

"Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them." Datthew 11:4-5

Welcome

Welcome to all members and visitors! We are pleased to have you with us as we receive Christ's gifts and as we respond in thanks and praise. Guests, please sign the guest register in the narthex. If you need assistance, please ask one of the ushers. Prayers of preparation for worship can be found on the inside front cover of the hymnal.

The Lord's Supper is offered every Sunday of the month. St. Paul's observes the biblical practice of closed communion. Members of sister congregations of the

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are encouraged to commune with us. We ask **visitors who are not members of the LCMS** to speak with one of our pastors if you are interested in learning more about our church and communion practices. Those not communing with us at this service are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms to indicate this desire.

Those Serving Us

Preacher/Liturgist: Rev. Nathan Sherill Pianists: Rev. Timothy Frank, Daniel Frank, Barbara Klinge Violinist: Clara Klinge Kantors: Bambi Heckerman (8:00a.m.) Julie Moreno (10:45a.m.)

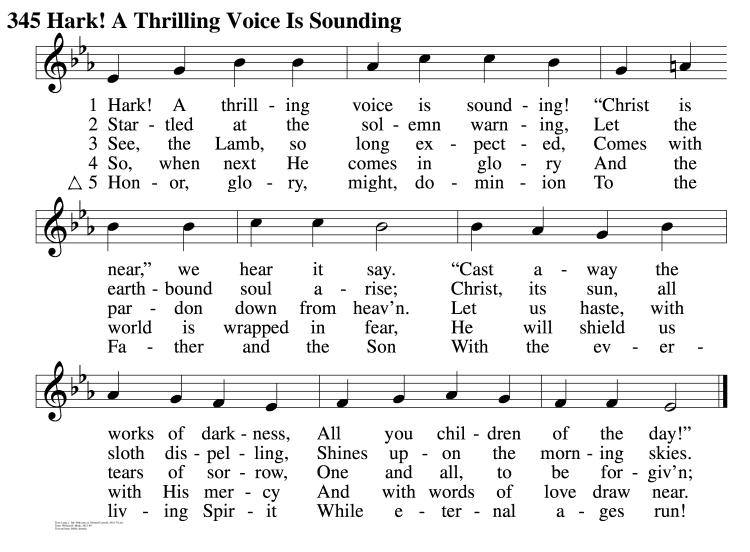
The Word In Music

Prelude: "The Messiah Medley" – arr. Anne Britt Offering: "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People" arr. Phillip Magness Distribution: "O Bride of Christ, Rejoice" – arr. Elizabeth Grimpo (8:00am); "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You" – LSB 334 Postlude: "Hark the Glad Sound" arr. Mark Bender

Kantor's Notes: Today's gradual is drawn from the choral section of "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" from Georg Friedric Handel's *Messiah*. Born in 1685, Handel was a contemporary of J.S. Bach and grew up in Germany before settling in England in 1712. The oratorio *Messiah* (composed in 1741) tells of the life of Christ in three parts, beginning with the prophesies and angelic announcement of His birth, continuing with His passion, and ending with His glorification. One of the most famous pieces in western choral music, Handel's oratorio continues to proclaim Christ to many hearers around the world. Today's prelude is an arrangement of portions of the Messiah, as is the postlude in this afternoon's Advent Lessons and Carols Service.

Hymn of the Season: "Prepare the Royal Highway" (LSB 343) (<u>www.stpaulscouncilbluffs.org/hymns</u>)

Prelude:



Stand

Confession and Absolution

Invocation

- \blacksquare In the name of the Father and of the \dashv Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- **C** Amen.

Exhortation

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

- **P** I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **C** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Kneel/Stand

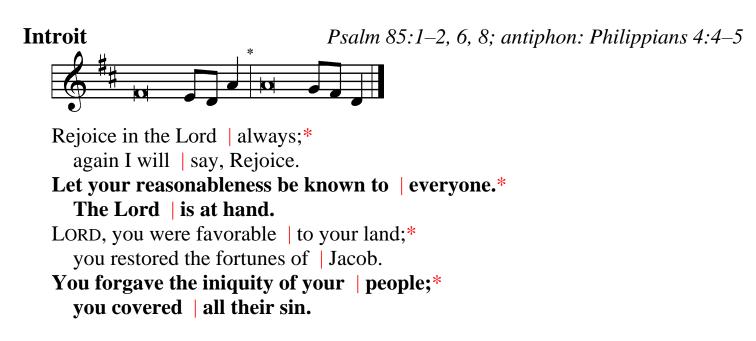
Confession of Sins

- **P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
- **C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the
→ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.



Will you not revive | us again,* that your people may re- | joice in you?
Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,* for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to | folly.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Rejoice in the Lord | always;* again I will | say, Rejoice.
Let your reasonableness be known to | everyone.* The Lord | is at hand.

Kyrie

LSB 186

C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

▶ Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her

that her warfare is ended,

that her iniquity is pardoned,

that she has received from the LORD's hand

double for all her sins.

³A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Isaiah 40:1–11

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young. This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P

Gradual "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" *G.F. Handel (Isaiah 40:9; 60:1b*

O thou that tellest good tiding to Zion, Arise, shine, for thy light is come, Arise, arise, Arise, shine for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord The glory of the Lord is risen, Is risen Upon thee, Is risen, Is risen upon thee. The glory, The glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Epistle

¹This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. ²Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. ³But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. ⁴I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. ⁵Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

- **P** This is the Word of the Lord.
- **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

Verse

LSB 190

- **C** Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia.
- A Give ear, O my people, to my | teaching;* incline your ears to the words | of my mouth!
- **C** Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:2–11

- **P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.
- **G** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

²When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:

1 Corinthians 4:1–5

⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written,

"Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

- **P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- **C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

LSB 191

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,

the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God,

begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn of the Day 347 Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

1 "Com - fort, com - fort ye peace," thus ye My peo - ple, Speak 2 Yea, God will par - don, her sins our Blot ting out each her - ald's 3 Hark, the voice is cry - ing In the des - ert long was crook - ed; Make 4 Make ye straight what the rough - er "Com-fort those who sit Mourn-ing saith our God; in dark-ness, dark mis-deed: All that well de-served His an - ger He no Call - ing far and near, sin - ners to re - pen-tance, Since the your hearts be plain. Let true and hum - ble. As be plac - es 'neath their load. Speak ye Je - ru - sa - lem sor - rows' to more will see heed. She hath suf - fered man - y a day, or King - dom is here. O that warn - ing now cry o - bey!fits His ly reign. For the glo - ry the Lord ho of Of that waits Tell the peace for them; her that her Now her griefs have passed God will change a - way; her Now pre - pare for God Let the val leys a way; Now earth shed all flesh o'er is a - broad, And shall sins Ι cov - er And her war - fare now is o - ver." pin - ing sad - ness In er - spring - ing glad - ness. _ to ev _ And hills bow down rise to meet Him the to greet Him. see Word nev - er the to - ken That His is bro - ken.

Sermon

"Speak Tenderly to Jerusalem"

Isaiah 40:1-11

Stand

Offertory

C

LSB 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Sit

Offering

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

We welcome communicant members of our sister congregations of the LCMS to join us in receiving the Lord's Supper. Other visitors are welcomed forward to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms to indicate this desire.

Preface

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **C** And with thy spirit.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **G** We lift them up unto the Lord.
- **P** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
- **C** It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface

Sanctus

 C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

LSB 194

Lord's Prayer

P 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.

C For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

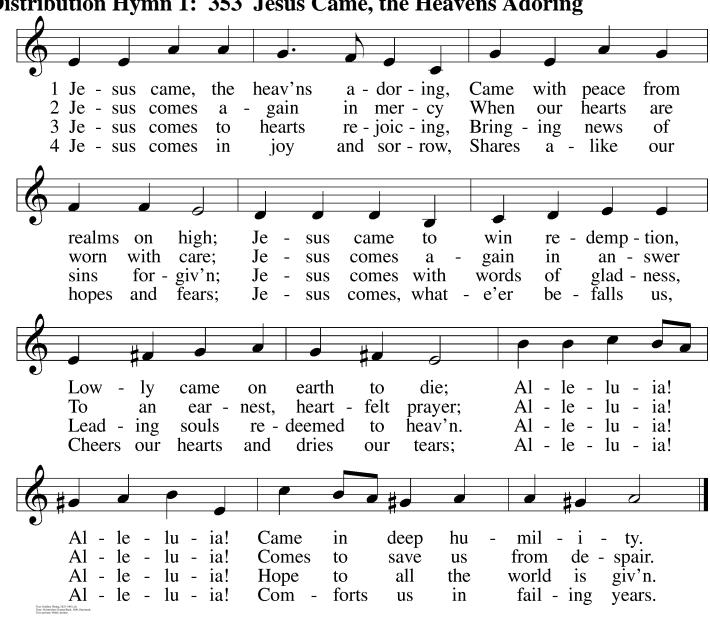
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

LSB 197

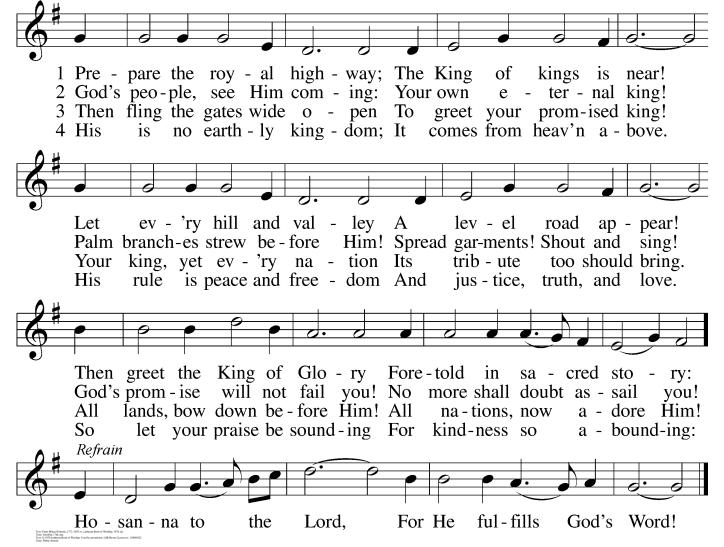
LSB 197

Distribution



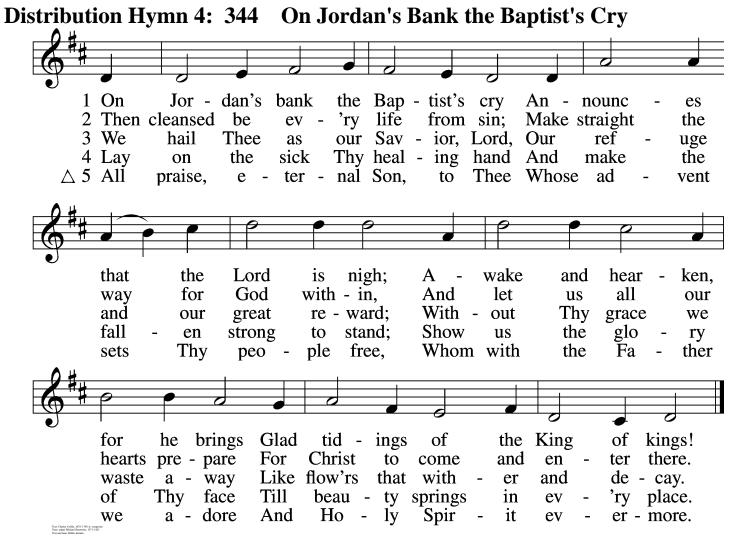
Distribution Hymn 1: 353 Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring

Distribution Hymn 2: 515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



Distribution Hymn 3: 515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

And let your lights 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, ap - pear; 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near; pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'rings bore, 3 The saints, who here in 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, 0 Je - sus, now ap - pear; The eve-ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark-er night is near. ap - proach - es forth as He With al - le - lu - ias clear. Go Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor-row is more. no longed A - rise, O Sun so for, O'er this be-night-ed sphere. The Bride-groom is And soon is draw-ing nigh. a - ris - ing mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand. The The Lamb they shall be - hold; A - round the throne of glo - ry With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see At mid - night comes the Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; cry. glo - ry; The Bride-groom is A - rise. O heirs of at hand. Their di - a - dems of tri-umph cast be - fore Him In gold. That sets Your peo - ple free! The day of earth's re - demp - tion



Stand

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word,

for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,

a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

- A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
- **C** and His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Salutation		
P	The Lord be with you.	
С	And with thy spirit.	
Benedicamus		
A	Bless we the Lord.	
С	Thanks be to God.	
Benediction		LSB 202
P	The Lord bless you and keep you.	
	The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.	
	The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and $+$ give you peace	
_		

C Amen, amen, amen.

1 Hark the glad sound! The Sav ior comes, The Sav ior _ 2 He comes the pris re - lease, In Sa tan's 'ners to 3 He comes the bro _ heart bind. The bleed - ing ken to of Peace, 4 Our wel - come glad ho - san -Prince Thy nas, prom - ised long; Let ev 'ry heart _ pre - pare a bond age held. The gates of brass be fore Him soul to cure, And with the trea sures of His shall pro - claim, heav'n's And e ter nal arch es _ _ Ø voice throne And ev 'ry a song. burst, The i fet ters yield. ron _ To en rich the hum ble grace poor. -With Thy be lov ed ring _ _ name. Text Philip Duddridge, 1 Tane: Thomas Hennis, 17

Hymn to Depart 349 Hark the Glad Sound

Postlude:

Acknowledgments

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Opportunities for Growth

This Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Bible Study
	10:45 a.m.	Divine Service
	4:00 p.m.	Advent Lessons and Carols with
		Chili Supper
Wednesday	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Congregational Caroling Event
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
Next Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Divine Service
	9:30 a.m.	Sunday School/Bible Study
	10:45 a.m.	Divine Service

The Congregation at Prayer

Those ill or recovering: Chris Circo, Mary Johannes, Jayne McIlrath, Elizabeth Bowerman, Karen Brandenburg, Gertrud Rossbund, Ryan Pedersen (son of Art & Julie Gardner), Trent Casey, John Shafer (father of Kelli Salin), Miles Maurice (grandson of Joel & Paulette Maurice), Tina Lamason (sister of Brad White), Marge Miller, Dawn Letcher (daughter of Tony and Shirley Gust), Cole (cousin of Kelli Salin), Lu Schwery (mother of Denise Krohn), Arla Mae Ebers (mother of Julie Moreno), Bill Kruse and family (at the death of his brother) Allen and Marcia Timm, and all our shut ins.

Our missionaries: Deaconess Sandra Rhein & Ms. Becky Bartelt

News and Notes

Advent Lessons and Carols this afternoon join us at 4 p.m. for a special Advent Lessons and Carols service followed by a congregational chili supper!

You're Invited! The Christmas Trees Scavenger Hunt will be held today at the Burris residence. All proceeds will go to Midlands Animal Shelter. Talk to Julia or Dale for more information.

Christmas Caroling – Our last Christ Academy of the year is on December 18th. We will devote that time to a congregational Christmas Caroling event to see our shut-ins and others. No Advent service that night. Come one come all!

New Nursery/Toddler Class – Special thanks to <u>**Tayler Tague</u></u> for volunteering to lead our Nursery/Toddler class during Sunday School. If interested, please join them today!</u>**

Sing-Along Join Dr. Christensen and friends for the Christmas Sing-Along on Thursday December 17, at 3:00p.m. We'll meet on the 2nd floor of FoxRun Assisted Living (3121 Macineery Dr.) for lots of fun and treats!

Recipe! Did you bring the pumpkin dessert to the Thanksgiving potluck? It had a nut crust and whipped cream topping in a glass pan. If you did, Lois Hanusa (712-325-4378) really wants the recipe!

December service schedule:

Service of Advent Lessons and Carols today, December 15th at 4:00pm Service of Light, Christmas Eve, December 24th at 7:00pm Divine Worship Service, Christmas morning December 25th at 10:00am Divine Worship Service December 29th at 8:00am and 10:45; Sunday School/Adult Bible Class 9:30am Divine Worship Service New Year's Eve, December 31st at 7:00pm

Catechism

The Lord's Prayer

The First Petition: Hallowed by Thy name.

What does this mean? God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.

How is God's name kept holy? God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!

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Nathansherrill1978@gmail.com	Administrative Assistant – Glennda Hedlund			
Associate Pastor/Kantor - Rev. Timothy Frank <u>glennda.hedlund@splecc.org</u>				
Cell: 712-269-3683	School Office Hours			
pastorfrank239@gmail.com	Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.			
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	St. Paul's Music Conservatory			
Parish Administrator - Heidi Bernhards	239 Frank St.			
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Friday 8 a.m noon	Cell: 712-269-3683			
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