

First Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021

+SERVICE OF THE WORD+
Divine Setting Five

BELL CALL TO WORSHIP

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

"Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising"

#375

INVOCATION +CONFESSON +ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord!....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.

(Silence for confession)

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.

P: Upon this your confession.....and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

KYRIE (tune of Hark the Glad Sound)

Have mercy on your people, Lord.

Have mercy , Christ our King

Renew us by your mercy, Lord;

Accept the prayers we bring.

GLORIA (tune of Hark! The Herald Angels Sing)

1. "Glory be to God on high!" This is now our joyful cry.
Peace to all who live on earth, Grace and favor for new birth.
You we praise and glorify. Worship you, O Lord most high.
Gracious Father, heav'ly King To your name alone we sing;
Praise the glory of your name, Now and evermore the same!
2. Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, sole-begotten, holy one,
Born on earth From realms on high, Born true man for us to die.
Lamb of God, You take away This world's sin; Grant peace we pray.
With the Spirit You alone Are most high, O God the Son,
And the father God above, Praise we now Your glorious love.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray... C: Amen

OLD TESTAMENT

The people of Israel were commanded to dedicate the firstborn son from every family to the LORD. This was to serve as a reminder of how the LORD had delivered them from Egypt.

The LORD said to Moses, "Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine." Then Moses said to the people, "When the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, you shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the LORD's. Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By a strong hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt,

Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15 (ESV)

from the house of slavery. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.'

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE INTROIT

Psalm 98

L: The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

C: Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

L: The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.

C: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

L: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

ALL: 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.

L: The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

EPISTLE

Colossians 3:12-17 (ESV)

The apostle Paul invites us to adorn our lives with the same virtues that Christ shared with us. Chief among them is the virtue of love which creates unity in the body of Christ.

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke the second chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

CREED (*tune of O Come, Little Children*)

1. *The Father has showered His gifts from on high.
Most precious of gifts in the manger doth lie.
Our God and Creator has now sent His Son
That we with our God might forever be one.*
2. *The Savior, Christ Jesus, is our Holy King.
Of Him our glad praises this day do we sing
The cross in His future Brief sorrow would bring.
In His death and rising the Grave lost its sting.*
3. *The Spirit we treasure; Our hope can't grow dim.
For He is the star that hath brought us to Him.
Let Heaven rejoice as with Him we proclaim
That we are believers in God's Holy name.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Brittany Fulcer

HYMN OF THE DAY*"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"*

#359

SERMON**OFFERING****OFFERTORY***"Create in Me"*

#956

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**LORD'S PRAYER****BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION****CLOSING HYMN***"Let Our Gladness Have No End"*

#381

ANNOUNCEMENTS**† St. Paul Visitation Ministry †**

Duane Barth
 Rosemary Matlock
 *Marilyn Ziemke
 Darrell Gocke

Don Butzke
 Elsie Pirrie
 Delores Nordmeyer
 Farmer Bob Brauer

Bil Rodgers
 Alretta Klepper
 *denotes nonmember

Christine Erks
 LaVerne Rohren
 Ardit Stuhr

Jim Klepper
 *Bill West
 Bryce Clausen

Do this in Remembrance of Me" Exodus 13:1-3a,11-15 ESV

Introduction and Goal

Remembering pleasant things, perhaps even in a time when things aren't so pleasant, is a wonderful gift that God has given to us.

May we grow in taking time to reflect on God's goodness in the past and His continued promise to take care of each of us.

commands of _____ brought Joseph, Mary, and the Christ Child to the temple.

God stated that all firstborn males, of both man and beast, belonged to _____.

_____ obeyed the Law and came to the temple to be purified following childbirth.

These sacrificial acts pointed ahead to the ultimate sacrifice made by the _____ of _____.

The obedience of Jesus to His Father's will shown as an infant _____ throughout His life here on earth.

Through the sacrifice of the Lamb of God, each of us has been _____.

It's important that we _____ all these things!

The reason God gave the Law that the firstborn male needed to be redeemed was so that people would _____ His goodness as He led His people out of bondage.

The words of the text may remind us of the words Jesus used in instituting _____ .

It is good to remember that our gracious God gives us _____ good things and is _____ as we travel through the bad.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Rev Lee Seetin and St Peter Lutheran Church, Gresham

Rev Eddie Mekasha, missionary to Sudanese and Ethiopian Immigrants

Jalynn Brase of Staplehurst as she considers a call to teach 1st-2nd grades at St. Paul's next year.

For Our Congregation and Community:
Natalie Schmieding's brother-in-law, Steve, recovering from severe case of COVID

Terry Colburn, home recovering from pneumonia

Dealing with an illness: Pastor Gudgel, Joan Naber, Dick Rhodes, Pauline Bulgrin, Bil Rodgers, Artie Rutledge, Kelly Heser (friend of Cristy Richters), Taida Grantski, Jenni Conell, Shelley Scheele, Roger Rhodes, Mitch Peeks, Dick Greenwood, Carole Stern (Heather Wellman's mother), Shelley Neemeyer (Sheri Hahn's sister-in-law), Anna (Friend of DuAnne Deremer)

Recovering from surgery: Bobbi Luce, Barb Barth, Lois Richters, Alretta Klepper

Declining Health: Wilmer Ritterling, Sheila Franks, Bryce Clausen

St. Paul Lutheran Church: 1100 D Street, Utica, Nebraska 402-534-2200 (phone); School: 402-534-2121

Pastor: Rev. Jon Dunbar; 402-641-4813 **Visitation Pastor:** Rev. Terry Groth; 402-641-0991

Principal: Mr. Bob Brauer; 402-534-3406 **DCE:** Brittany Fulcer; 414-292-8069

In Response to God's Love

December 19: Inperson Attendance: 218 **Visitors:** 14 **Online:** N/A **Sunday School:** 41 **Communion:** 145

VOLUNTEERS:

Today: 12-26-21 Acolyte: Lexi Kraus **Lay Reader:** Jamie Kovac **Organist:** Carol Erks

Next Week: 01-02-22 Acolyte: Abbie Saunders **Lay Reader:** Jeff Wellman **Organist:** Donneta Schmieding

	<u>THIS WEEK</u>	
SUNDAY (12-26)	9:00 AM	Worship
	10:30 AM	Bible Study
MONDAY (12-27)	-----	
TUESDAY (12-28)	-----	
WEDNESDAY (12-29)	-----	
THURSDAY (12-30)	6:00 PM	Christmas/New Year's Youth Ministry Party
FRIDAY (12-31)	7:00 PM	New Year's Eve Worship Service w/Communion
SATURDAY (01-01)	-----	
SUNDAY (01-02)	9:00 AM	Worship w/Communion
	10:30 AM	Bible Study

As of 12-21-21	Amount received 12-19-21	Needed each week	Received YTD 2021	YTD Amount needed to cover 2021 budget	Difference
General Fund	\$28,435.00		\$682,307.00		
Thrivent Choice	\$0.00		\$4,386.00		
School Tuition	\$0.00		\$40,543.00		
Total	\$28,435.00 Week over/ (under)	\$71,101.00 -\$42,666.00	\$727,236.00	\$782,984.00	-\$55,748.00
Building Fund	\$0.00		\$102,300.00	Bldg Fund	\$8,554.00
Teacherage Fund	\$0.00		\$650.00	Teacherage Fund	\$975.00
Restricted Funds (other than bldg)	\$0.00		\$1,608.00		
Mekasha Mission (9/21-8/22) 5k goal	\$160.00	\$97.00	\$1,520.00	\$1,538.00	-\$18.00

Current Operating Note: \$25,000.00 (debt limit is \$90,000)

Watch Our Services on Facebook Thanks to great volunteers and technology upgrades, we are able to live stream weekly services and special programs over our website: live.stpaulutica.com. In the event that you have trouble with the live stream feed or you want to watch a service later, you can also go to Facebook and search "St Paul Utica Service Videos". Videos are posted there after the live stream is finished, usually by the next day.

New Member Potluck Dinner

The congregation is invited to attend a church potluck on Sunday January 9th, 2022 in honor of all who have joined us over the last two years. The meal is hosted by the Board of Elders, with main course, drinks, and table settings provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. The meal will be served in our school gym after the Education hour.

2022 Church Officer Installation

All newly elected and returning church officers for 2022 will be installed during the worship service on Sunday January 9th, 2022. Special thanks to all our outgoing officers as well as to everyone who agreed to be considered for election.

Camp Luther Financial Aid Available! Early bird registration for Camp Luther (Columbus, NE) begins December 13th, and it's a good time to think about sending your kids to summer camp. St. Paul's has set aside funds to help your family choose this wonderful Christian camp experience for your children. We will reimburse an equal percentage of each camper's camp fee up to 50% depending on the funds available. Please contact the church office if you have kids going to camp. If you know of a family who would like to send their kids to camp but have financial needs, please talk to Pastor Dunbar.

Save the date for Valentine Adventure

Wednesday February 2nd @ 5:59 pm

Windsor Loin Meal

St Paul School Gym

Entertainment provided by the K-2 students. More information to come!

Paul Heidorn's family expresses their gratitude to St Paul congregation shown to him during 50 years as he enjoyed God's many blessings while teaching and working among you. During the time together memories, stories and relationships grew. Utica and Nebraska became home to him. When Paul received the call in 1996 to become your school principal, teacher, leader, coach, etc little did he know the remainder of his life would be lived in this friendly community. God has been good to him and his family. Since Paul's death we do say thank you for your prayers, comforting messages and words, memorials, hugs and thoughtfulness. We thank God for the blessings He has bestowed on St Paul Congregation and pray for continued blessings to each of you.

All Praise and Glory be to God, the Paul Heidorn Family