

Gathering

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

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

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.

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 SONG

Baptized in Water ELW 456

GREETING

God who sent the Light into our world,
God who shone in the Bethlehem manger,
God who spreads the Spirit's rays, be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together, **O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

1-4 "Take a good look at my servant.

I'm backing him to the hilt.

He's the one I chose,

and I couldn't be more pleased with him.

I've bathed him with my Spirit, my *life*.

He'll set everything right among the nations.

He won't call attention to what he does

with loud speeches or gaudy parades.

He won't brush aside the bruised and the hurt

and he won't disregard the small and insignificant,

but he'll steadily and firmly set things right.

He won't tire out and quit. He won't be stopped

until he's finished his work—to set things right on earth.

Far-flung ocean islands

wait expectantly for his teaching."

5-9 God's Message,

the God who created the cosmos, stretched out the skies,

laid out the earth and all that grows from it,

Who breathes life into earth's people,

makes them alive with his own life:

"I am God. I have called you to live right and well.

I have taken responsibility for you, kept you safe.

I have set you among my people to bind them to me,

and provided you as a lighthouse to the nations,

To make a start at bringing people into the open, into light:

opening blind eyes,

releasing prisoners from dungeons,

emptying the dark prisons.

I am God. That's my name.

I don't franchise my glory,

don't endorse the no-god idols.

Take note: The earlier predictions of judgment have been fulfilled.

I'm announcing the new salvation work.

Before it bursts on the scene,

I'm telling you all about it."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 29

¹⁻² Bravo, God, bravo!

Gods and all angels shout, "Encore!"

**In awe before the glory,
in awe before God's visible power.**

Stand at attention! Dress your best to honor him!

³ God thunders across the waters,
Brilliant, his voice and his face, streaming brightness— God, across the flood waters.

⁴ **God's thunder tympanic,
God's thunder symphonic.**

⁵ God's thunder smashes cedars,
God topples the northern cedars.

⁶ **The mountain ranges skip like spring colts,
The high ridges jump like wild kid goats.**

⁷⁻⁸ God's thunder spits fire.

God thunders, the wilderness quakes; He makes the desert of Kadesh shake.

⁹ **God's thunder sets the oak trees dancing
A wild dance, whirling; the pelting rain strips their branches.**

We fall to our knees—we call out, "Glory!"

¹⁰ **Above the floodwaters is God's throne
from which his power flows, from which he rules the world.**

¹¹ God makes his people strong. God gives his people peace.

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34-43

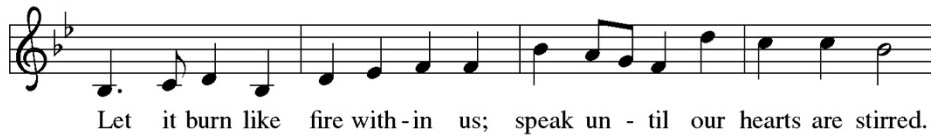
Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴⁻³⁶ Peter fairly exploded with his good news: "It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, he's doing it everywhere, among everyone. ³⁷⁻³⁸ "You know the story of what happened in Judea. It began in Galilee after John preached a total life-change. Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone who was beaten down by the Devil. He was able to do all this because God was with him. ³⁹⁻⁴³ "And we saw it, saw it all, everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem where they killed him, hung him from a cross. But in three days God had him up, alive, and out where he could be seen. Not everyone saw him—he wasn't put on public display. Witnesses had been carefully handpicked by God beforehand—us! We were the ones, there to eat and drink with him after he came back from the dead. He commissioned us to announce this in public, to bear solemn witness that he is in fact the One whom God destined as Judge of the living and dead. But we're not alone in this. Our witness that he is the means to forgiveness of sins is backed up by the witness of all the prophets."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 3:13-17

Glory to You, O, Lord.

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

13-14 Jesus then appeared, arriving at the Jordan River from Galilee. He wanted John to baptize him. John objected, "I'm the one who needs to be baptized, not *you!*"

15 But Jesus insisted. "Do it. God's work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism." So John did it.

16-17 The moment Jesus came up out of the baptismal waters, the skies opened up and he saw God's Spirit—it looked like a dove—descending and landing on him. And along with the Spirit, a voice: "This is my Son, chosen and marked by my love, delight of my life."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Spirit of Gentleness ELW 396

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

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

Renewing God, thank you for the gift of baptism. Give your church boldness to proclaim your promises. Tear down obstacles of injustice so that your word of hope reaches the ends of the earth. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we rejoice in the glory of your creation: the beauty of rivers and streams, glaciers and oceans, lakes and ponds. Bring restoration to your earth, and free us from overuse and abuse of water, air, and land. We ask for much needed rainfall in our area as well as other parts of our world, especially the areas of Australia affected by fires. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, we give thanks for order in the midst of chaos, though we long for greater justice in our world. Raise up wise and compassionate servant leaders so that all experience your reign of peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, thank you for the powerful healing we witness through doctors and nurses, medication, therapy, and holistic means. Break through clouds of pain and anguish with your voice of comfort. Proclaim hope to all who grieve, and send healing to all who are sick, especially Bobby, Patricia, Suzanne, Diane, Shane, Norma, Robert, Linda, Jack, Raymond, Steve, Khloe, Elfren, Moma, Jimmy, Carly, Meredene, Jerry, Enedina, Cody, Norma, as well as those that we name out loud or in our hearts.... Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of courage, we rejoice in this community of hope. Strengthen all who are preparing for baptism and renew the faith of sponsors, mentors, parents, grandparents, friends, and all who guide the newly baptized in this life of joy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, unleash your Spirit to increase our trust in you. We give thanks for the lives of the saints who inspire us with lives of baptismal witness. 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.**

PEACE

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

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ ELW 674

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!
Come to the table of mercy and joy

GREAT THANKSGIVING

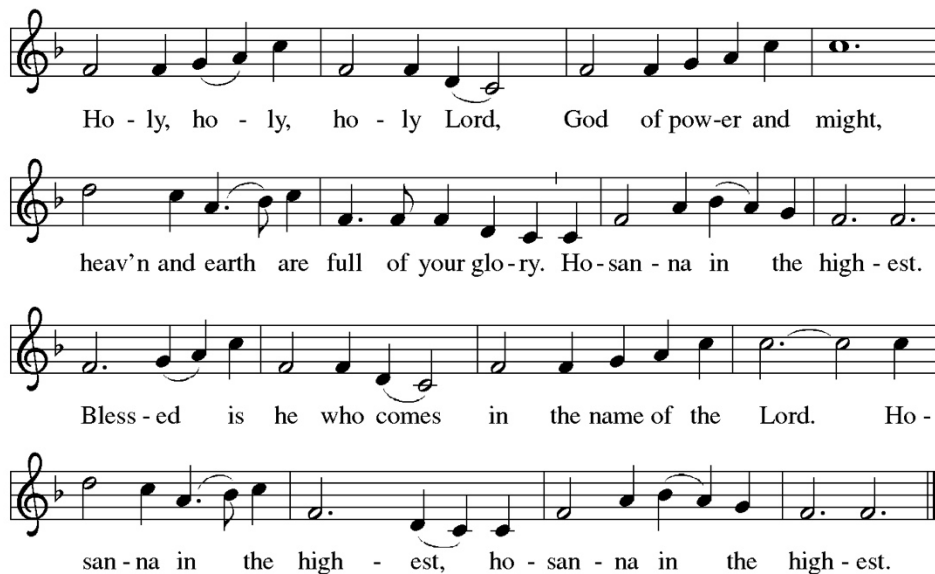
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

Let All Things Now Living ELW 881

DOXOLOGY

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow ELW 884

DISMISSAL

Christ is born!

Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

Thanks be to God.

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, Khloe Martinez, Elfren Moczygemba, Jimmy Moore, Moma Ndeh, 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

Anniversary & Birthdays: Philip & Stacey Mika (Jan. 12), Keith Rippstein (Jan. 14), Jonie Huwe, Lillie Jonas (Jan. 15), Allen & Orlis Jonas (Jan. 19)

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

Thank you to all that stayed after church last week and helped prepare the sanctuary for the time after Epiphany. Many hands made light the work!

The WELCA will meet next Sunday, January 19, at 10:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Plans will be finalized for the KC Senior Activity Day. All women of St. Paul's are invited and encouraged to attend!

The Annual Meeting will be next Sunday, January 19, 2020 (the 3rd Sunday in January) immediately following the worship service. If you would like to volunteer to be on the Council, would like to nominate someone for Council, or have something that you would like placed on the agenda, please contact Ronnie Retzloff.

St. Paul's will sponsor the KC Senior Activity Day, Tuesday January 28, at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Donations for bingo prizes can be left on the designated table in the Fellowship Hall. Homemade cookies are also needed and can be brought to the Fellowship Hall Sunday and Monday, January 26 and 27.

