



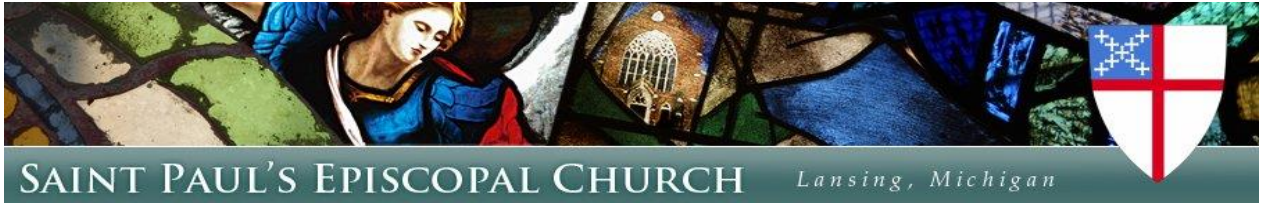
"Our Welcome"

In the light of God's unconditional love, we respect the dignity of every human being by welcoming and supporting all persons whatever their race, color, gender, age, sexual orientation, health status, marital status or stage of spiritual journeying. We invite you to explore, investigate, and grow in your faith and become a part of our shared journey with God.

Third Sunday of Advent - December 15, 2024
Holy Eucharist 10:00am

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Office: 517-482-9454

218 W. Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48933
www.stpaulslansing.org



St. Paul's Staff: : The Rev. Karen C. Lewis, Rector; The Rev. Canon Dr. W. Richard Hamlin, Priest Associate; The Rev. Dr. Donna McNeil, Associate for Liturgy and Pastoral Care; The Very Rev. Gail Shafer, Priest Associate; Ms. Stephanie Gewirtz, Minister of Music; Ms. Theresa Milne, Parish Administrator; Ms. Barbara Heany, Sunday School Director; Ms. Katie Alexander, Nursery Attendant; Mr. D'Kwon Guerrero, Sexton/Custodian; Mr. Conrad Moyer, A/V Technician.

St. Paul's Vestry: Steven Kadow, Sr. Warden; Jane Bryce, Jr. Warden; Larry Clark; Joshua Freeman; Leslie Hall; Bob Merriman; David Parks; Margaret Schulte; Bobbi Tisdale; AJ Walilko; Maria Wawro; Amy Wortley; Jeff Irwin, Treasurer; Sally Boron, Secretary

Visitors and Guests: Please fill out a visitor card and give it to an usher or place it in the offering box. As you are leaving, we would like you to take a moment to sign one of the guest books located by the church doorways.

Opportunities for Worship – Sundays: 10:00am

Parish Office Hours Monday - Thursday: 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Closed on Fridays.

Phone: 517-482-9454 E-mail: office@stpaulslansing.org

Visit our website: www.stpaulslansing.org

For Parish activities and information please check the information table in the Merrifield Room.

Baptism or Marriage: If you would like more information, please contact the Rector at 482-9454 or by email: rector@stpaulslansing.org.

Church School: Our church school for elementary through middle school ages begins at 9:45am. If you would like more information, please speak to Barb Heany.

The Nursery is open in the Music Wing near the Choir Room.

All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry into the sanctuary or into any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.

Roosevelt Parking Ramp Hours of Access:

Monday-Thursday: 6:00pm – 9:00pm Gates/doors lock automatically at 9:01pm

Friday: Not Available Gates locked

Saturday & Sunday: 7:30am – 6:00pm Gates/doors lock automatically at 6:01pm

The ramp will be available on special occasions when requested by the churches in advance. Staff members (Karen, Stephanie, Theresa) will have access cards if your car is locked into the ramp after hours.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOLY COMMUNION
DECEMBER 15, 2024

PRELUDE

The people gather in silence as they wait patiently with expectation for the coming of our Lord.

INTROIT

Wait for the Lord

(Taizé)

Lento ($\text{♩} = 48$)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Officiant

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

People

Go through the gates, build up the highway,

Officiant

clear it of stones, remove any obstacles.

People

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Officiant

Come, let us journey to the Bethlehem manger.

People

Hear of God's promises, witness God's faithfulness.

Officiant

sing with Mary, rejoice with Elizabeth.

People

Prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise
 2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high - er yet that star a -
 3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to

are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -
 scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its
 dawn. Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray
 course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone
 are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it
 gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav-eler, a - ges
 hie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav-eler, lo! the

brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.
 are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.
 Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

Words: John Bowring (1792-1872). Music: *Aberystwyth*, Joseph Parry (1841-1903).

The people standing, the Officiant says

Officiant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The people sing together

KYRIE

S96

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord,
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)
Copyright: Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are invited to sit for the readings

FIRST LESSON

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Reader A reading from Zephaniah

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand to sing the Canticle

CANTICLE 9

THE FIRST SONG OF ISAIAH

1 Sure - ly it is God who saves me; trust - ing him, I shall not
 2 Make his deeds known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed
 fear. For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing
 Name. Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his
 help is near. So re - joice as you draw wa - ter from sal -
 might pro - claim. Zi - on, lift your voice in sing - ing; for with
 va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the day of your de -
 you has come to dwell, in your ve - ry midst, the
 liv - erance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.
 great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

The People sit for the reading

SECOND LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

Savior of the nations, come

HYMN 54

1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397);
tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)
Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524

THE HOLY GOSPEL

LUKE 3:7-18

Then, all standing, the Gospel is read, first saying

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you."

Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Donna McNiel

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us offer our prayers of intercession to God, saying, God, you are in our midst, renew us in your love.

Lord of life, you call us to prepare the way for your reign by bearing fruit worthy of repentance. You lift up a vision before us of a world that is shared and fair, where needs are met and no one is outcast. Baptize us fresh in your Spirit as we pray, God you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

We pray for the nations of the world, both allies and enemies, for their leaders and their people. Make yourself known to us all, that all the peoples of the earth may live in justice and peace. God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For Sean our presiding bishop, Bonnie, our bishop, for all the bishops in the Church of England and for your church here and abroad, that we hear your call for justice as good news for all people. God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

We pray for peace in our world, especially for those caught in war, and for all who live in fear of violence, extortion, threats, and false accusations. God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For those who suffer from natural disasters, from hunger and cold. Lead us to share our food and our coats with them. God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For the frail, the sick, those on our parish prayer list, those we name silently or aloud _____, and all those whose hands grow weak, lead us to help them with gentleness. God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For those who are disabled, oppressed, or outcast among us, change their pain into praise, and let their courage be renowned in the world. God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For the earth from which we draw our health, our strength, our inspiration, and for all living creatures in whose community we live – God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For those who have died and for those who mourn, and for all who join the saints in eternal life. God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

The Officiant closes the prayers by saying

Surely, God, we can trust in you and not be afraid. Lead us in songs of praise and shouts of joy, for you are in our midst. We pray through the one who baptizes us not only with water but with the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Officiant says

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept. Then the Officiant and people say together

God of all mercy,
 we confess that we have sinned against you,
 opposing your will in our lives.
 We have denied your goodness in each other,
 in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
 We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
 the evil we have done,
 and the evil done on our behalf.
 Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
 through our Savior Jesus Christ,
 that we may abide in your love
 and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life unto the Lord.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Comfort, Comfort, Now My People* Tom Trenney

OFFERTORY HYMN *Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding* HYMN 59

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing; "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
 4 so when next he comes with glo - ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
 2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 3 let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all to be for - given;
 4 may he with his mer - cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
 5 with the ev - er - last - ing Spi - rit while un - end - ing a - ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935).

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people standing, the Officiant says

People The Lord be with you
And also with you.
Officiant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

How can we thank you, O God? For sun and moon and stars, for breath and life and all things good, for your steadfast promise and your faithful love, for the day that is surely coming when all things will be made new. With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

The people sing together

SANCTUS

S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications Inc

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus, who came to be your living Word, to baptize us with Spirit and fire, to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty, and to announce the good news of your coming realm. With thanksgiving, we remember how, when the hour had come, Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles. He said to them, I will not eat this Passover again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Then Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took a cup, gave it to them, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. Drink this in remembrance of me. I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you, sharing this holy meal, remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying: Come Lord Jesus!

The Officiant and People say together

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

The Officiant continues

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us - this bread, this cup, these people -- Christ's body and blood, given in love for the world. Make us one in the Spirit, one in the church, and one with Christ our Lord. Make us gentle, joyful, thankful people, serving our neighbors, worshiping you alone. Keep us in the peace of Christ until you gather us at your table in glory. Even now, a voice is crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord!

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

S164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications

THE INVITATION

Officiant The gifts of God for the people of God. Holy Gifts for Holy People.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All God's people are cordially invited to God's table, including children. Gluten-free wafers are available: please indicate to the priest that you require this alternative. We will be offering wine from the common cup to those who wish to receive in this manner. The chalice bearer will thoroughly wipe the space from which you drank prior to offering the cup to the next communicant.

Another alternative to receiving the wine from the common cup is through intinction. The priest will place the wafer in your hand; the chalice bearer will pick up the wafer, dip it into the wine, and replace it on your palm. Please do not instinct (dip) with their own hand/fingers. This safe guards all who use the common cup. If you wish to receive communion in only one kind (bread), know that you have received full communion.

Those who are not baptized or those who do not wish to receive communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. The ushers will guide you. If you are unable to come forward and wish to receive communion in your pew, please let one of the ushers know.

After you have received communion and returned to your seat, you are invited to silently offer the following prayer or another of your choosing to God. Remember that others are still receiving communion and your quietness will assist in this most holy experience.

Gracious God, by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son, one in the sharing of his body and blood, one in the communion of his Spirit. Help us grow in love for one another and come to the full maturity of the body of Christ. We ask this in his name. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTHEM *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

David Schelat

COMMUNION HYMN

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

HYMN 339

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

1 Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the
2 Sun, who all my life dost bright - en; Light, who
3 Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray thee, let me

gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's
dost my soul en - light - en; Joy, the best that an - y
glad - ly here o - bey thee; nev - er to my hurt in -

splen - dor, there with joy thy prais - es ren - der
 know - eth; Fount, whence all my be - ing flow - eth;
 vit - ed, be thy love with love re - quit - ed;

un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed hath this
 at thy feet I cry, my Ma - ker, let me
 from this ban - quet let me mea - sure, Lord, how

won - drous ban - quet found - ed— high o'er all the heavens he
 be a fit par - ta - ker of this bless - ed food from
 vast and deep its trea - sure; through the gifts thou here dost

reign - eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign - eth.
 hea - ven, for our good, thy glo - ry, giv - en.
 give me, as thy guest in heaven re - ceive me.

Words: Johann Franck (1618-1677); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Schmücke dich*, melody Johann Crüger (1598-1662); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Officiant and People say together:

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

1 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
 2 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
 3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
 4 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of

God! For him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him
 God! By those who tru - ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly
 God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of
 God! He of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they

barred! Not robed in roy - al splen - dor, in
 heard; pi - ty the proud and haugh - ty, who
 God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All
 need. Gen - tle is he and hum - ble! And

power and pomp, comes he; but clad as are the
 have not learned to heed the Christ who is the
 things are in his hand, all a - ges and all
 light his yoke shall be, for he would have us

poor - est, such his hu - mil - i - ty!
 Prom - ise, who has a - tone - ment made.
 peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!
 bear it so he can make us free!

Words: Federico J. Pagura (b. 1923); tr. Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000), alt. Copyright © 1974, by Hope Publishing company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Harmonization Copyright © 1984, Ronald Arnatt. Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635) alt.; harm. and desc. Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930).

DISMISSAL

Officiant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God
 And memory of Jim Clark
 By Barbara Clark.*

Assisting in today's service

Crucifer	Amy Wortley
Subdeacon	Greg Wortley
Lector	Nancy Rudd
Prayers of the People	Steven Kandow
Chalice Bearers	Jamal Dillman-Hasso, Leslie Hall
Counters	Larry Clark, Martha McKee
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Bobbi Tisdale (chair), Marilyn Earley, Steven Kandow, Maria Wawro
Ushers	John Nevin, Jack Baker, Bob Merriman
Coffee Hour	
Greeters	
Recycling Team	Bob Merriman
Sunday School Mentors	Barb Heany, Melissa Blood
Vestry Person of the Day	Steven Kandow

Assisting next Sunday, December 22, 2024

Crucifer	Jim Milne
Subdeacon	Leslie Hall
Lector	Jim Milne
Prayers of the People	Martha McKee
Chalice Bearers	Amy Wortley, Greg Wortley
Counters	Jane Bryce, Isaac Francisco
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Debbie Parks (chair), Katie Alexander, Carol Thomas
Ushers	Larry Clark, Isaac Francisco, Steven Kandow, Hillary Walilko
Coffee Hour	
Greeters	
Recycling Team	AJ & Hillary Walilko
Sunday School Mentors	Barb Heany, Justin Alexander
Vestry Person of the Day	

**Opportunities for Prayer
December 15, 2024**

We pray for those who have ongoing needs for healing prayers: Joanne, Mike, Melissa, Tom, Sarah, Heather, Sebastian, Peter, Natalie, Julie, Mark, Chris, Bill, Robin, Samantha, Ian, Leigh, and Diane. **Due to privacy concerns, we will now be posting first names only on our prayer list.*

We pray this week for the following St. Paul's members: Michael Crouch and Brad Deacon.

We pray this week for the following community service agency: Sleep in Heavenly Peace, 711 E Willoughby Rd, Lansing, MI 48911.

We pray for our downtown church community: Cathedral Church of St. Mary; Central United Methodist Church; Christ Community Church; and First Presbyterian Church.

We pray for our worshiping communities: St. Luke's, Shelby Township; St. Mary, Full of Grace, Mao, DR.

We pray for those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Anglican Church of Tanzania.

We pray for: Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; Bonnie A. Perry, our bishop; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod; our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; Karen C. Lewis, our rector; Donna McNiel, our associate for liturgy and pastoral care; Dick Hamlin and Gail Shafer, our priest associates; our worship ministers, St. Paul's staff and our diocesan household.

**Announcements for the Week of
December 15, 2024 - December 22, 2024**

Advent Series - Limping with God: This Tuesday, December 17th, we will meet in the Merrifield at 6:15pm for class and dinner. Please have a Bible with you for class (preferably not KJV). Learn little known facts in the Bible. We'll look at some of the stranger stories in the Hebrew Scriptures and discern why they are there and what might they mean for us. Sodom & Gomorrah - what was the real sin? Learn why Er and Onan were slain by the Lord.

Evening Meeting Times & Parking Ramp Hours: All evening meetings and classes should begin no earlier than 6:15pm and end by 8:45pm for access to the parking ramp. Regular parking ramp availability M-Th 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday & Sunday 7:30am-6:00pm.

Blessing Box: Sign up in the Merrifield Room to fill the Blessing Box for a week.

The service of Compline is offered Wednesday evenings at 9 pm on Zoom. The service will be posted on the St. Paul's Facebook page after being recorded. Please feel free to either join the Zoom meeting, or the service posted on Facebook. The Zoom link will be listed in the weekly email.

Bulletin: Please submit information by noon on Tuesday, in writing or by e-mail, to office@stpaulslansing.org to ensure accuracy.

Recycle ink cartridges: Bring your used ink cartridges into the parish office for recycling and help reduce our paper costs. We get discounts on office supplies and paper through the Staples recycling program.

Reminder: Please schedule all meetings with the office in advance. We want to assure you that there is a space for you to meet and that someone will be available to open the building. **Please** notify the office if you have a **cancellation** to ensure building and staff security.

Coffee Hour sign up: We need two family units per week to bring treats, serve & provide cleanup for coffee hour following the 10:00am services. There are signup sheets in the Merrifield Room. Sign up with a friend or extended family. If no one signs up, we will not have coffee hour.

Altar flower requests: There are openings for the upcoming Sundays for altar flower dedications. Flowers are always given to the glory of God, and then in honor of, or in thanksgiving for a person or occasion. Dedications and **\$120** payment must be received in the church office no later than the Monday before the date of the dedication. **More than one dedication can be made if you and a friend want to share the cost of the flowers.** Altar Flower forms available on the signup table, or you can email your dedication to office@stpaulslansing.org.

Please sign up to be a Greeter: One of the faith outreaches we have at St. Paul's is the Sunday morning greeters. We can extend our faith by welcoming our fellow parishioners and visitors each week. Remember that you are the first face they will see as they enter the church. A welcoming hand and face always lift our spirit, what a way to start a day and you play an important part in that.

- **Signup sheets are in the Merrifield Room** – Need two greeters at the back door.
- Be at the back door 20 minutes before the service.
- Greeters should remind parishioners to pick up their nametags and ask visitors to fill out the guest book located in the cloister outside the chapel and to join the parish after the service for coffee and fellowship in the Merrifield Room.

St. Paul's Recycling: Please sign up in the Merrifield Room to take some of the recycling either to your home bin or to a recycling drop off center. We are committed to reduce, reuse, and recycle at St. Paul's. See one of the Milnes or Borons for more information.

Contributions Last Week: For the week of December 1, 2024, St. Paul's received **\$19,914** in contributions as follows:

Pledge Income	\$14,072
Prepaid 2025 Pledge	\$3,500
Operating Income	\$1,450
Christmas Flowers	\$335
Mission & Outreach Restricted	\$30
Facility Rental	\$250
Noisy Offering	\$244
Loose Offering	\$33

<p>This Week at St. Paul's December 15, 2024 - December 22, 2024</p>

Sunday, 12/15:		Advent III
	9:05am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary
	11:15am	Coffee Hour
	11:15am	Pack lunches for PWL
	12:00pm	Drumming Session - Sanctuary
	5pm-8pm	LINCS Holiday Party - Merrifield Room
Monday 12/16:	6:15pm	Vestry Dinner - Meeting @6:30pm - Hill Room
Tuesday, 12/17:	6:15pm	Advent Series - Limping with God & Dinner - Merrifield room
Wednesday, 12/18:	7:00pm	Bible Study - Zoom
Thursday, 12/19:	12:00pm	Staff Christmas Luncheon - VanAtta Room
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, 12/20:		Office Closed
Saturday, 12/21:		
Sunday, 12/22:		Advent IV
	9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary
	11:15am	Coffee Hour
	11:15am	Decorate Sanctuary after service
	11:30am	Lunch for decorating crew

QR Code for giving. Scan the code with your phone to be taken to options for giving.



St. Paul's Christmas Season Services

December 15, Advent III: 10:00am – Worship/Holy Communion
December 22 Advent IV: 10:00am – Worship/ Holy Communion
December 24, Christmas Eve: 7:00pm – Christmas Music
December 24, Christmas Eve: 7:30pm - Festal Christmas Eve Service
December 25, Christmas Day: 10:00am – Worship & Holy Communion
December 29: 10:00am Baptism & Holy Communion
January 5, 2025, 10:00am – Epiphany Lessons & Carols & Antecommunion

CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND

I would like to contribute \$ _____

This contribution is from: _____

In Memory of: _____

OR

In grateful Thanksgiving for: _____

Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and write "Flower Fund" in memo line. Checks and this form can be placed in the collection plate, mailed to the church office at 218 W. Ottawa, Lansing 48933, or placed in the Parish mailbox outside of the Parish office. (Deadline: Monday, December 16, 2024)

