



The First Sunday After Christmas – December 28, 2025

***We look forward with hope to that wonderful day when
the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ will be revealed.***

Titus 2:13



As We Gather

The stores are processing gift returns, but we dare not return our greatest Christmas gift—our Lord Jesus!

God is gracious and forgiving, remembering His promises. He leads us, as we hear He did for the Israelites in the Old Testament Reading. We need no one else, as we are God's dear children, which Paul reminds us in the Epistle. It is not that we do not have enemies—even Joseph had to figure out what to do—but we have Jesus with us. It is still Christmas.

Bold face type - read by the congregation

Opening Hymn - He Is Born Handout

Please stand

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

Invocation

Psalm Of Praise* Psalm 111:1–10

Praise the LORD
I will give thanks to the LORD with
my whole heart,
 in the company of the upright,
 in the congregation.

Great are the works of the LORD,
 studied by all who delight in them.

Full of splendor and majesty is His work,
 and His righteousness endures forever.

He has caused His wondrous works
to be remembered;
 the LORD is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear Him;

He remembers His covenant forever.

He has shown His people the power
of His works,

**in giving them the inheritance
of the nations.**

The works of His hands are faithful and just;
all His precepts are trustworthy;

**they are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and
uprightness.**

He sent redemption to His people;
He has commanded His covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is His name!

The fear of the LORD is the beginning
of wisdom; all those who practice it have
a good understanding.

His praise endures forever!

Confession and Absolution*

Galatians 4:4; Isaiah 63:14

O Lord God, we confess that although we usually prepare for, as Paul put it, “the fullness of time,” that is not true in our personal lives.

**Forgive our impatience for taking
matters into our own hands, forgive our
not trusting that You are in control of all
things, and forgive our failing to
acknowledge You above all else.**

We confess, O Lord, that unlike obedient Joseph, we have not always listened to Your commands and instructions.

**Forgive our desire to be in control,
forgive our avoiding difficult decisions,
and forgive our thinking that we are able
to arrange all things for our own benefit.**

We confess, O Lord, that we have kept our faith to ourselves.

**Forgive us for not giving Your leading us
“a glorious name,” forgive our failure to
ask You for guidance each day, and forgive
our seeking to be like everyone else, rather
than trusting You.**

Forgiveness has been won for you! The babe born in Bethlehem is the only-begotten Son of God and your elder Brother. The Spirit urges you to cry, “Abba! Father!” As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Introit

Jeremiah 31:15–17;
antiphon: Hosea 11:1

When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.
Thus says the Lord: “A voice is heard in Ramah,
lamentation and bitter weeping.
Rachel is weeping for her children;
**she refuses to be comforted for her
children, because they are no more.”**
Thus says the Lord: “Keep your voice
from weeping,
and your eyes from tears,
for there is a reward for your work, declares
the Lord,
**and they shall come back from the land
of the enemy.**
There is hope for your future, declares the Lord,
**and your children shall come back to
their own country.”**
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
When Israel was a child, I loved him,
and out of Egypt I called my son.

Hymn - 386 - Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

sts. 1–2

Salutation and Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, our Maker and Redeemer, You wonderfully created us and in the incarnation of Your Son yet more wondrously restored our human nature. Grant that we may ever be alive in Him who made Himself to be like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading Isaiah 63:7–14

⁷I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord,
the praises of the Lord,
according to all that the Lord has granted us,
and the great goodness to the house of Israel
that he has granted them according to his
compassion,
according to the abundance of his
steadfast love.
⁸For he said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely.”
And he became their Savior.
⁹In all their affliction he was afflicted,
and the angel of his presence saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the
days of old.
¹⁰But they rebelled
and grieved his Holy Spirit;
therefore he turned to be their enemy,
and himself fought against them.
¹¹Then he remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.

Continued on page 4

Where is he who brought them up out of
the sea with the shepherds of his flock?
Where is he who put in the midst of them
his Holy Spirit,
¹²who caused his glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them
to make for himself an everlasting name,
¹³who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in the desert,
they did not stumble.
¹⁴Like livestock that go down into the valley,
the Spirit of the Lord gave them rest.
So you led your people,
to make for yourself a glorious name.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gradual Isaiah 9:6; Ps 98:1a

To us a child is born, to us a son is given;
**and the government shall be upon
his shoulder.**
And his name shall be called Wonderful
Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!

Epistle Galatians 4:4–7

⁴When the fullness of time had come, God
sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under
the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the
law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the
Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba!
Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a
son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Alleluia and Verse Luke 2:30, 32

**Alleluia. My eyes have seen your salvation; a
light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for
glory to your people Israel. Alleluia.**

Holy Gospel Matthew 2:13–23

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew,
the second chapter.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹³When [the wise men] had departed,
behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to
Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the
child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and
remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about
to search for the child, to destroy him.” ¹⁴And
he rose and took the child and his mother by
night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵and remained
there until the death of Herod. This was to
fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the
prophet, “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had
been tricked by the wise men, became furious,
and he sent and killed all the male children
in Bethlehem and in all that region who were
two years old or under, according to the time
that he had ascertained from the wise men.
¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the
prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸“A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted,
because they are no more.”

¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the
Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,
²⁰saying, “Rise, take the child and his mother
and go to the land of Israel, for those who

sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Catechism

The Second Article

I believe 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.

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Please sit

Sermon Hymn - 370 - What Child Is This

Sermon

Please stand

Offertory

LSB 192

Please sit

Offering

Please stand

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

**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.**

Closing Prayer*

We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You sent to earth Your only-begotten Son. By His entry into human existence, open our hearts and eyes to see that You are indeed our heavenly Father and we are heirs of Your gracious promise; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Salutation

LSB 201

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Benedicamus

Bless we the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

Closing Hymn - Joy to the World - LSB 387

Acknowledgments

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CCLI #3278613

Those Who Serve

Date	Reader	Ushers	Acolyte
Dec 28	Donna W	Pete W & Keith M	Nate J
Jan 4	Donna W	Jack P & Jack W	Kayla S
Jan 11	Diane T	Will F & Bill Y	Nate J
Jan 18	Bill Y	Kevin D & Gene A	Nate J
Jan 25	Karen M	Keith M & Bill Y	Kayla S

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dec 1 *Rob and Heather Slater Anniversary*
Dec 6 Marina Yarasavage
Dec 13 *Jerry and Elaine Decker Anniversary*
Dec 16 Jacob Learn
Keith Mitchell
Dec 29 Diane Turrell
Dec 30 Richard Cline III

Church Events

The Carols and Lessons service will be Jan 11.

This is a great service to sing, and learn about, your favorite Christmas carols.

Meet with Pastor Josh – Sign-up sheet in narthex

Bible Study on Wednesday Nights

Study will resume on Jan 7th.

Light dinner at 5 pm.

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year, but where does the celebration originate?

With so much information about Christmas out there, it is hard to know what to believe.

Join us Wednesdays as we separate the holiday from the holy day, the facts from the fantasy, and the truth from the tradition by using Lee Strobel's *The Case for Christmas*.



***We look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory
of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ will be revealed.***

Titus 2:13

Prayer Concerns

Mabel Lawson - Prayers for family
and friends as they mourn her passing.

Ashley Forba - Ongoing health issues

Mary Ellen Mills - Eye issues

Janet Finn - Continued rehab after knee
replacement

Elaine Decker - Ongoing health issues

Vladimir and Marie Dutko - Healing and
well-being - Marina Yarasavage's parents

Keith Mitchell's father - Kendall
Health issues

**All those in the armed forces,
including Kyle Stackhouse**

All those suffering due to natural disasters

Officers for St. Paul’s Church 2024-2025

President	Becky Durland	570-836-4532
Secretary	Elizabeth Stackhouse	570-833-5971
Treasurer	Regina Forba	570-836-6173
Financial Secretary	Linda Wozniak	570-380-3880

Elders

Willy Forba	570-836-6173
Paul De Groat	570-290-9626
Kevin Durland	570-836-4532
Gene Adams	570-833-4616
Pete Waldenberger	570-278-9211

Endowment Committee

Kevin Durland	570-836-4532
Bill Yarasavage	570-690-0879
Keith Mitchell	570-934-2314
Nancy Loch	570-965-2042

Board Council Members

Church Properties	Donna Waldenberger	570-278-9211
Christian Education	Regina Forba	570-836-6173
Evangelism	Diane Turrell	570-665-1369
Fellowship	Marina Yarasavage	570-690-0871
Youth Services	Elizabeth Stackhouse	570-833-5971

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	Advent Bible Study 7	8	9	10
Carols & Lessons service 11	12	13	Advent Bible Study 14	15	16	17
18	19	20	Advent Bible Study 5 pm 21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31