St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 21, 2018

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Stacey Mika, Lay Leader
Rita Jordan, Organist
Mary Maddox, Lay Reader

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Stories of the call to discipleship continue as the Time after Epiphany plays out the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of fisherman brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly stands.

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN (ELW p. 576) We All Are One in Mission

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

And also with you.
PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love. Make us ready to live the gospel and eager to do your will, so that we may share with all your church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Dios Todopoderoso, tu Espíritu Santo equipa a la iglesia con una rica variedad de dones. Conceda que podamos usarlas para testimoniar a Cristo en vidas que se construyen sobre la fe y el amor. Prepárate para vivir el Evangelio y deseosos de hacer tu voluntad, para que podamos compartir con toda tu iglesia en las alegrías de la vida eterna; a través de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 1:14-20

In John’s gospel, Jesus’ ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip’s friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to “Come and see.”

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

14 Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, 15 and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 As he went a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

President Ronnie Retzloff

The assembly stands for the conclusion of the worship service.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW p. 685) Take My Life, That I May Be

The assembly is seated.

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HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW p. 685) Take My Life, That I May Be
APOSTLES’ CREED

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Confident that God, our light and our salvation hears us when we pray, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

For the church in all its forms, for unity in Christ, and for those who proclaim the good news in word and deed, that all trust that the kingdom of God has come near, let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

For clean water and air, for fertile lands, so that all creatures and people have enough food, nourishing drink, and breathable air, let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

For public defenders and district attorneys, for the armed forces and international peace organizations, and for all public leaders, that those in authority work for the well-being of all people, let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

For the poor and oppressed, for the sick and bereaved, for those living with HIV and AIDS, and for all people in need, especially for Elvira, Lorain, Pauline, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Laquita, Helen, Linda, Jack, Matilda, Steve, Evalena, Francis, Ella, Charles, Eli, Steve, Marlane, Casey, Yvonne, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma; that your power and compassion will be visible to those who need care and those who provide care, let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

For this congregation and its ministries, for visitors in our midst, and for students returning to school, that your Holy Spirit will guide us in all our endeavors, let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for those who have died that their lives of faithful service point us to the steadfast love of Christ, let us pray. Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, you hear our prayers even before we speak them. Receive them for the sake of the one through whom you have revealed your goodness, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
OFFERING  An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

The assembly stands.

OFFERING HYMN  (ELW p. 674)  Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

OFFERING PRAYER

Merciful God,  
receive the gifts we bring,  
our selves, our time, and our possessions.  
Through this meal unite us as your body,  
shining with the light of your justice and mercy;  
for the sake of him who gave himself for us,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  

Amen.

Barmherziger Gott,  
empfangen die Gaben, die wir bringen,  
uns selbst, unsere Zeit und unsere Besitztümer.  
Durch diese Mahlzeit uns vereinen als ihr  
Körper, scheint mit das Licht deiner  
Gerechtigkeit und Barmherzigkeit;  
für ihn, der sich selbst für uns gegeben hat,  
Jesus Christus, unseren Herrn.  

Amen.

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.  

Amen.

SENDING HYMN  (ELW p. 817)  You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.  
Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY  (ELW p. 884)  Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
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.

A Nursery is located at the rear of the sanctuary in the overflow area.

If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance, please signal an usher.

For Prayerful Consideration

**Ill or Injured**

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

**Birthdays**
Robert Jonas (Jan. 24), Rita Jordan (Jan. 28)

**San Antonio Symphony Brass Quintet: Tuesday, January 23, 7:00 p.m., AC Jones High School in Beeville**
Performance tickets are $10, although adults accompanied by two or more children will not be charged admission. Free admission for everyone under the age of 18.

**CANNED SOUP, CHILI & STEW COLLECTION**
Through February 4 we will be collecting non-perishable meals for the San Antonio Food Pantry. A collection basket is located at the rear of the Sanctuary.

**Members requiring a written record of 2017 charitable contributions to St. Paul’s,** should contact Rita or Stacey before January 31, 2018.