

GAUDETE SUNDAY

(THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT)

CHURCH OF ST. PAUL & THE REDEEMER

December 12, 2021 | 9:15 & 11:15 AM

You are welcome here.

A Little About St. Paul & the Redeemer

What kind of church is this?

St. Paul & the Redeemer (SPR) is a community that seeks to mirror the radical hospitality practiced by Jesus, holding together a progressive outlook and a rootedness in the Christian faith. We are woven of different races, economic statuses, cultural backgrounds, faith backgrounds, gender identities, and sexual orientations, and we are strengthened and enriched by each person's story and voice.

Let's Get Connected

Welcome! If you are new, tell us about yourself and get connected to what's happening at St. Paul & the Redeemer. Scan the code or visit sprchicago.org/new to complete a *Let's Get Connected* form.



Children's Formation

Nursery, 9:00am-12:30pm | Professionally staffed nursery care is available during the services for children ages 0-4. The nursery is down the southwest stairs. Changing tables are in the downstairs restrooms and the nursery.

Children's Chapel, 9:30am-9:45am | During the sermon at the 9:15 service, children from preschool to second grade are invited to a special liturgy in the children's chapel, featuring songs and a Bible story.

Godly Play, 10:20am-11:05am | Children in preschool through fifth grade are invited to Godly Play today at 10:20am to hear the story of **Advent III-IV** (pre-K/K), **The story of the Prophet Jeremiah** (grades 1-2), or **The Story of the Prophet Ezekiel** (grades 3-5). Children are welcome to join Godly Play at any time during the year. To learn about volunteering with Godly Play, contact director of children's formation Dafne del Risco-Nolla (nolla@sprchicago.org).

SPR's Anti-Racism Vision Statement

We strive to become a beloved community that reflects on our own racial identities and recognizes racism and privilege in our church and society; works for justice by building relationships and sustained efforts to heal, reconcile, and seek Christ in each other; and acts to interrupt and dismantle white supremacist structures, transforming ourselves and our church to become a living embodiment of justice and peace.

Giving to SPR

Every dollar you give to SPR supports our ministry to and with our community. You may place cash or a check in the offering plate, give online at sprchicago.org/give-online or scan this code. If you are visiting, please do not feel obligated to give—it is our honor to have you as our guest!



Bulletin Rubrics

Throughout the bulletin, the congregation is invited to say all **bolded** text aloud. There are also times when it is customary to make the sign of the cross by touching your forehead, chest, left shoulder, and right shoulder. If you wish to do so, the **+** indicates that.

Youth Ministries

Youth Formation, 10:20am-11:05am | Join us today for youth formation (grades 6-12). We gather for 45 minutes to enjoy donuts and discussion. We've pondered questions like "Is God male?"; "Did God write the Bible?"; and "What is the real meaning of Christmas?"

Youth Group, 5-7pm | Today, we will have a gingerbread decorating party. Be ready for an evening of sweets, creativity, and festivities! All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join the youth group at any time throughout the year. For details, contact director of youth formation Ross Fogg (fogg@sprchicago.org).



Welcome to Advent.

What Is Advent?

Advent is a four-week season of preparation for Christmas. At a time when secular culture pushes us to rush, spend, and consume, Advent is the church's invitation to slow down and simplify. One may take up a new practice during Advent, like daily prayer, Scripture reflection, or a service project, in order to find new grounding in the life of God. Or one may make an intentional choice to give something up—perhaps giving up guilt over the inevitable failure to make Christmas “perfect,” a certain holiday tradition that has become more burdensome than joyful, or an old grudge that has ceased to be protective and is now causing more pain than the original offense. If you would like guidance about how you might observe this Advent, talk to our rector, Catherine Healy (healy@sprchicago.org).

Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath has four candles, one for each week in Advent: weeks one, two, and four are purple, to remind us of the solemnity of the season, and week three is pink, to remind us that Advent is also a time of joy. Each Sunday of Advent, we will begin our worship by lighting the Advent wreath. You are also invited to light your own Advent wreath for a daily or weekly devotional at home. For a set of Advent wreath supplies you can take home, please contact our director of children's formation, Dafne del Risco-Nolla (nolla@sprchicago.org).

Our Worship Space

At St. Paul & the Redeemer, we usually worship in the round, with the altar in the center and all of us gathered around it. This Advent, as you can see, we are changing things up. One reason we do this is that change is what Advent is about: reordering our lives in order to wake up to ourselves and to the world around us a bit more—to unsettle us from our usual habits and perspectives. We have not worshiped together in this configuration since the early days of Lent in March 2020, so this visual shift in perspective has been a long time coming, and it serves as a reminder of how far we've come. This arrangement also brings the choir into the midst of us, helping us to sing more boldly.

The particular arrangement of our space in Advent reflects how many monastic communities worship. Such communities are places of service, fasting, and deep prayer. Advent is our chance to detach from the chaos of the “holiday season” and walk in such ways as we prepare the Way for the coming of Christ.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

"Es ist das Heil uns kommen her" ("It is our salvation come here to us"), BuxWV 186

Music: *Etlich Christlich lider (Achtliederbuch)*, Wittenberg, 1524; setting by Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Entrance Hymn

All sing.

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

The Hymnal 1982 - #76 "On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry"

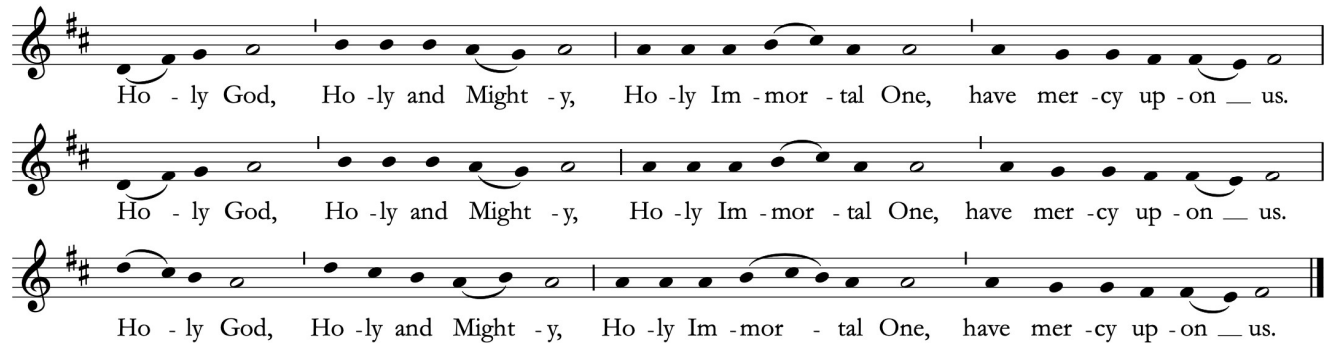
Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt.

Music: *Winchester New*, LM, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

Welcome

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

All sing.



Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on _ us.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on _ us.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, have mer - cy up - on _ us.

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #99 Holy God: Trisagion

Music: from *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950), copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted and streamed under OneLicense.net #A-704721.

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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 Lessons

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah.

Zephaniah 3:14-20

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9 at the Gradual

All sing.



1. Sure - ly it is God_ who saves me; trust - ing God, I shall_ not fear.
2. Make God's deeds known to the peo - ples; tell out God's ex - alt - ed Name.



For the Lord de - fends_ and shields me and God's sav - ing help_ is near.
Praise the Lord, who has_ done great things; all God's works God's might pro - claim.



So re - joice as you_ draw wa - ter from sal - va - tion's liv - ing spring;
Zi - on, lift your voice_ in sing - ing; for with you_ has come_ to dwell,



in the day of your de - liv - erance thank the Lord, God's mer - cies sing.
in your ve - ry midst, the great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Words: Michael A. Perry (b. 1942), alt.; para. of *The Song of Zechariah*. Music: *Thornbury*, 76. 76. D, Basil Harwood (1859-1949)

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A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Philippians 4:4-7

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

All sing.

5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our hea - venly home;
6. O come, thou Day-spring from _____ on high, and cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh;
make safe the way that leads _____ on high, and close the path to mi - se - ry.
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds _____ of night, and death's dark shad - ow put _____ to flight.
Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - ell

"O come, O come, Emmanuel" (sts. 5, 6)

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.

Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, LM with Refrain, plainsong Mode 1, *Processionale*, 15th cent., adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

At the + below, you are invited to trace a cross over your forehead, your mouth, and your heart.

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

Luke 3:7-18

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Children's Chapel *(9:15 only)*

Children in preschool to second grade are invited to attend their own liturgy in the chapel, led by children's ministry staff Dafne del Risco-Nolla and Gretchen Eng. Participants under age 3 are encouraged to bring a parent. The children will return to the main service at the Peace.

The Sermon

Today's Preacher: The Rev. Catherine Healy (Rector)

The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

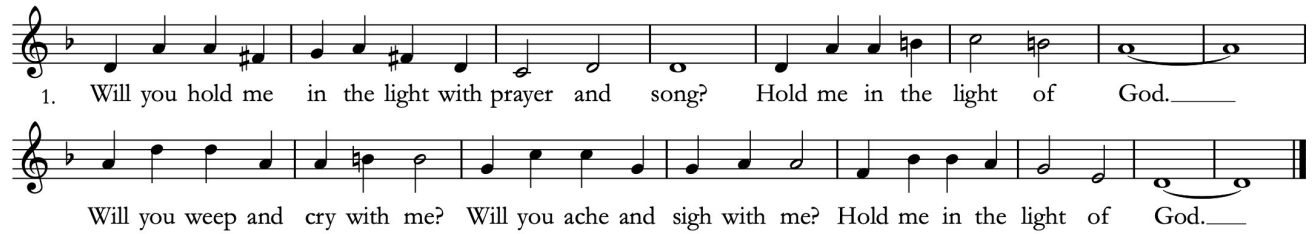
**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 the People

All sing the first stanza as an invocation to prayer. At the conclusion of the prayers, all sing the final stanza.



1. Will you hold me in the light with prayer and song? Hold me in the light of God.____

Will you weep and cry with me? Will you ache and sigh with me? Hold me in the light of God.____

Loving God, help us to know that we dwell in you and you in us. You seek to deliver all who are in trouble, rescue all who are oppressed, and bring each of us under the shelter of your wings. May your church share in your healing and saving power.

God, you are our deliverer.

You are our refuge and our strength.

We pray for all people who have been devalued or discarded through human sin. We pray for an end to poverty and ethnic violence, and for racial justice and healing in our world.

God, you are our deliverer.

You are our refuge and our strength.

God, we rejoice that you are with us in our relationships. Make us sensitive in our dealings with each other and attentive to the needs and desires of our loved ones. We pray for peace and security for the people of Haiti, and for St. Patrick's in Tom Gateau, our partner parish.

God, you are our deliverer.

You are our refuge and our strength.

We thank you for all the joys of this life, and ask your blessing on **David** Daniels (12/13), **Char** Jones-Foster (12/13), **Nisse** Danforth (12/14), **Vance** Lauderdale (12/17), and **Anna Mary** Wallace (12/18) as they begin another year; on **Barbra** Goering & **James** Murray (12/18) as they celebrate their anniversary; and on **Barnabas** Pusnur (12/11) as he celebrates his ordination.

God, you are our deliverer.

You are our refuge and our strength.

Mighty God, you are our strength. We pray for all who are weary and weak, all who are in pain, sick, or suffering, especially **Pam** Anderson, **Susan** Nohlgren (friend of Mary Naftzger), **Joan** May (grandmother of Celia Paris), **Brenda** Russell (friend of Cecilia Mowatt), **Jewel** Starnes (mother of Pam Anderson), **William** Starnes, Jr. (brother of Pam Anderson), **Hyacinth** Evans, **Bonnie** Parker (sister of Cheryl Vanorsby), **Julienne** Collins, **Al** Baker, **Ron** Gatton, **Barbara** Brown (sister of Crystal Plummer), **Klara** Burger (godmother of Kerstin Wellbery), and all those on our prayer list.

God, you are our deliverer.

You are our refuge and our strength.

We rejoice with all who have left the troubles of this world and now experience the glorious liberty of the children of God. We pray for our departed loved ones, especially **Bill** Welch (12/8/2021, grandfather of Sarah Welch-Larson), **Mary** O'Dowd (12/14, grandmother of Maureen Jesuthasan), **Arthur** Shepard Rone (12/16, brother of Ronne Hartfield), **Louise** Bohrer (12/16/2005, mother of Tim Bohrer), and **Margaret** Clark (12/16/2011, former parishioner).

God, you are our deliverer.

You are our refuge and our strength.

I invite you to offer your own prayers and thanksgivings, ending each with "God, you are our deliverer."

Adapted from David Adam, *Glimpses of Glory: Prayers for the Church Year (Year C)*.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you": Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

2. We will hold you in the light and walk with you. Come in - to the light of God.____

We will share your tears with you; we will face your fears with you. Come in - to the light of God.____

"Will you hold me in the light"

Words: Adam M. L. Tice (b. 1979). Music: *Assembly*, 11. 7. 7. 7, Sally Ann Morris (b. 1952)

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Prayer list: Pam Anderson, Susan Nohlgren (friend of Mary Naftzger), Joan May (grandmother of Celia Paris), Brenda Russell (friend of Cecilia Mowatt), Jewel Starnes (mother of Pam Anderson), William Starnes, Jr. (brother of Pam Anderson), Hyacinth Evans, Bonnie Parker (sister of Cheryl Vanorsby), Julianne Collins, Al Baker, Ron Gatton, Barbara Brown (sister of Crystal Plummer), Klara Burger (godmother of Kerstin Wellbery), Joseph Burgio, Josef Michael Carr, Jr., Stacey Morris, Hank Underwood, Jacquelynne Corey Hain, David Daniels, Jenny Jeck, Shannon Cate and her family, Marian Elliott, Naomi Haynes, Amelia Dammen (grandniece of Lisa Rademacher), Sophie Dillard (granddaughter of Robert and Sheila Bator), Pauline and Bill Reynolds (parents of Liza Reynolds), Tim Brown (cousin of Maureen Jesuthasan), Kathy Pachuta (sister-in-law of David Farris), William Jenkins (uncle of Twila Jones), Chloe Riethmiller (granddaughter of Mary & Bob Naftzger), Rock Sehr, and Tim Sehr, as well as their caregivers.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God.

All are invited to bow or kneel.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

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

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Please remain at your seat and wave to greet your neighbors. Some announcements will be given; there's much more to find out in the front and back pages of this bulletin.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Sung by the choir

Onward, ye pilgrims that journey to Zion,
Sing and be joyful, whatever betide;
Trust in Jehovah, your Lord and your shepherd,
All that is needed His love will provide.

Refrain:

Think of the promise, the soul-cheering promise,
Left to encourage the young and the old,
They shall draw water from wells of salvation,
Beautiful promise, more precious than gold.

Onward, ye workers, that toil in the vineyard,
Bearing the burden and heat of the day;
Never grow weary, but labor with patience,
Heed not the thorns that are strewn in your way.

Refrain

Words: Fanny Crosby (1820-1915)

Music: John Robson Sweney (1837-1899)

The Great Thanksgiving

All stand as the offering is brought to the altar.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

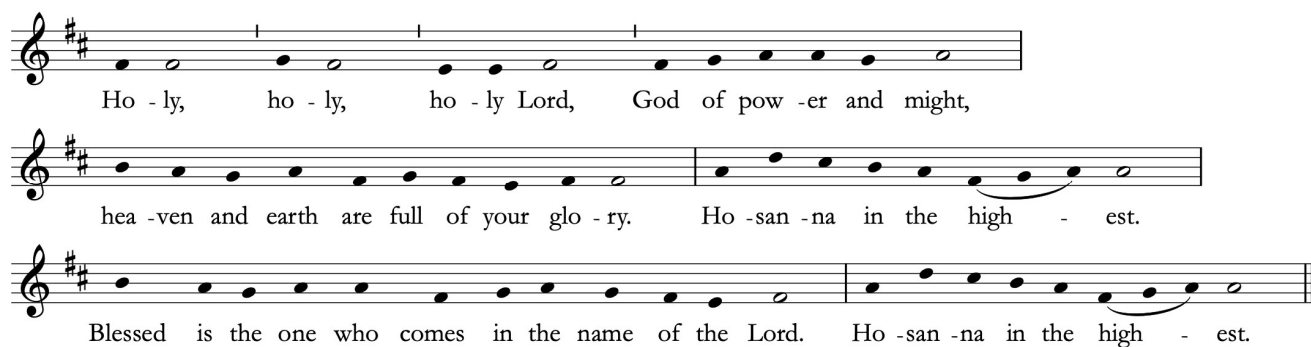
It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Ye that are thirsty and faint in the desert,
Come to the wells of salvation so free;
Drink of their waters, their life-giving waters;
Come, there's a welcome for you and for me.

Refrain

You who are nearing the valley and shadow,
Looking by faith to the bright golden shore,
Precious to you are the wells of salvation,
Sweeter their waters than ever before.

Refrain



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #124 "Holy, holy, holy" (Sanctus)

Music: from *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950), copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted and streamed under OneLicense.net #A-704721.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting

heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Enriching Our Worship 1, Eucharistic Prayer 1

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. **Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem

All sing.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: have mer - cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

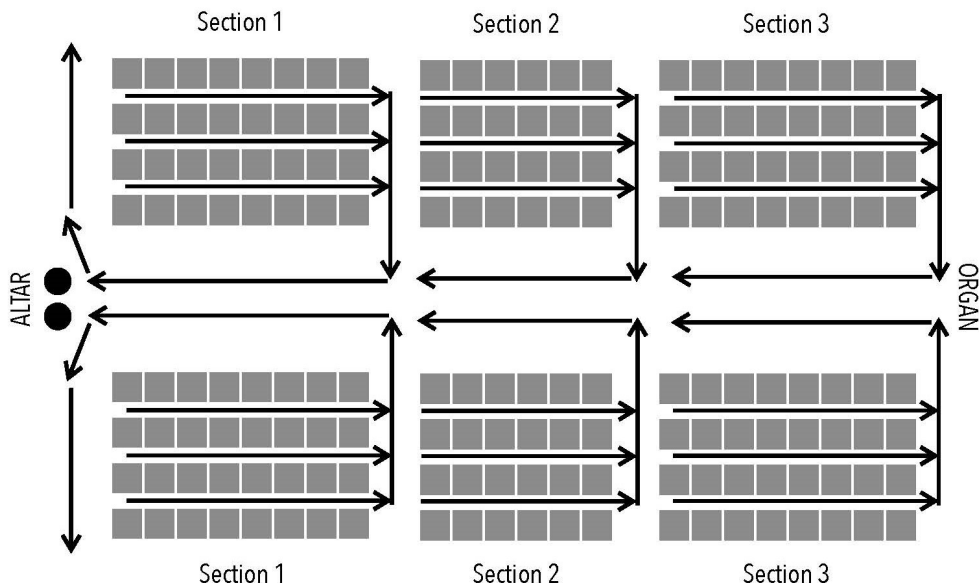
The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #161 "Lamb of God" (Agnus Dei)

Music: from *New Plainsong*, David Hurd (b. 1950), copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted and streamed under OneLicense.net #A-704721.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All, without exception, are invited to receive communion. If you would like to receive communion at your seat, please let the ushers know. If you want gluten-free bread, tell the communion minister. If you would like a blessing in place of communion, cross your arms over your chest.

How to Line Up for Communion



Order for Lining Up

Choir Goes First | Then Section 1 | Then Section 2 | Then Section 3

Communion Hymns

All sing.

1. There's a voice in the wil-der-ness cry-ing, a__ call from the ways un-trod:
 2. O__ Zi-on, that bring-est good ti-dings, get thee up to the heights and sing!
 3. but the word of our God en-dur-eth, the__ arm of the Lord is strong;

Pre- pare in the des-ert a high-way, a high-way for__ our God!
 Pro- claim to a des-o-late peo- ple the com-ing of__ their King.
 he__ stands in the midst of na- tions, and he will right__ the wrong.

The__ val-leys shall be ex- alt-ed, the lof-ty__ hills brought low;
 Like the flowers of the field they__ per-ish, like grass our__ works de-cay,
 He shall feed his__ flock like a shep-herd, the lambs he'll__ gent-ly hold;

make straight all the crook-ed pla-ces where the Lord our__ God may go!
 the power and__ pomp__ of na- tions shall__ pass like a dream a-way;
 to pas-tures of peace__ he'll lead__ them, and__ bring them safe to his fold.

The Hymnal 1982 - #75 "There's a voice in the wilderness crying"

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt.

Music: *Ascension*, Irr., Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988), Copyright © 1938 H. Hugh Bancroft

All sing.

Musical score for the hymn "Prepare the way of the Lord". The score is written on two staves in G major, 6/8 time. The first staff contains the first two phrases: "Pre - pare the way of the Lord," and "Pre - pare the way of the Lord,". The second staff contains the final phrase: "and all peo - ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. — Pre -". The score includes first and second endings, indicated by numbers 1 and 2 above the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

"Prepare the way of the Lord"

Words & Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

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Sending Forth & Blessing

Please stand as able.

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Presider blesses the people. You are invited to cross yourself as the Presider traces a cross over the congregation.

+ May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn

All sing.



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

The Hymnal 1982 - #65 "Prepare the way, O Zion"

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999)

Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, 76. 76. 77 with Refrain, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Es ist das Heil uns kommen her" ("It is our salvation come here to us"), BWV 638

Music: *Etlich Christlich lider (Achtliederbuch)*, Wittenberg, 1524; setting by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)



Coming Up at SPR

Advent Bake Sale

Join us **today** for the SPR Advent bake sale, **after the 9:15 & 11:15 services** in the parish hall. Everyone is invited. All proceeds will go to support Shoemith Elementary School.

Fiber Arts Group

The fiber arts group will meet **today, at 12:30 PM** in the main office. Anyone interested in knitting and related needle arts is invited to join this monthly gathering to share projects, skills, and good company.

Children's Christmas Pageant

Consider involving your child in our joyful return to live Christmas Pageant performance this year. There's a part for everyone, from toddlers who are not yet ready to memorize lines to older kids who can volunteer to help with the little ones. Please write to Gretchen Eng (eng@sprchicago.org) with your child/ren's age(s) and name(s) if they would like to participate! ■ **Sunday, December 12, after the 9:15 service:** Chat about pageant roles and casting during formation hour and bake sale. ■ **Thursday, December 16:** Roles assigned via email; scripts distributed electronically. Check in with Gretchen during caroling fellowship! ■ **Sunday, December 19, after the 9:15 service:** Optional brush-up rehearsal (only for kids with lines who would like help). ■ **Thursday, December 23, 6:00-7:15 PM:** Dress rehearsal for all parts (kids without lines dismissed around 6:45 PM). ■ **Friday, December 24, 4:00 PM:** Call time for the Christmas Eve pageant (service begins at 5:00 PM).

Racial Justice & Truth-Telling Webinars

Join the Anti-Racism Working Group in attending online webinars with leaders who are dedicated to racial truth-telling and healing the wounds of racism, hosted by the national Episcopal Church's Racial Reconciliation and Justice Team on **Tuesday, December 14 and Wednesday, January 12 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM**. Please email ARWG member Ruth Woll (ruthewoll@gmail.com) if you plan to attend, and visit tinyurl.com/arwg-event to register.

SPR Youth Events!

All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join the youth group in our December events on Sunday evenings from **5:00 to 7:00 PM**: ■ **Today:** Gingerbread decorating party
■ **December 19:** Gift exchange and alumni night.
Youth group will not meet on December 26 or January 2. We will resume on January 9.

Morning Prayer on YouTube

Starting **Wednesday, December 15**, SPR's weekly online sung Morning Prayer will shift to YouTube from Facebook Live. You will be able to find the service on our YouTube channel ([YouTube.com/SPRChicago](https://www.youtube.com/SPRChicago)). Nothing else about the service will change. The live chat function will still be available. We will post a link weekly to our Facebook page. These liturgies will be archived to our YouTube page. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christian Clough (clough@sprchicago.org), Morning Prayer officiant.

SPR Christmas Caroling

You are invited to join SPR in Christmas caroling on **Thursday, December 16 at 5:30 PM!** Kids and parents will head out into the neighborhood to bring Christmas cheer to our neighbors. We'll return to the church for fellowship afterward. This event is child-focused, but all ages (with or without kids in tow) are welcome. For more information, please contact Gretchen Eng.

Adult Formation: Episcopal Creation Care at COP26

On **Sunday, December 19, at 10:20 AM** in the parish hall, join SPR member Julia Rademacher-Wedd for reflections on her service as an Episcopal Church delegate to the recent United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26).

Electric Vehicle Charging Station

SPR's parking lot is now home to an electric vehicle charging station! If you know anyone who drives an electric car, please share the news and invite them to charge with us.

Longest Night Service

The holidays are not always joyful. On **Tuesday, December 21, at 7:00 PM in the chapel**, all are invited to attend a brief "Longest Night" worship service to hold space for grief, lament, and hope as Christmas approaches. If you have lost a loved one or are simply struggling to find holiday cheer, this service is for you.

Christmas Eve at SPR

On **Friday, December 24, at 5:00 & 9:00 PM**, all are invited to attend Christmas Eve worship. The 5:00 service will be lively and child-focused, complete with a Christmas pageant; the 9:00 service will include festive choral music. Both services will include communion. Please invite friends, family, and neighbors to attend!

Christmas Day at SPR

On **Saturday, December 25, at 10:00 AM**, all are invited to attend Christmas Day worship. This will be a peaceful service featuring many beloved Christmas carols!

Combined Worship (8 & 10 AM) on December 26

On **Sunday, December 26**, our worship services will be at 8:00 & 10:00 AM. We will resume our usual worship schedule (8:00, 9:15 & 11:15) on **Sunday, January 2**.

Epiphany Liturgy & Fellowship

On **Thursday, January 6, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM**, all ages are invited to a brief Epiphany liturgy, followed by a fellowship meal in the parish hall. Dinner will be provided; bring a dessert to share. Join us in celebrating the arrival of the three wise men (wise people?) to worship the infant Christ!

Food Pantry Christmas Donations

The SPR food pantry will be giving out turkeys for Christmas and so would welcome donations of **stuffing mix and jellied cranberry sauce**. We continue to accept donations of **cereal (Raisin Bran, Cheerios, Frosted Flakes, Rice Krispies, oatmeal, and grits)**. You may leave donations in the narthex (foyer) on Sunday morning, or drop them off on Wednesday between 1:00 and 5:00 PM. Thank you for your generosity.

Join Our Usher Team!

Are you reasonably friendly? Do you appreciate good order? Do you like telling people what to do? Join the SPR usher team! We are currently welcoming new ushers at both our 9:15 and 11:15 services. Ushers should be willing to commit to serving once every 4-6 weeks (although more often is always welcome). To express interest or learn more about scheduling and training, contact associate minister Barnabas Pusnur (pusnur@sprchicago.org).

January-February Art Show Photo Submission

Inspired by Bisa Butler's use of pattern and color, this show invites works by collage artists, painters, quilters, knitters, crocheters, and photographers. The show will be available both virtually and be displayed in the chapel. Send a photo of your work, including the dimensions, **by Saturday, January 9** to Carolyn Pereira (pereira1700@yahoo.com). There will be a virtual reception on **Sunday, January 17 at 5pm**. Be prepared to drop off your work for hanging the following week.

Christmas & Epiphany Services Coming Up

- **Thursday, December 16, 5:30pm**: Christmas Caroling
- **Tuesday, December 21, 7pm**: Longest Night Service
- **Friday, December 24, 5pm & 9pm**: Christmas Eve
- **Saturday, December 25, 10am**: Christmas day
- **Sunday, December 26, 8am & 10am**: First Sunday after Christmas
- **Sunday, January 2, 8am, 9:15am & 11:15am**: Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist
- **Thursday, January 6, 5:30pm**: Epiphany Liturgy & Fellowship

Serving Today

December 12, 2021

Presider: The Rev. KJ Oh

Preacher: The Rev. Catherine Healy

Deacons: The Rev. Jack Seymour, The Rev. Barnabas Pusnur

Music Leader: Christian Clough

Children's Chapel Leaders: Dafne del Risco-Nolla, Gretchen Eng

Acolyte: Matthew Erlec

Lectors: Steve Heyman, Maureen Jesuthasan, Gabriel Lear (9:15); Sandy Mulholland, Rahsaan Morris, Mel Parks (11:15)

Ushers: Greg Palmer, Vincent Johnson (9:15); Joe Dunn, Rahsaan Morris (11:15)

Vestry Greeter: Jonathan Foiles (9:15), Jared Beverly (11:15)

Staff

The Rev. Catherine E. Healy, *Rector*

The Rev. Barnabas E. Pusnur, *Associate Minister*

Christian M. Clough, *Director of Music*

Dafne del Risco-Nolla, *Director of Children's Formation*

Ross Fogg, *Director of Youth Formation*

Lukasz Jedrzejewski, *Sexton*

Gretchen R. Eng, *Children's Music Assistant*

Sabrina Foster, Ashley Lanfair, & Patricia Lanfair, *Nursery Teachers*

Bridget Skaggs & Ariana Strahl, *Staff Singers*

The Rev. KJ Oh, *Assistant Priest*

The Rev. Jack Seymour, *Deacon*

The Rev. Roger Ferlo, *Priest Associate*

The Rev. Lydia Gajdel, *Priest Associate*

Vestry

Twila Jones, *Warden*

Frances Spaltro, *Warden*

Jordan Lanfair, *Clerk*

Tayo Adegoke, *Treasurer*

O. Michael Agina

Traci Beck

Nicholas Bellomy

Jared Beverly

Jonathan Foiles

Vicky Legge

Meryl Prochaska

Jeffrey Stackert

Kerstin Wellbery



Partners in Ministry

Beulah Shoemith Elementary School

We support our neighborhood school through tutoring, arts programs, and gardening.

Community Renewal Society

We are a member congregation of CRS, which organizes faith communities for social change.

Crossroads/Chicago ROAR

Chicago ROAR supports our anti-racism commitments through facilitation and training.

Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

We are proud to belong to the Chicago South Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.

Murray Fellows

Through this program, we mentor and encourage the next generation of LGBTQ+ Christian leaders.

Open Kitchen

SPR members gather monthly to cook meals for Kenwood UCC's Feed the People Soup Kitchen.

St. Patrick's Church & School, Haiti

Our collaboration with St. Patrick's in Tom Gateau, Haiti, includes school lunch and music programs, teacher salaries, and capital projects.

St. Paul & the Redeemer Food Pantry

Our food pantry is open to the community every Wednesday from 3:30 to 5:30 PM.

Syrian Community Network

Each year, SPR sponsors a newly resettled refugee family from Syria through visits, tutoring and more.