

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
January 26, 2020
Third Sunday after Epiphany



Vicar Mary Anne Parker
Dale Tessman, Worship Assistant
Randy Witte, Lay Reader
Rita Jordan, Organist

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Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the eternal voice from heaven,
the anointed and beloved one,
the Spirit moving over the waters.

Amen.

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession,
trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

God who searches us and knows us,
**you have shown us what is good,
but we have looked to other lights to find our way.
We have not been just in our dealings with others.
We have chosen revenge over mercy.
We have promoted ourselves
instead of walking humbly with you.
With what shall we come before you?
Forgive us our sin,
and show us your salvation
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved of God,
you have not received the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit that is from God,
poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.
Receive the promise of baptism:
You are God’s child; † your sins are forgiven.
Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Lord, You Give the Great Commission ELW 579

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together, **Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

But there'll be no darkness for those who were in trouble. Earlier he did bring the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali into disrepute, but the time is coming when he'll make that whole area glorious— the road along the Sea, the country past the Jordan, international Galilee.

²⁻⁷ The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light.
For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—
 light! sunbursts of light!
You repopulated the nation,
 you expanded its joy.
Oh, they're so glad in your presence!
 Festival joy!
The joy of a great celebration,
 sharing rich gifts and warm greetings.
The abuse of oppressors and cruelty of tyrants—
 all their whips and cudgels and curses—
Is gone, done away with, a deliverance
 as surprising and sudden as Gideon's old victory over Midian.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

R: Light, space, zest— that's God!

Light, space, zest— that's God!
So, with him on my side I'm fearless,
afraid of no one and nothing.

**I'm asking God for one thing, only one thing:
To live with him in his house my whole life long.**

I'll contemplate his beauty; I'll study at his feet.

⁵ That's the only quiet, secure place
 in a noisy world,

The perfect getaway, far from the buzz of traffic.

**⁶ God holds me head and shoulders
above all who try to pull me down.
I'm headed for his place to offer anthems
that will raise the roof! R**

Already I'm singing God-songs;
I'm making music to God.

⁷⁻⁹ Listen, God, I'm calling at the top of my lungs:
"Be good to me! Answer me!"

**When my heart whispered, "Seek God,"
my whole being replied,
"I'm seeking him!"**

Don't hide from me now!

⁹⁻¹⁰ You've always been right there for me;
don't turn your back on me now.

Don't throw me out, don't abandon me;
you've always kept the door open. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

¹⁰ I have a serious concern to bring up with you, my friends, using the authority of Jesus, our Master. I'll put it as urgently as I can: You *must* get along with each other. You must learn to be considerate of one another, cultivating a life in common.

¹¹⁻¹² I bring this up because some from Chloe's family brought a most disturbing report to my attention—that you're fighting among yourselves! I'll tell you exactly what I was told: You're all picking sides, going around saying, "I'm on Paul's side," or "I'm for Apollos," or "Peter is my man," or "I'm in the Messiah group."

¹³⁻¹⁶ I ask you, "Has the Messiah been chopped up in little pieces so we can each have a relic all our own? Was Paul crucified for you? Was a single one of you baptized in Paul's name?" I was not involved with any of your baptisms—except for Crispus and Gaius—and on getting this report, I'm sure glad I wasn't. At least no one can go around saying he was baptized in my name. (Come to think of it, I also baptized Stephanas's family, but as far as I can recall, that's it.)

¹⁷ God didn't send me out to collect a following for myself, but to preach the Message of what he has done, collecting a following for him. And he didn't send me to do it with a lot of fancy rhetoric of my own, lest the powerful action at the center—Christ on the Cross—be trivialized into mere words.

¹⁸ The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:12-23

Glory to You, O Lord.

When Jesus got word that John had been arrested, he returned to Galilee. He moved from his hometown, Nazareth, to the lakeside village Capernaum, nestled at the base of the Zebulun and Naphtali hills. This move completed Isaiah's sermon:

Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
road to the sea, over Jordan,
Galilee, crossroads for the nations.

People sitting out their lives in the dark saw a huge light;
Sitting in that dark, dark country of death,
they watched the sun come up.

This Isaiah-prophesied sermon came to life in Galilee the moment Jesus started preaching. He picked up where John left off: "Change your life. God's kingdom is here."

Walking along the beach of Lake Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers: Simon (later called Peter) and Andrew. They were fishing, throwing their nets into the lake. It was their regular work. Jesus said to them, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." They didn't ask questions, but simply dropped their nets and followed.

A short distance down the beach they came upon another pair of brothers, James and John, Zebedee's sons. These two were sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, mending their fishnets. Jesus made the same offer to them, and they were just as quick to follow, abandoning boat and father. From there he went all over Galilee. He used synagogues for meeting places and taught people the truth of God. God's kingdom was his theme—that beginning right now they were under God's government, a good government! He also healed people of their diseases and of the bad effects of their bad lives. Word got around the entire Roman province of Syria. People brought anybody with an ailment, whether mental, emotional, or physical. Jesus healed them, one and all. More and more people came, the momentum gathering. Besides those from Galilee, crowds came from the "Ten Towns" across the lake, others up from Jerusalem and Judea, still others from across the Jordan.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Will You Come and Follow Me ELW 798

CONFESSION OF FAITH

United in Christ, let us confess the faith we hold in common.

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

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jordan Buehring	Michelle Jonas
Robert Jonas	Rita Jordan
Stacey Mika	Ronnie Retzloff
Dustin Witte	

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together through water and the Word, we boldly pray for the church, the world, and all who long to hear God's voice.

Holy One, your voice calls us to follow. Thank you for raising up missionaries in every generation and for all who create communities of grace today. Open our hearts to serve you near and far. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Maker of all, we rejoice in the beauty and abundance of the earth. Thank for the gentle rain that fell during the past week. Unite us in our shared calling to be stewards of creation, to reduce waste, and to simplify our lives for your sake. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Ruler of all, thank you for those who run for local and national office, and all who serve as elected leaders. Gather wise and courageous voices together, that your mercy and justice would dawn upon all people and nations. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healer of all, thank you for sanctuary and safety. Uplift all who live where fear governs and evil divides. Give refugees and all who seek safety a path toward hope and new life. Grant healing and wholeness to all who are sick, lonely, or grieving, especially Bobby, Patricia, Suzanne, Diane, Shane, Norma, Robert, Linda, Jack, Evelyn, Raymond, Steve, Frances, SuzAnn, Khloe, Elfren, Jimmy, Edwin, Johnny, Carly, Meredene, Jerry Vajdos, Enedina, Cody, Robert, and Norma as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts.... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of courage, thank you for faithful volunteers, teachers and evangelists in this and every place. Inspire our faith formation efforts with all generations as you call us to follow you. Bless our children, youth, and adults who engage in learning. Guide the 2020 church council in their mission to grow this congregation and the ministries of this church. With all churches in the Southeastern Synod we pray for each other and also for the South Carolina Synod, as well as Lord of Life Lutheran Church in San Antonio. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for the whole communion of saints, each called in their own time to serve you. Inspire our lives with their testimony. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We place our prayers before you, God, united in your Spirit; through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREETING OF PEACE

The Lord Jesus prayed for the unity of his disciples.
We look for the day when the church will shine forth
in unity at his holy supper.
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING SONG

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil ELW 512

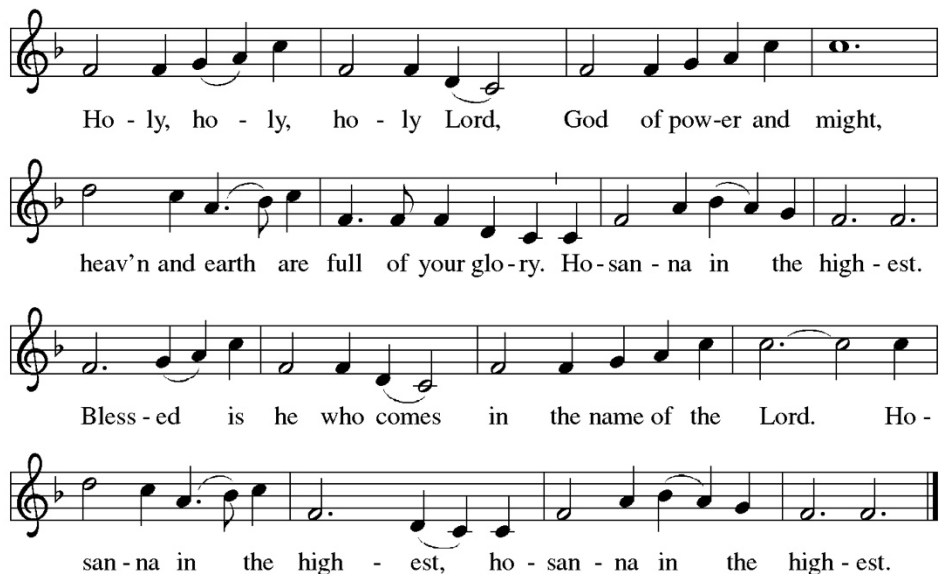
OFFERING PRAYER

God of wonder,
you formed us in our mother's womb,
and from mother earth you bring forth this bread and wine.
We place them on your table,
together with our lives and all that you have made.
Open the heavens to us and pour out your Spirit.
We wait for your mercy;
we long for your peace;
we hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ,
our banquet of life.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 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.
By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

The assembly is seated.

COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world.

Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated. Communion will be by Intinction. After receiving the bread, receive the wine by dipping the bread into the chalice that is offered by the communion assistant.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Faithful God, you have kept your promise to us in this meal, nourishing us with the gift of salvation. Now send your servants forth in peace, that we may testify to your goodness and share the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING

May Christ, the wisdom and power of God, and the source of our life together, keep you united in mind and purpose. And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult ELW 696

DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow ELW 884

For Prayerful Consideration

Ill, Injured or Otherwise Struggling: Bobby Adams, Patricia Coffee, Suzanne Dietzel, Diane Dziuk, Shane Edens, Norma Foreman, Robert Fudge, Linda Henning, Jack Hockey, Evelyn Hoffman, Raymond Jenkins, Steve Kelly, Frances Kempe, SuzAnn Kroll, Khloe Martinez, Elfren Moczygemba, Jimmy Moore, Edwin Moy, Johnny Perez, Carly Rosenboon, Meredene Shockome, Jerry Vajdos, Enedina Vasquez, Cody Zaiontz, Robert Fudge, and Norma Zamzow

For those in the military: Nick Adams, Anthony Alvarez, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue, Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Jon Wayne Schulz, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita, Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva

Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul's by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul's. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us. **If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance**, please signal an usher.

Announcements

Opportunities to Learn, Worship, Pray, and Serve

St. Paul's will sponsor the KC Senior Activity Day, Tuesday January 28, at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

More information is available on
the bulletin boards in the Fellowship Hall and overflow area. **Register Now! Don't Miss Out.**

Equipping the Saints 2020

Saturday, February 1

Best Practices for Faith & Life Today

(and in anticipation of our Future as Church)

Sponsored by
Bluebonnet Conference
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Hosted by
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Cuero
Located at 400 N. Esplanade (across from McDonalds)

Workshops for Laity & Clergy to Equip for Ministry and
Personal and Spiritual Growth, Worship,
Catered Luncheon and Staffed Nursery.

All welcome to attend.

For registration material, speak with the pastor or staff of
any Lutheran congregation in the
Bluebonnet Conference of ELCA Congregations or

For information contact:
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