

December 25, 2011 | Christmas Day

The Readings from Scripture

Please be seated.

The First Reading

Isaiah 52:7–10

A messenger races home to Jerusalem with the marvelous words: "Your God reigns!" In comforting the people, God proves to be the best brother or sister (redeemer) they have ever known. Everyone will witness the victory (salvation) of God.

A reading from the book of Isaiah:

⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

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



The Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1–4 [5–12]

This letter opens with a lofty declaration of Jesus' preeminent status as the Son through whom God created the world and through whom our sins are cleansed. God speaks to us now through the Son, who is exalted even above the angels.

A reading from the book of Hebrews:

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

⁶And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷Of the angels he says,
"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

⁸But of the Son he says,
"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

¹⁰And,
"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;

¹²like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same, and your years will never end."

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

The Holy Gospel

John 1:1–14

The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be “full of grace and truth.”

The Holy Gospel according to St. _____ the _____ chapter

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you , O Christ.



Our Savior
is Born

The Prayers of Intercession

Let us bring our prayers for the church, all creation, and the needs of the world before God.

A brief silence.

God of might, send forth from your church messengers to bring good news and to announce your salvation, so all people may know the hope of eternal life.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of creation, enlighten your people to see new and creative ways to preserve and protect the environment, so all people may share in the gifts of the land.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of peace, raise up leaders throughout the earth committed to peace, so all people may live in safety.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of consolation, guard the unemployed, the homeless, the elderly, the young, and the sick (*especially*). Keep them in your care, that they may rejoice and give thanks to your name.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of grace, show us your glory through the mystery of the Word made flesh, so all in our congregation may come to greater knowledge of your truth.

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.

God of salvation, we give you thanks for all who are made saints through the waters of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Sustain us in faith until the day we join with the praises of your holy people before the throne of your Son.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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

Amen.

St. Paul's Prayer List ❖ Weekly update to the December Vision

Jean Croisette – *recovering from surgery*
Alma Leister – *Genesis - Phoenixville*
Shelby Thomas – *Recovering at home*
Betty Treffinger – *Recovering at home*
Barbara Woehr - *Recovering at home*
Mr & Mrs John Boyer

Wyatt Kilheffner
Bill Gredicek – *nephew of Bonnie Thomas*
Dick Frederick – *Friend of the Grims*
Frank Grim
Calvin Miller
The Levine Family

Please look in the current edition of the Vision Newsletter for other names on our prayer list. The Sunday bulletins only list updates to the complete list in the Vision.

We remember in prayer both the Shagg family on the death of Alan Brandal on December 18th and the Smoll family on the death of Alverda Smoll on December 20, 2011.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Beatrice Shup presented by husband Arlington and family.

The Chancel Flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Robert Koons 87th birthday presented by children Dolores, Debbie, David and families.

The Bulletin is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ralph and Amy Nace presented by their children and families.

Capital Improvement Fund ~ We have currently received a total of \$67,474. in our Capital Improvement fund toward our goal of \$225,000. Pledges amount to \$64,914.

Elevator Fund ~	Project Cost	\$170,000.00
	Total Gifts Received as of 11.11	\$73,310.00

ASP at St. Paul's will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary of home repairs with an ASP reunion picnic on July 28, 2012. A combined worship hour will be held at 9:15 on July 29 with Pastor Bill Bixby as the guest preacher. Pastor Bixby was associate pastor during the initial years of ASP.

Sunday, January 1 - all three worship services will be held. Sunday School will resume on January 8.

Property Committee – will meet on January 2nd at 7:00 pm

Confirmation Class will meet on January 8. Please note the change in our monthly schedule.

Lunch Bunch ~ Our Annual New Year's Party on **Wednesday January 11th 11:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall. What a great New Year's Resolution, become a member of this great bunch of 50+ adults for a few hours. You don't need to be a St. Paul's member, invite your friends and relatives. No need to pack your lunch, just bring your mug. Our party lunch is provided. Mr. David Luz will present the program taking us on an "Old Time Tour of The Upper Perkiomen Valley." Come and enjoy a day of fun and fellowship. Bring your Redner register tapes that you have been saving using your Save-a-tape-card. Thanks you.

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

This Week at St. Paul's

Sunday	Combined Service with Holy Communion Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	10:30 AM 8:00 PM
Monday	Cub Scout Den Meeting Praise Team	6:30 PM 7:30 PM
Tuesday	Robotics Team Finance Committee Council Meeting	6:30 PM 6:45 PM 7:30 PM
Wednesday	AA	8:00 PM
Friday	Frontier Girls, Brownies & Daisies	6:30 PM
Saturday	Robotics Team	9:00 AM
Sunday	Early Service with Holy Communion Contemporary Service with Holy Communion Sunday Church School Late Service with Holy Communion Victory House Confirmation Ministry Bell Choir Narcotics Anonymous - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>	8:00 AM 9:15 AM 9:15 AM 10:30 AM 4:00 PM 4:30 PM 7:30 PM 8:00 PM

Thank you to Barry Troxel and Larry Weiss for their assistance in accessing drain pipes buried in 12 inches of concrete for the main level rest room. After removing over 12 inches of concrete the plumber will be able to proceed with necessary drain repair. Apparently in 1957 it was a practice to submerge drain pipes in concrete.



Pork Dinner ~ The 2012 Appalachia Service Project team will be hosting its Pork Dinner on January 14, 2012 at 3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This event benefits the ASP home repairs ministry. Come enjoy food and fellowship while supporting a great cause. *Snow Date January 21.*

Next Sunday's Worship Assistants

Altar Guild:	8:00AM	None – No Communion
Assistant:	8:00AM	No Communion
	10:30AM	Joanne Hersh
Ushers:	9:15AM	Rich Kressley
		Traci Kressley
	10:30 AM	Bruce Bayer
		Laverne Keyser
Monday:		Sandy Bergery
		Diane Leister
		Eleanor King