



2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS  
JANUARY 2, 2022

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***SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH***

4660 West 94<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040

Guest Pastor Rev. Paul Anderson

[www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org)

Director of Music Ruth Sievers

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## As We Gather

Hopefully you received something for Christmas you had asked for and you're enjoying putting your gifts to good use. Solomon asked God for the gift of wisdom. It was a gift He sometimes used well, but at other times it seemed he had re-gifted it. In Jesus, we see the gift of God's wisdom on full display when He is found in the temple at age 12, asking questions and providing answers beyond His years. We praise God that He continues to reveal His wisdom to us through His Word.

### Prelude

**"You Are the Way"**

**R. Unkel**

### Opening Hymn

**"You Are the Way"**

**#526**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 You are the way; through You alone<br/>Can we the Father find;<br/>In You, O Christ, has God revealed<br/>His heart and will and mind.</p> <p>2 You are the truth; Your Word alone<br/>True wisdom can impart;<br/>You only can inform the mind<br/>And purify the heart.</p> | <p>3 You are the life; the empty tomb<br/>Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,<br/>And those who put their trust in You<br/>Not death nor hell shall harm.</p> <p>4 You are the way, the truth, the life;<br/>Grant us that way to know,<br/>That truth to keep, that life to win<br/>Whose joys eternal flow.</p> |
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### Invocation

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Opening Sentences

*John 3:16; Titus 2:11; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 1 John 2:2*

**P** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

**C** **For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.**

**P** This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

**C** **He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.**

### Confession and Absolution

*Romans 3:22b-25a, 6:23*

**P** For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by His blood, to be received by faith.

**C** **For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

**P** Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** **O Giver of all good gifts, we come to You today acknowledging our foolishness and shortsightedness. As we live in this world, we succumb to the thinking of this world, which does not always align with Your thoughts. Amid the strains and stresses of life, we forget about Your unfailing love for us and for all in our world. For the sake of Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, forgive our sins and renew us by Your love.**

**P** Our God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, loves us dearly and blesses us with every spiritual blessing. We have redemption through Jesus' blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Thank You, Jesus! Amen.

## ✠ WORD ✠

Introit

*Psalm 147:1, 5, 11–12; antiphon: John 1:14*

**P** The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,

**C** **glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

**P** Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;

**C** **for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

**P** Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

**C** **his understanding is beyond measure.**

**P** But the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,

**C** **in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

**P** Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!

**C** **Praise your God, O Zion!**

**P** 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.

**C** **The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, You are the fountain and source of all wisdom. You made Solomon a wise king. Your Son demonstrated this wisdom in the temple. Grant us Your wisdom, so that we may share it in our communities and throughout the world; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**Old Testament Reading**

✠ Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom ✠

*1 Kings 3:4-15*

<sup>4</sup>The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. <sup>7</sup>And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude.

<sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" <sup>10</sup>It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup>And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup>behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. <sup>13</sup>I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. <sup>14</sup>And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." <sup>15</sup>And Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Anthem of Praise Solo**

"I Love to Tell the Story"

A. Hankey / J. Burkart

**Epistle**

✠ Spiritual Blessings in Christ ✠

*Ephesians 1:3-14*

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup>he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup>which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Holy Gospel**

✠ The Boy Jesus in the Temple ✠

*Luke 2:40-52*

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

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>40</sup>The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. <sup>41</sup>Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. <sup>42</sup>And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. <sup>43</sup>And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, <sup>44</sup>but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, <sup>45</sup>and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. <sup>46</sup>After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup>And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. <sup>48</sup>And when his parents saw him, they were astonished.

And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." <sup>49</sup>And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup>And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. <sup>51</sup>And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup>And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### Confession of Faith

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.**

*The Apostles' Creed*

**He ascended into heaven and sits at the  
right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living  
and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

### Sermon Hymn

"Within the Father's House"

#410 sts. 1-3, 5-6

1 Within the Father's house  
The Son has found His home,  
And to His temple suddenly  
The Lord of life has come.

To lift the earthly veil that hides  
Incarnate God below.

2 The doctors of the Law  
Gaze on the wondrous child  
And marvel at His gracious words  
Of wisdom undefiled.

5 Lord, visit Thou our souls  
And teach us by Thy grace  
Each dim revealing of Thyself  
With loving awe to trace

3 Yet not to them is giv'n  
The mighty truth to know,

△6 Till we behold Thy face  
And know as we are known  
Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
Coequal Three in One.

*Text: Public domain*

Sermon

### Prayer of the Church

**Offering**—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at [www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org). For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

## ✠ SERVICE of the SACRAMENT ✠

### Preface

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

### Proper Preface

#### Words of Our Lord

### Proclamation of Christ

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.  
**C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**  
**P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father...  
...So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:  
**C** Our Father, who art in Heaven...

### Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** **Amen.**

## ✠ DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT ✠

### Hymn

"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

#622 sts. 1 & 4

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared<br>This feast for our salvation;<br>It is Your body and Your blood,<br>And at Your invitation<br>As weary souls, with sin oppressed,<br>We come to You for needed rest,<br>For comfort, and for pardon. | 4 | We eat this bread and drink this cup,<br>Your precious Word believing<br>That Your true body and Your blood<br>Our lips are here receiving.<br>This Word remains forever true;<br>All things are possible with You,<br>For You are Lord Almighty. |
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*Text: Public domain*

### Hymn

"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

#919

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Abide, O dearest Jesus,<br>Among us with Your grace<br>That Satan may not harm us<br>Nor we to sin give place. | 2 | Abide, O dear Redeemer,<br>Among us with Your Word,<br>And thus now and hereafter<br>True peace and joy afford. |
|---|--|---|---|

3 Abide with heav'nly brightness  
Among us, precious Light;  
Your truth direct and keep us  
From error's gloomy night.

5 Abide with Your protection  
Among us, Lord, our strength,  
Lest world and Satan fell us  
And overcome at length.

4 Abide with richest blessings  
Among us, bounteous Lord;  
Let us in grace and wisdom  
Grow daily through Your Word.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,  
Among us with Your love;  
Grant steadfastness and help us  
To reach our home above.

*Text: Public domain*

**Communion Blessing**

**Closing Prayer**

*Psalm 106:1b*

**Benediction**

**Closing Hymn**

“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”

#390

1 Let us all with gladsome voice  
Praise the God of heaven,  
Who, to bid our hearts rejoice,  
His own Son hath given.

3 We are rich, for He was poor;  
Is not this a wonder?  
Therefore praise God evermore  
Here on earth and yonder.

2 To this vale of tears He comes,  
Here to serve in sadness,  
That with Him in heav'n's fair homes  
We may reign in gladness.

4 Christ, our Lord and Savior dear,  
Be Thou ever near us.  
Grant us now a glad new year.  
Amen, Jesus, hear us.

*Text: Public domain*

**Postlude**

“Let Us All with Gladsome Voice”



**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS**

**Vocalist:** Sue Marcinkowski

**Lector:** David Witkosky

**Altar Care:** Cynthia DeVivo-Rose

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**Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family:**

Betty Kruckow	Cathy Kumke
Sue & John Lilja	Helen Bonder
Janice Przybycien	Kevin Hickey
Mary Ann Colander	Art Hornburg
Melva Smith	Laverne Abraham
Carol Small	Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski	Beverly Sellers
Lenore Curran	Betty Beegle
Delphine Cherry	Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank	Deb Skopec
Herta Iversen	Loretta Frank
Jane & Freddie Giacobbe	Marge Rochlitz
Ron Hickey	Shirley Smulkis
Ingrid Lesko	Katherine Hice
Gloria Meyer	Jan Briede
Delores Stegemann	Connie Braun
Kurt Seehofer	The Polezoes Family
Lincoln & Parker Alex	Patricia Murdoch
Gloria Crook	Lois Kaminske
Patty Sellers	Janet Varnagis
Dawn McNicholas	Julie & Larry Gurga
Cathy Gleason	Lori Freeze

**Special Prayers**

*For Sue and John Lilja and Lori Freeze, all dealing with covid.*

**We pray for those who grieve:**

*For Diane Johannes, and family and friends on the death of her mother, Lois Kiefer, called from this life on December 27. Lois was a long time member of the Southwest Lutheran Chorus. Visitation for Lois is today at Damar-Kaminske Funeral Home in Justice from 1-6pm; the funeral service will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Summit tomorrow (Monday) at 11am.*

**Announcements & Notes:**

- On Saturday, January 8, a New Member Information Class begins at 9am in the St Timothy Room for anyone interested in learning about the Lutheran faith or becoming a member of St. Paul. Talk to Pr. John for info
- Sunday Morning adult Bible class resumes on Sunday, January 9 in the St Timothy room following the worship service.
- 2022 offering envelopes can be picked up in the narthex; *Note: envelopes have been renumbered for 2022.*
- 2022 Lutheran Calendars are in the narthex and wings of the church for you to take home courtesy of our member, Linda Kosary.
- The Installation of Officers and Board Members for 2022 will take place next Sunday, January 9, during our worship service.

**Please pray for these friends and family of our members:**

Andrew Mrochen	Vern Howe
Eugene Marcinkowski	Roberta & Carlos Owens
Denise DeLaurentis	Dorothy Kroll
Anthony Krcelic, Jr.	Eric Kessling
Bob Hessert	Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta	Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow	Janet Trierweiler
Alan Hecke	Kim Lamberth
Matt Favero	Sandra Wilson
Michelle Mitchell	Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi	Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher	The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross	Brenda Gurgel
Gloria Folsom	Autumn Kessling
Elizabeth Hoefler	Alan Iversen
Ron Lunt	Christopher Kosary
Sandy Plath	Iris McCoy
Shirley Demyres	Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo	Henry Bonder
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.	Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter	Fred Raddatz
Selma & John Carmichael	Allyson Seehofer
Bernadette & Rich Trusk	Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson	Carl Hoppe
Paul Noffke	Sue Sortino
Pam Brown	Lisa Sanders
Shawn Harland	Ann Herold
Barb Potter	Wayne Volk
Charley Heitz	Sharon Bryant
Doris Potts	Brad Benfield
Doreen Holford	Janice Hernandez
Donna Santi	Judy Collins
Paul Sowa	Maryann Krieg (Wilke)
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.	Knox Christensen
Cathy Becker	Lois Kiefer
Al Zirbel	Heather & Josh Turro
Donna Patri	Skip Sorensen
Joe Thomas	Patrick Pasqua Sr.
Logan Bliss	Debbie Guarascio
Phyllis Hicks	Sue Dever
Lanell Koenig	Justin & Ashley Fasel
Nora Maculitis	Sandra Mitchell & Fam.
Beckham Klintworth	Sophia Salus
Kimberly Rooney	Barb & Emily Feehan
Gina Arns	Carol Duncan

**Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over (708) 423-1040**