

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

God of life,

C we confess that we have turned away those seeking shelter, claiming there is no room when we have plenty. We have made power and wealth our idols, while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger. Too often, we have valued violence instead of your peace. Turn us from our ways to your ways. Grant us the grace to begin again. Free us from all that keeps us bound, and forgive our sin, through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.

Amen.

Hear the good news and rejoice! You are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, ✝ forgiven in Christ, and freed to respond in joy.

C Amen.

OPENING HYMN *LBW 55* "Good Christian Friends,
Rejoice"

GREETING

Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the promised gifts of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:6-12

⁶ Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, ⁷ and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. ⁸ The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; ⁹ but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. ¹⁰ Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. ¹¹ The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." ¹² They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken." The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 97

(Refrain: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.)

¹ The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

C ² Clouds and darkness surround the LORD, righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.

³ Fire goes before the LORD, burning up enemies on every side.

C ⁴ Lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth.

C ⁶ The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD, and all the peoples see your glory. *(Refrain)*

⁷ Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! Bow down before the LORD, all you gods.

C ⁸ Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD.

⁹ For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

C ¹⁰ You who love the LORD, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked. *(Refrain)*

¹¹ Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.

C ¹² Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name. *(Refrain)*

(Refrain: Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.)

SECOND READING: Titus 3:4-7

⁴ When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 2: 8-20

C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”
¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *Pastor Tim Kraemer*

HYMN OF THE DAY *LBW 39 "Joy to the World"*

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. The church sings a new song for you, O God. By the water of rebirth, you claim us as your own. Renew all the

baptized by your Spirit of grace and truth, and embolden us to announce your salvation to all. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

The heavens and the earth are the work of your hands. By your Word, all things have come into being. Protect coastlands and waters. Awaken in us a heightened care for habitats threatened by rising sea levels. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

Beautiful are the feet of your messengers who announce peace. Sustain the work of diplomats, relief agencies, and all who strive for peace in places of conflict and violence. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

You guard the lives of your faithful ones and rescue them in times of distress. Heed the cries of all who are afraid. Comfort the grieving and despairing, the lonely and forgotten, and those who are ill. *(We pray especially for Rick Bauer, Courtney Hagedorn-Drew, Harold Hembree, Mary Ann Jerger, Tammy Kieffner,*

Chad Knies, Zach Leinenbach, Candy Lewis, Judy Lorey, Eryn Mann, Zander Mann, Mark Matthews, Justin Mehling, Matt Mehling, Logan Musgrave, Bryar Rahman, Jami Roelle, Steve Rothgerber, Annette Schepers, Sandy Schnaus, Donnie Schwenk, Kaine Seitz, Larry Sendelweck, Annie Voelkel, Anderson Vonderheide, Ron Wiseman, Nancy Collins, Shaina G., David Jackle, Marie Beckman, Belinda Heath, Becky Hoffmann, Keith Kluesner, Deborah Lagenour, Nick L., Larry & Judy Lorey, Rebecca Steinbronn, Meagan S., Marty Weishof and all those we name before you either silently or aloud.) God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

We pray that you guide the military serving to protect us. Grant them safety and wisdom to carry out their assigned duties. *(We pray especially for Austin Breitwieser, Luke Himsel, and Cooper Uebelhor, Devin Wilson, Matt Atkins, Trevor Atkins, George Allen, and Sarah Wetzell).* God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right



spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take



not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of



your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

C God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION

All who are baptized are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Children who have not yet received instruction about Holy Communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. As you approach the communion assistant, the first will hand you the bread. Take and eat it. Then take a communion cup from the nearby tray. After you have taken the wine, place your empty cup in the tray table beside the pillar.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION HYMNS

LBW 62 "The Bells of Christmas"

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

C God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

BLESSING

The God of love, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN *LBW 70* *“Go Tell it on the Mountain”*

DISMISSAL

The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Mission Statement: *Worship Boldly, Empower for Discipleship,
Cultivate Spiritual Maturity, Strengthen Community, Serve.*

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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR YOUR SERVICE TODAY:

Greeters: Marvin & Vicky Eisenhut
Comm. Asst: John Potts
Video: JoAn Breitwieser
Organist: Barbara Dell
Lay Reader: Terry Seitz
Audio: Doug Wiseman

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY: SS:

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF
Dec. 29th 2024 – Jan 5th ,2025

Sun. Dec. 29 th	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service
Sun. Jan. 5 th	8:00 AM	Chancel Choir Practice
	9:00 AM	Sunday Worship Service <i>(Installation of Council Members)</i>
	10:00 AM	Take down Christmas decor

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

2025 offering envelopes are available to pick-up. There is a table set-up in the welcome area. If you cannot find a box with your name, please advise Marcie Rumfelt in the church office at (812)695-3061 or email at: secretaryst.paul@frontier.com. Please remember envelope numbers can change from year to year, so these should only be used starting in January 2025.

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CEMETERY DUES REMINDER: Active members, desiring burial rights, are required to pay cemetery dues of a minimum of ***twenty dollars*** per family. This includes all members in immediate family, including non-member spouses, and children under the age of eighteen. Every member over eighteen years of age shall be required to pay the minimum cemetery dues as an individual. No additional charge for gravesites shall be made to members of St. Paul's whose dues are current.

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THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS: Anyone wishing to donate his/her Thrivent Choice Dollars to the *Sacred Places Grant fundraising* needs to bring a copy of the contribution made in your name to the treasurer. This can be printed from your account page on their website. If you need help or have questions, please let a council member know. Unless you let the council know you want the Choice Dollars to go to a specific group within the church, it automatically goes into the general fund.

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In Service to Our Country

Austin Breitwieser
AMC Luke Himsel
Cooper Uebelhor
Devin Wilson
Matt Atkins
Trevor Atkins
George Allen
Sarah Wetzel

Redzikowo, Poland
Virginia Beach, VA
Colorado Springs, CO

