pause for silent reflection)*
Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may serve you in the newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved and in the name of Christ your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN:

#267 ***Joy to the World***

Canticle Ringers and Blackwelder Brass

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Kyrie 3 & 4

Refrain



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



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



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that hinders our faith, that eagerly we may receive your promises, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 7:10-16

¹⁰Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹“Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also?”

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 80:1-7, 17-19

¹Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

²In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.

³Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

⁴O LORD God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?

⁵You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

⁶You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
⁷Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
¹⁷Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
¹⁸And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
¹⁹Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, ³the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh ⁴and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name, ⁶including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, ⁷To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, Word of Life,
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Emmanuel

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Patricia Ayling

SPECIAL MUSIC: **MESSAGE**

God With Us, Emmanuel!
Pastor Stefanie Rowinski

Adult Choir w/Blackwelder Brass

HYMN

#254 ***Come Thou Long Expected Jesus***

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

BAPTISM

Presentation and Examination of the Candidate:

Parents and Godparents: I present Ingrid Dawn Sunnarvik to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.
Question to the Congregation: Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support her in her life in Christ?

People: We will.

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

The Baptismal Covenant

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People: 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.

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent, and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

Prayers for the Candidate

Let us now pray for the one who is to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Deliver her, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Open her heart to your grace and truth.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Fill her with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Keep her in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Teach her to love others in the power of the Spirit.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Send her into the world in witness to your love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Bring her to the fullness of your peace and glory.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of his resurrection and look for him to come again in glory, who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

...To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Baptism

Ingrid Dawn, I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon your servant the forgiveness of sin and have raised her to the new life of grace. Sustain her, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give her an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

The Sign of the Cross with Chrism

Ingrid Dawn, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever. **Amen.**
Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People: We receive you into the household of God. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in his eternal priesthood.

Congregational Welcome:

God Claims You

(See music insert placed in your pew back.)

Refrain: Ingrid, Ingrid, God claims you, God helps you, protects you and loves you too.

Verse 1: We this day do all agree. A child of God you'll always be. **Refrain**

Verse 2: We are here to say this day that we will help you on your way. **Refrain**

Please note there is no offertory during service, our offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary, or scan the QR code or visit stpaulsokc.com/online-giving to give online.



COMMUNION

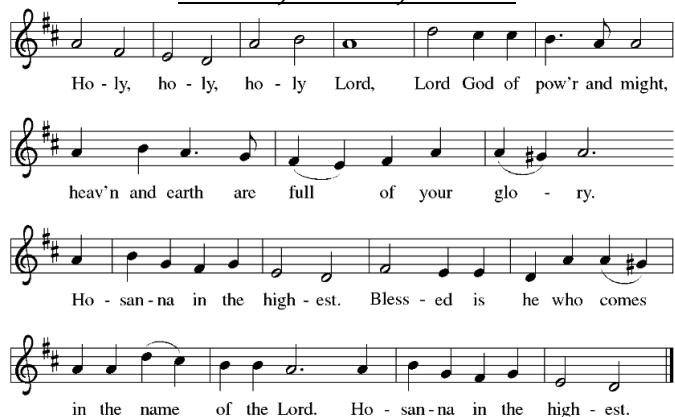
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your sons and daughters, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to the glory of your Name:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to all of them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

...By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

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

DISTRIBUTION OF ELEMENTS Please note, there are gluten free wafers available if you need them. The cups in the center of the trays are juice, and the outer rings are wine.

SPECIAL COMMUNION MUSIC:

Silent Night. Traditional Arr. by Keith Snell

Blackwelder Brass

Let us pray. ***Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.***

THE BLESSING

May the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE : *Carol of the Bells* by Mykola Leontovych Arr. by Keith Snell

Blackwelder Brass

SENDING

Go in Peace. Remember the poor. ***Thanks be to God.***

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

If you are grieving, if you are worried, if you are feeling out of step with the “holly jolly” around you, or if you simply want a quiet place to worship and reflect and support those you know who are having a hard time, join us TONIGHT at 5 pm. There will be hymns, a devotional from Jason, prayer, and communion.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Please join us on Christmas Eve! Services will begin at 4 pm & 7 pm.

POINSETTIA ORDERS – ORDERS DUE TODAY

Help decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve and support Blackwelder Brass by purchasing a poinsettia. Order forms are available in the narthex. Please include “poinsettias” on the memo line and indicate if you will be taking your plant home. Questions: contact Nancy Krause.

FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry is open! We ask for help keeping it stocked. Please bring non-expired, nonperishable food items to the church. Feel free to place your items in the pantry cabinet (set on the north side of the main entrance) or leave items in the cart in the narthex. If you are looking for suggestions for items to bring, there are lists on the information table in the narthex.

Questions- contact Alana Adair.

PICTURE BOARD

Remember to get a wonderful new updated picture for the Church family picture board this Christmas.

Be sure it's a horizontal picture that will fit in the picture board and everyone will enjoy looking at it.

This helps old and new members alike. If you need help, contact Carolyn Behrens.

OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The office will be closed 12/24-1/4. Ashley will be checking in on 12/29 & 1/2. If you need anything during that time, please email articles@stpaulsokc.com. We will return to the office on 1/5.

END OF YEAR GIVING

Please keep in mind that all offerings must be received by 1/31 in order to be included your year- end statements for the 2025 tax season.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER

12/21- Worship & Education

Jesus's birthday party

5:00 **Blue Christmas Service**

**12/24- Christmas Eve Services
@ 4 & 7pm**

12/25- Merry Christmas!!

12/28- Worship

12/24- 1/5 Office closed