

January 1, 2012 | First Sunday after Christmas
The Readings from Scripture

The First Reading

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that the Lord's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.

A reading from the book of Isaiah:

Chapter 61

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Chapter 62

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Galatians 4:4–7

Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as sons and daughters.

A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Galatians:

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The word of the Lord. ALL: Thanks be to God



Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

The Holy Gospel according to St. _____ the _____ chapter

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too." ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of our Lord.

ALL: Thanks Be To God

The Prayers of Intercession

Rejoicing in this new year of grace, let us bring our prayers for the church, all creation, and the needs of the world before God.

A brief silence.

Let us pray for all the baptized, rejoicing in our adoption as children of God and, by the power of the Spirit, confessing the name of Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for birds of the air, land animals, and sea creatures, that we may live in harmony with all of creation and join with it in praising God.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for peace throughout the world, that we would not keep silent in the face of war, strife, and oppression, but work for reconciliation and healing at home and abroad.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all in need; for the sick (*especially*), that they might experience your consolation; for the elderly, that they might live in dignity; and for the dying, that they might have peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the children of our congregation, that they will grow strong in their faith and be filled with the wisdom of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

For what else do the people of God pray?

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Let us give thanks for Anna, Simeon, and all the saints whose lives of worship and praise reveal to us the salvation and redemption of God through Christ.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Rejoicing in the glory of the Lord revealed to the world, we offer these and all our prayers to you, O God of our salvation.

Amen.

This Week at St. Paul's

Sunday	Early Service	8:00 AM
	Contemporary Service	9:15 AM
	Late Service	10:30 AM
	Confirmation Ministry	4:30 PM
	Bell Choir	7:30 PM
	Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	8:00 PM
Monday	NO Property Committee Meeting - Moved to Jan. 9 th	
	Praise Team	7:30 PM
Tuesday	Robotics Team	6:30 PM
Wednesday	AA	8:00 PM
Thursday	Bible Study – Off site	1:00 PM
	Bible Study – Off Site	7:00 PM
Friday	Frontier Girls & Daisies	6:30 PM
Saturday	Robotics Team	9:00 AM
Sunday	Early Service with Holy Communion	8:00 AM
	Contemporary Service with Holy Communion	9:15 AM
	Sunday Church School	9:15 AM
	Late Service with Holy Communion	10:30 AM
	Confirmation Ministry	4:30 PM
	ASP Meeting	7:00 PM
	Bell Choir	7:30 PM
Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	8:00 PM	

Today's Worship Assistants

Altar Guild:	8:00AM	No Communion
Assistant:	8:00AM	Nancy Yerger
	10:30AM	Joanne Hersh
Ushers:	9:15AM	Rich Kressley
		Traci Kressley
	10:30AM	Bruce Baver
		Laverne Keyser
Monday:		Sandy Bergey
		Diane Leister
		Eleanor King

Next Sunday's Worship Assistants

8:00AM	Barb Miller
8:00AM	Lewis Hill
10:30AM	Robert Walp
9:15AM	Sue Jarrett
	John Ferrero
10:30 AM	Nancy Yerger
	Pat Walter
Monday:	Fern Roth
	Dorie Brendlinger
	Linwood Genszler

Annual Meeting - The annual congregational meeting will be held after each of the three services on Sunday, January 29.