

St. Paul Lutheran

Smithville



Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 25, 2026

Prelude:

“Holy Manna”

performed by the Celebration Handbells

***Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Our God is holy, merciful, and slow to anger.

We are told that we can turn from the things that lead us away from God and receive forgiveness and a new start.

Let's prepare ourselves to be in God's presence by asking for forgiveness and resting in God's mercy.

C: Amen.

P: God you call us to do justice and to treat others the way that we, ourselves, wish to be treated. We have not lived up to that expectation and have caused unnecessary pain and division.

C: Forgive us

P: You tell us to follow the example of humility and love that Jesus modeled for us, yet, we have raised ourselves up in an effort to get ahead of others.

C: Forgive us.

P: You have given us rules to guide us that we might have the good life that you intended for us but we have mistrusted you or ignored you completely, trusting instead in our own understanding.

C: Forgive us.

P: You have provided this world with enough that all may have what they need, but we have hoarded and taken more than our share while others have gone without. We have glorified the wealthy and judged the needy.

C: Forgive us.

P: Scripture says that if we will confess our sin and turn away from it, we will receive forgiveness and mercy. Hear these words of promise and receive the mercy of God. May the Spirit of the living God wash over you and cleanse you from the sin that you acknowledge and the times when our minds and hearts have wandered away from God's intention for our lives even when we were not aware of it.

C: **Amen.**

***Gathering Hymn:** # 513 "Listen, God Is Calling"

Refrain

**Listen, listen God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

**Listen, listen God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

**1 Jesus gave his mandate:
share the good news
that he came to save us
and set us free. *Refrain***

**2 Let none be forgotten
throughout the world.
In the triune name of God
go and baptize. *Refrain***

**3 Help is to be faithful,
standing steadfast,
walking in your precepts,
led by your Word. *Refrain***

***Greeting & Call to Worship**

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

C: **And also with you.**

A: In the beginning was the Word,

C: **and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

A: In the Word was life,

C: **and the life was the light of all people.**

A: The Word became flesh and lived among us,

C: **and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.**

***Prayer of the Day**

A: Let us pray. Lord God,

C: **you lead us with your kindness and love. Draw us closer to you and direct our steps in the ways of goodness.**

In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied exultation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

R: The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

**C: One thing I asked of the Lord;
this I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in his temple.**

R: For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

**C: Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

R: Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

**C: “Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, Lord, do I seek.**

R: Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,”

or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**
Please rise for the reading of the Gospel.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the book of Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel Reading:** Matthew 4:12-23

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

¹⁶the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children’s Sermon

Sermon: Pastor Kristy Buyok

Hymn of the Day: #817 "You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"



1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther
3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing
4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly
trea - sure nor wea-pons for con - quest, just these my
love for the rest of the wea - ry— a love that's
long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



ask - ing for me to fol - low.
fish nets and will for work - ing.
will - ing to go on lov - ing.
Friend, you have come to call me.

Refrain / Estribillo



Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind-ly smil - ing,



you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a-ban-doned my



small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

The Apostle's Creed

A: Together, let us confess the belief that we share in this family of faith.

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 (*universal*) church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(The words “catholic” and “apostolic” do not reference a particular denomination but mean “one universal church” and “the same faith that was handed down from Jesus to the Apostles”)

The Prayers

A: United in Christ, let us go to God in prayer:

Holy one, guide all those who are baptized and who have heard your word of hope. May we love as you love and offer mercy as you do. Merciful God,

C: hear us.

A: We give you thanks for this world and the life that you have given us. Make us treasure what you made and honor those you made in your image. Merciful God,

C: hear us.

A: You are a righteous judge, align our thoughts and wishes to match your righteousness that this world might know you through us. Merciful God,

C: hear us.

A: Our country is hurt and divided. Bring your peace and unity to our people and protect us from war. We pray for the people of Minnesota, especially for the Lutheran Churches: their leaders and members. Merciful God,

C: hear us.

A: You care for the vulnerable, the weak, the sick, the poor and those who seek forgiveness. Watch over these on our prayer list: Ann, Lynne, Pheobe, Cassidy, Zach, Jim, Titus, Shannon, and Ken. Provide for their needs and send your peace.

Merciful God,

C: hear us.

A: You offer us eternal life that we did not deserve or earn and we give you thanks for rescuing our loved ones who now rest with you in your eternal kingdom. Thank you for their lives on Earth and give us peace until we meet again. Merciful God,

C: hear us.

P: We come to God confident that we are heard when we pray and ask for help with the things that weigh on our hearts that have not been spoken today.

C: Amen

****Sharing of the Peace***

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Choir Anthem: “River in Judea”

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****Offertory Prayer***

P: Let us pray. Lord God,

**C: you are more magnificent than we can even imagine.
Meet us here at your table of mercy and allow us to see
glimpses of your eternal kingdom. Take what we have
shared today and use it to further your mission in this
place. Amen.**

***The Great Thanksgiving:**

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 our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of
everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth
and the hosts of heaven, we celebrate your name and join their
unending hymn:

**C: Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed are you, our Savior and Lord!**

***Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed...

P: Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

**P: God is with us, here at the table of salvation.
Come receive the promises of our God.**

Holy Communion

*(All baptized Christians are welcomed at God's holy meal or you
may come forward for a blessing.)*

Communion Hymn: “Faith Begins by Letting Go”



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem'ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch-ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press-ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar-ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com-mon-place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815

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Communion Hymn: # 462 “Now We Join in Celebration”



1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
3 Lord, we share in this com-mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som-ber, clothed in-stead in joy and won - der;
For this bread and cup of bless-ing are for us the sure pos-sess - ing
rec - on-ciled through you, our broth-er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv-ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav'n - ly glad - ness.
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918–1990

Music: SCHMÜCKE DICH, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

***Post Communion Blessing**

***Benediction**

***Sending Hymn: #798 "Will You Come and Follow Me"**

1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call

your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low

know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.

Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and

name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and

grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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****Dismissal***

A: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. Be kind.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Your Prayers Are Requested For:

Ann, Lynne, Phoebe, Cassidy, Zach, Jim, Titus, Shannon, Ken, and Jaime

Thank you to those serving this morning

Pastor: Rev. Kristy Buyok

Cantor: Lesley Mast

Assisting Minister: Adrienne Karlen

Reader: Bob Race

Pianist: Joe Hennell

Handbell Director: Jane Ross

Communion Assistant: Lynn Moomaw

Altar Care: Larry & Sandy Allen

Ushers/Greeters: Jason & Zach Mast

Bread Baker: Lesley Mast



Worship Services are streamed each Sunday at:
www.stplcsmithville.org/services

If you are unable to access via the internet,
DVD copies are available for delivery to your home.
Please contact Pastor Kristy: (803) 673-1727.
stplesmithville.org

This Week

Sunday:	Worship Sunday School	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Monday:	<i>Pastor's Day Off Office Closed</i>	
Wednesday:	Meal Choir Handbells	5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Thursday:	Healthy Life Class	6:00 p.m.
Next Sunday:	Worship Sunday School Bible Journaling	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming & Announcements

Healthy Life Series: Our Healthy Life Series continues this Thursday, the 29th, at 6pm. Meet up for a 6-week series with Pastor Kristy and find out what she is doing to feel healthy. Open to all. No judgement or pressure. We are cooking this week.

Women of the Church: Save the date on Saturday, February 7 from 10 to noon.



The flyer for the Women's Day Event features a white background with gold and pink decorative borders at the top and bottom. The text is in a serif font, with 'Women's' in script and 'DAY' and 'EVENT' in bold. A pink heart graphic is positioned next to the text. Below the title, a photo of a smiling woman is shown in a frame, with the caption 'ANGEL JACKSON Speaker'. The event details are listed: 'FEBRUARY 7 10-NOON' with a calendar icon, '777 S. SUMMIT ST. SMITHVILLE, OH' with a location pin icon, and 'REGISTER NOW' with a person icon. Contact information is provided: '330-669-2111' with a phone icon and 'stpsmithville@gmail.com' with an envelope icon. A small image of hands holding a glowing heart is next to the 'SERVICE PROJECTS' text. A coffee cup with a heart-shaped foam design is shown with the text 'COFFEE BAR BY KAILYN PASTRIES BY MISS AMY'S BAKERY'.

Join us for a day devoted to you!
Special Speaker Angel Jackson

God's Love Changes the World

FEBRUARY 7 10-NOON

777 S. SUMMIT ST.
SMITHVILLE, OH

REGISTER NOW

330-669-2111
stpsmithville@gmail.com

SERVICE PROJECTS

COFFEE BAR
BY KAILYN
PASTRIES BY MISS
AMY'S BAKERY

Men of the Church: Save the date on Saturday, February 21 for a special Men's Event.

Souper Bowl Sunday: Please help us collect for the Salvation Army this winter. Drop off any canned soup or other canned goods in the Narthex on or before the big game on February 8.

People to People: Needed items: spaghetti sauce, kidney beans, cereal, instant oatmeal, and dry dog food. Thanks!



Scan the QR code to view our website or to donate thru
Paypal.

Wednesday Night Meals

January 28 - Sloppy Jo's, French fries, pasta salad and dessert

Serving in February In-Person	2/1	2/8	2/15	Ash Wednesday 2/18	2/22
Lay Reader	Aleena Mast	Lyn Miller	Lynn Moomaw	Lyn Miller	Tim Preston
Assisting Minister	Lynn Moomaw	Hans Kwee	Adrienne Karlen	Vicki Svegel	Pam Root
Greeters/ Ushers	Rex Raff Nancy Percy	Jerry & Kathy Meitzler	Bruce Blough Hans Kwee	Ernie Buyok Tim Preston	Steve & Nancy Carr
Communion Assistant	Tim Preston	Duane Eggeman	Lynn Moomaw	N/A	Lyn Miller
Altar Care	Larry & Sandy Miller	Rex & Beth Raff	Steve & Nancy Carr	N/A	Kathy Meitzler
Bread Baker	Nancy Carr	Nancy Carr	Nancy Carr	Nancy Carr	Nancy Carr

Act of Kindness for the Week: Say something encouraging to someone who is having a hard day.

*Rev. Kristy Buyok, Pastor: 803-673-1727
 kristybuyok@gmail.com
 Website: www.stplcsmithville.org
 Church Office: stpsmithville@gmail.com*