

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

January 25th, 2026 3rd Sunday after Epiphany



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

January 25th, 2026

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

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WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/SHARING THE PEACE

OPENING WORDS/CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

Thanks be to God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins before God, the source of freedom and forgiveness. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

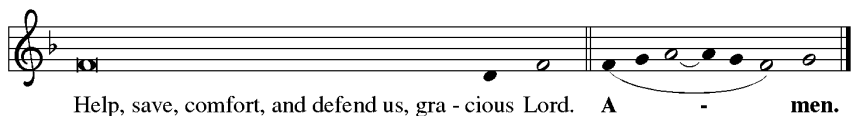
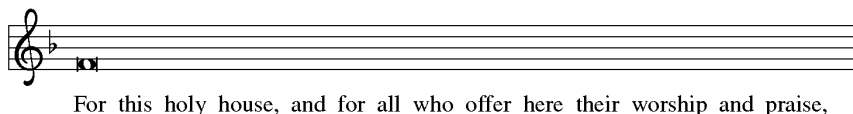
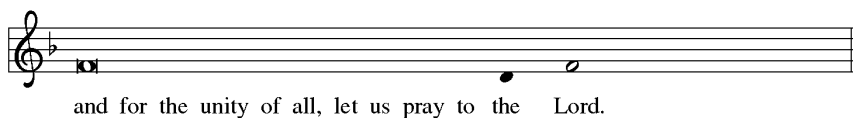
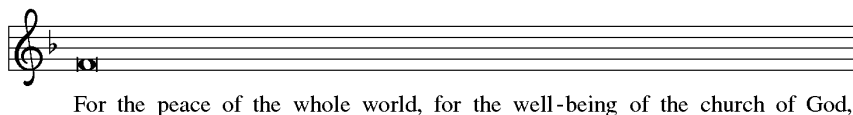
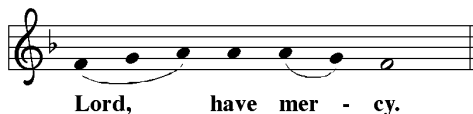
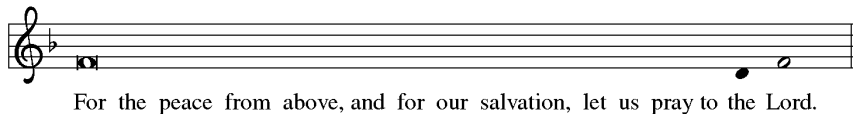
Almighty God, we confess that we have not been faithful to you in our thoughts and actions. We have been selfish in our desires and quarrelsome in our relationships. We have allowed fear to divide us from those who seem different, and let distrust separate us from our brothers and sisters. Shine your light into our darkened hearts. Save us from our divisive ways. Unite us in the same mind as Jesus Christ who dwells with you and the Holy Spirit in perfect harmony. Amen. God offers forgiveness to those who turn to God in true repentance. Therefore, trust in God, who breaks the bonds of our oppression, and covers us in mercy.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

HYMN: #310 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

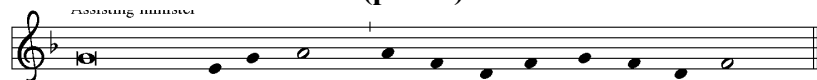
GREETING (p. 203)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE (p. 138)



CANTICLE OF PRAISE (p. 140)



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God, our light and our salvation, Jesus announced the nearness of your kingdom and called his disciples to be fishers of women and men. Give us courage to follow in the way of Jesus, that our lives may bear witness to the good news of the kingdom at hand

**and our vocation serve to draw people to your salvation;
through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC St. Paul's Sunday School "I've Got the Joy,
Joy, Joy, Joy (Down in my heart)"**

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4 (CEB)

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹ Nonetheless, those who were in distress won't be exhausted. At an earlier time, God cursed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but later he glorified the way of the sea, the far side of the Jordan, and the Galilee of the nations.

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

³ You have made the nation great;

you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,

as those who divide plunder rejoice.

⁴ As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,

the staff on their shoulders,

and the rod of their oppressor.

Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴ **One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;**

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of

my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me
high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

⁷ Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”
Your face, O Lord, I will seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant
in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not,
O God of my salvation.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (CEB)

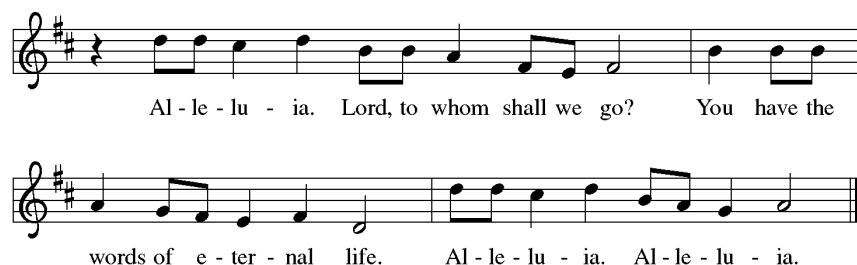
Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

¹⁰ Now I encourage you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Agree with each other and don’t be divided into rival groups. Instead, be restored with the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ My brothers and sisters, Chloe’s people gave me some information about you, that you’re fighting with each other. ¹² What I mean is this: that each one of you says, “I belong to Paul,” “I belong to Apollos,” “I belong to Cephas,” “I belong to Christ.” ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you, or were you baptized in Paul’s name? ¹⁴ Thank God that I didn’t baptize any of you, except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that nobody can say that you were baptized in my name! ¹⁶ Oh, I baptized the house

of Stephanas too. Otherwise, I don't know if I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ Christ didn't send me to baptize but to preach the good news. And Christ didn't send me to preach the good news with clever words so that Christ's cross won't be emptied of its meaning.

¹⁸ The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Before: The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23 (CEB)

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John was arrested, he went to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and settled in Capernaum, which lies alongside the sea in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali. ¹⁴ This fulfilled what Isaiah the prophet said:

¹⁵ *Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
alongside the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles,*
¹⁶ *the people who lived in the dark have seen a great light,
and a light has come upon those who lived in the region and
in shadow of death.*

¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to announce, “Change your hearts and lives! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!”

¹⁸ As Jesus walked alongside the Galilee Sea, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, throwing fishing nets into the sea, because they were fishermen. ¹⁹ “Come, follow me,” he said, “and I’ll show you how to fish for people.” ²⁰ Right away, they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ Continuing on, he saw another set of brothers, James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with Zebedee their father repairing their nets. Jesus called them and ²² immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues. He announced the good news of the kingdom and healed every disease and sickness among the people.

After: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON “Immediately”

HYMN: #696 Jesus Calls Us O’er The Tumult

APOSTLES’ CREED (p. 105)

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

Each petition concludes: God of light, **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING

God, the source of all good things, has given us what we need. In joyful response, let us offer our gifts, the fruit of our labors, and the dedication of our hearts for loving service in the name of Christ.

Special Music St. Paul's Choir "God is Calling"

Offering Song: #186 Create in Me a Clean Heart

Offering Prayer: God of our salvation, receive these gifts we offer and bless them for the work of your kingdom, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 145)

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.

BLESSING

Now the grace of Christ who calls us go with you, the power of the Holy Spirit who empowers us sustain you, and the salvation of God who loves us give you peace. **Amen.**

HYMN: #841 Lift Every Voice and Sing

CHARGE

Christ call us to be fishers of people for the sake of his beloved kingdom. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran, Crookston, MN

January 25th, 2026

Third Sunday After Epiphany

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

PRAYER LIST

For those who need healing in body, mind, or spirit:

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Julie Love | Eunice Sondrol | Judy Luettjohann |
| Darleen Jackson | Katie Bakken | Julian Bertils |
| Marlo Moren | Evie Gunderson | Nancy Eia |
| Mike Ophus | Loiland family | Dale Cameron |
| Dale Knotek | Nash Erdman | Barb Erdman |
| Mark Peterson | Lenny Devos | Glorrayne Casmey |
| Lucile Torkelson | Delores Sandager | Carol Chaffee |
| Kari L Trudeau | Stuart Hanson | Bev Montieth |
| Trevin Monahan | Dale Anderson | |

For our missionaries: Steve & Kelly Solheim
City of Joy Rwanda

For our servicemen: Brandon Johnson D.J. Brace

Please keep them in your prayers this week.

If you have prayer requests, please contact the church office at 218 281-3638 or our prayer chain coordinator, Marian Bakken: (h) 218-281-1584, (c) 218-275-3143, marianbakken@gmail.com.

MISSION

To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people

1214 University Avenue – Crookston, Minnesota 56716

Website: stpaulscrookstonmn.com

facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn

Phone: 218-281-3638

Email: stpauls@midconetwork.com

Ministers

St. Paul's members

Council President

Anna Peterson

Pastor

Rev. Curt Peterson

Organist

Mary Ann Knotek

Webmaster

Anna Peterson

Treasurer

Betty Arvidson

Financial Secretary

Kathie Barnes

Custodian

Marilyn Flateland

Administrative Assistant

Tammy Frohlich

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!

Ushers

Scott and Julie Kleven

Scripture Reader

Kathy Normandin

Acolyte

Lyla Oman

Altar Guild

Marilyn Flateland

Offering Counters

Bruce Arvidson and Kathie Barnes

Livestream

Anna Peterson

Fellowship

CYF (Yummy Rolls)

FEBRUARY WORSHIP SERVICES TEAM

Thank you, Super FEBURARY Worship Team, for giving your time to serve! Please sign up on the form posted on the bulletin board.

Bruce and Betty Arvidson

Kathie Barnes

Marlys Demarais

Punky and Carol Johnson

Wayne Schenck

Thank you, amazing January Worship Team, for serving this month!

SCRIPTURE READING FOR NEXT WEEK

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Readings for February 1st, 2026,

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9am- 2pm

Please leave a message after 2 pm on the answering machine/drop something in the mailbox (north side of building)/call ahead. Pastor Curt is usually in the building but may be out on other church business. Worship via Facebook: facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn

Sunday, January 25

8:45 am

10:00 am

11:00 am

6:30 pm

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study

Worship

Fellowship

Women's Book Read

****Worship and Music Committee will meet after church in the Family Room.**

Monday, January 26

8:30 am

5:30 pm

6:30 pm

LWR Quilting

CYF Committee mtg.

Church Council mtg.

Tuesday, January 27

7:00 am

7:00 pm

Men's Coffee Fellowship

AA

Wednesday, January 28

7-8:30 pm

7:00 pm

Confirmation

Choir practice

Thursday, January 29

Friday, January 30

Church Office Closed

Pastor's Day Off

Sunday, February 1

8:45 am

10:00 am

11:00 am

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study

Worship and Communion

Fellowship

WEEKLY FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Our Response to God's Love

The January 18th offering will be included with the January 25th report in the February 1st bulletin.

The parsonage siding fund is \$24,835.63. Thank you for your ongoing and generous support of the siding fund, and all your financial gifts each week!

The most recent Treasurer's Report was approved at the last Church Council meeting. You can review it in the bulletin or web bulletin from December 21st or contact Tammy in the office and she can provide a copy.

Annual Congregational Meeting: February 8 Please join us for the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting on **Sunday, February 8**, immediately following our 10:00 AM worship service. This is an important time for our community to gather, reflect on the past year, and look forward to our future ministry. **Our agenda includes:**

- Receiving the 2025 Annual Report.
- Reviewing and approving the **2026 Budget**.
- Voting on new Church Council members. Our nominees are **John Vallager, Dan Halland, and Vicki Trudeau**. (1st term) **Penny Blokzl, Candace Brouse, Rebecca Nelson** (2nd term)

Who Can Vote? All voting members are encouraged to attend. Per our constitution, voting members are confirmed members who have given an offering and received communion during the current or previous calendar year.

Get Ready: Copies of the Annual Report will be available in the narthex starting **Sunday, February 1**, allowing you one week to review the materials before the meeting.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

SIGN UP FOR CAMP EMMAUS

Early Bird Registration for Camp Emmaus begins December 1st! The 2026 Camp Emmaus brochure is on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Paul's WOMEN'S BOOK READ

Our Book Read group will meet tonight, January 25th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Our January book read is - *"The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride"* by Joe Siple. Dana Johnson will lead our discussion, and Barb Erdman will host.

SAFE-HOME SURVEY

The Crookston Fire Department is offering a Safe Home Survey, where they will come and check to see if your carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are in good order. Call 218-281-4584 to set up an appointment.

CROOKSTON CARE AND SHARE

The Donation Room and New Hope Food Shelf are open every Monday and Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., and every Friday from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. For more information or to donate, call **218-281-2644**.

Care and Share has a variety of **opportunities to love and serve the poor and the homeless**, either as individuals and/or as group. Help with odd and ends type jobs, such as changing light bulbs, painting projects, providing a weekend meal while their cook is off, and more! Please contact Candace Sam at 218-833-7105 to help make a difference!

COMING IN 2026

Mark Your Calendars

As we look ahead to the new year, we invite you to mark these important dates in your calendars:

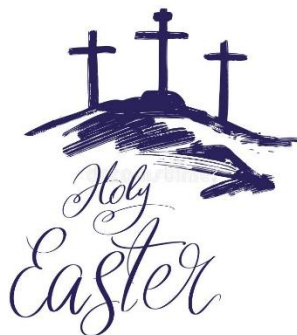
February

- **Sunday, February 8:** Annual Meeting—receive the annual report and vote on new church council members.
- **Wednesday, February 18:** Ash Wednesday

Lenten Season Join us on Wednesdays in Lent for suppers and a transformative Lenten journey with our theme **"Rebuilding: A Lenten Journey of Repentance and Renewal,"** as we explore powerful themes from Ezra and Nehemiah.

Holy Week & Easter

- **Sunday, March 29:**
Palm/Passion Sunday
- **Thursday, April 2:**
Maundy Thursday
- **Friday, April 3:** Good Friday
- **Sunday, April 5:** Easter



May

- **Sunday, May 3:** Confirmation—celebrating our 9th grade confirmands.

We look forward to worshiping, learning, and growing together in the year ahead!

If followers are to become “fishers of people” (Matt. 4:19), what is the bait to draw others into the movement? In an interview with On



Being, originally aired in March 2013, the late Congressman John Lewis reflects that what first attracted him to the civil rights movement was love: “It’s one of the highest forms of love. That you beat me, you arrest me, you take me to jail, you almost kill me, but in spite of that, I’m going to still love you. I know Dr. King used to joke sometimes and say things like, ‘Just love the hell out everybody.’” Just love ‘em.”

THIS WEEK IN FAITH FORMATION

Our confirmation students engaged in a powerful and challenging lesson this week titled "**Lutherans & WWII.**" We explored the difficult history of how the Nazi regime attempted to control church leadership in Germany and the courageous rise of the **Confessing Church** in response.

The class discussed the "Barmen Declaration" and the witness of faith leaders like **Dietrich Bonhoeffer** and **Martin Niemöller**, who spoke out against injustice even at great personal cost. We also reflected on how German-American churches reacted to the war and wrestled with the complex relationship between the church and the state.

Sunday School: Seeking God's Guidance This morning, our Sunday School students learned about **Matthias the Apostle**. After Judas left the group, the disciples didn't just pick a replacement at random—they turned to God in prayer for guidance. The children learned that just as God led the disciples to Matthias, we can always turn to God in prayer whenever we have important decisions to make in our own lives.

Questions for Reflection

What does Jesus mean when he calls his follower to be "fishers of people"? What must I leave behind to be a faithful disciple of Jesus?

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord Jesus, you call me to be a faithful disciple. Enable me to hear your voice above the distractions of this day, to see each challenge as an opportunity for faithful witness, and to offer myself in obedient service in all that I do. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Your face, O Lord, have I sought this day and your beauty have I beheld. I have seen you in the face of the stranger, and beheld your beauty in creation. Thank you, and keep me aware. Amen.