

Sunday after Epiphany
January 15, 2023
St. Paul Lutheran Church

Pastor: David Reim - 549-5250 **Organist:** Julie Reim
Ushers: Guy and Ken

Read Before the Service:

Psalm 84 Hymnal page 139

Opening Prayer

O Lord God, our merciful Father, You have revealed the glory of Your Grace by showing forth Your Son, Jesus Christ and making Him known to the world as our only Savior from sin. You have also drawn us to your Son through Your Word and have saved us and blessed us with every spiritual blessing. May You fill us with Your love that we may worship and praise You with our whole heart and to love and serve you with our entire life. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Opening Hymn: 138 Thou Light of Gentile Nations

1. Thou Light of Gentile nations, Thou Savior from above,
Drawn by Thy Spirit's leading, We come with joy and love
Into Thy holy temple And wait with earnest mind
As Simeon had waited His God and Lord to find.

2. Yea, Lord, Thy servants meet Thee, In every holy place
Where Thy true Word has promised That we should see Thy face.
Today Thou still dost grant us Who gather round Thee here
In arms of faith to bear Thee As did that aged seer.

3. Be Thou our Joy and Brightness, Our Cheer in pain and loss,
Our Sun in darkest terror, The Glory round our cross,
A Star for sinking spirits, A Beacon in distress,
Physician, Friend, in sickness, In death our Happiness.

4. Let us, O Lord, be faithful Like Simeon to the end,
So that his prayer exultant May from our hearts ascend:
"O Lord, now let Thy servant Depart in peace, I pray,
Since I have seen my Savior And here beheld His day."

5. My Savior, I behold Thee With faith's enlightened eye;
Of Thee no foe can rob me, His threats I can defy.
Within Thy heart abiding, As Thou, O Lord, in me,
Death can no longer frighten Nor part my soul from Thee.

6. Lord, here on earth Thou seemest At times to frown on me,
And through my tears I often Can scarce distinguish Thee;
But in the heavenly mansions Shall nothing dim my sight;
There shall I see Thy glory In never-changing light.

Invocation:

P: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you. Amen.**

Confession of Sins:

P: Jesus Christ has been revealed as “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” As sinners, we can come to Him and have our sins washed away in His blood. Therefore let us confess our sins to God in the name of Jesus our Savior.

C & P: Almighty and most merciful God, I confess that I am a sinner by my very nature, I was born in the sin of Adam. Because of my corrupt nature, I sin against you daily in my thoughts, in my words and actions. I have done the things you forbid, and I fail to do the things you command. Lord, I know I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. Yet, I come before you in repentance, because you are merciful and gracious and have given Your Son to die for me. Oh God, be merciful to me, a sinner. Forgive me, I pray, for Jesus sake.

P: God, our heavenly Father, is truly merciful and gracious, He has given His own Son into death for our sins, and raised Jesus to life for our justification. By His unfailing word of promise, I assure you that all your sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake.

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST *Gloria in Excelsis*



C: 1 Glo - ry to God, we give You thanks and praise;
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
3 A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord,



Of heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing.
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.
At God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:

We wor - ship You, to You our hearts we raise,
 O Lamb of God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
 Who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,
 Lord God, al - might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
 Re - ceive our prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
 With all the heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Epistle Reading: Isaiah 42:1-7

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. 2 He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. 3 A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; 4 he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.” 5 This is what God the Lord says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it: 6 “I, the Lord, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, 7 to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

Acts 10: 34-38

34 Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism 35 but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. 36 You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. 37 You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached— 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Response of Praise: From Isaiah 60

P: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

C: And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

P: For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people;

C: But the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.

P: The Gentiles shall come to your light,

C: And kings to the brightness of your rising.

P: All those from Sheba shall come; they shall bring gold and incense,

C: And they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord.

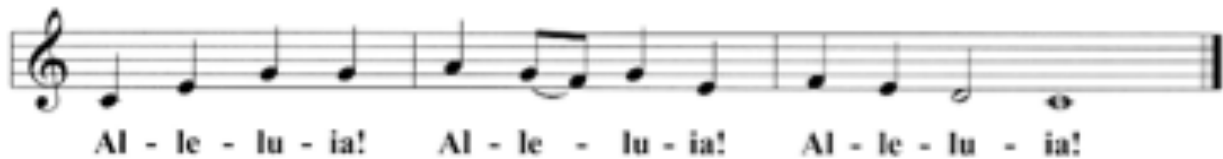
Gospel Reading: Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

15 Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Blessed are they that hear the word of God and keep it.



Confession of Faith: Luther’s Explanation to the second article.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sin, from death and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and His innocent suffering and death.

He did this that I should be His very own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and joy; just as He is risen from death, lives and reigns in eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn: 134 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

1. Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to Thee we raise,
Manifested by the star To the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem, In Thy birth at Bethlehem.
Anthems be to Thee addressed God in man made manifest.
2. Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme,
And at Cana, Wedding-guest, In Thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in power divine, Changing water into wine.
Anthems be to Thee addressed God in man made manifest.
3. Manifest in making whole Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight, Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will, Ever bringing good from ill.
Anthems be to Thee addressed, God in man made manifest.
4. Sun and moon shall darkened be, Stars shall fall, the heavens shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine, All will see His glorious sign;
All will then the trumpet hear, All will see the Judge appear;
Thou by all wilt be confessed, God in man made manifest.
5. Grant us grace to see Thee, Lord, Mirrored in Thy holy Word;
May we imitate Thee now And be pure as pure art Thou
That we like to Thee may be At Thy great Epiphany
And may praise Thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

Sermon : Text: Romans 12:1-5

“12 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. 3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.”

Theme:

The Transformation of a Christian!

- 1. It is Worked in you by God.**
- 2. So Live the Transformed Life.**

Hymn: 408 Jesus Christ, My Pride and Glory

1. Jesus Christ, my pride and glory, He, the true and living Light,
Strengthens me with glorious might. Christ, revealed in sacred story,
Whom I now as Lord confess, Teaches me true holiness.

2. Let me live to praise Thee ever, Jesus, thou my heart's Delight,
Thou who leadest me aright. Let me cling to Thee forever,
All the fleshly lusts deny And the devil's hosts defy.

3. Grant me, Lord, Thy Holy Spirit That in all I follow Him
Lest the light of faith grow dim. Let me ever trust Thy merit,
Let Thy blessing me attend, From all evil me defend.

4. From all pain and imperfection, Gracious Lord, deliver me,
Heaven's glory let me see. Keep me under Thy direction
That the grace thou gavest me I may praise eternally.

Offerings for Christ's Church:

Sing - while offering is brought forward Hymn 441 st. 1-2

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our first-fruits give!

Prayers of the Church:

The Lord's Prayer: 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.

Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**Closing Hymn: 412 May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill**

1. May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfil And do on earth our Father's will
As angels do above; Still walk in Christ, the living Way,
With all Thy children and obey The law of Christian love.
2. So may we join Thy name to bless, Thy grace adore, Thy power confess,
From sin and strife to flee. One is our calling, one our name,
The end of all our hopes the same, A crown of life with Thee.
3. Spirit of Life, of Love, and Peace, Unite our hearts, our joy increase,
Thy gracious help supply. To each of us the blessing give
In Christian fellowship to live, In joyful hope to die.

**Scripture Treasure to Remember:****1 John 4:10-11**

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today - Sunday School and Bible Class resumes.

Tuesday - PCPC Study Club at 2:00

Wednesday - Skype Bible Study at 9:30.

Bible Study with Karrie at 2:30.

Thursday - Shut-in visit with George

Friday - Shut-in visit with Rosemarie

Next Sunday - Worship Service at 10:00

Sunday School and Bible Class at 11:15.

Annual Voters Meeting

Our Annual Voters meeting is planned for Sunday, February 5th. We will be holding elections of officers, discussing our budget including our CBP estimate for the Synod, going over the annual report and discussing plans for the coming year. If you have any comments or suggestions for our joint work please speak with one of the voters.

A Word of Appreciation from Pastor Hein

Janelle and I desire to convey our deep appreciation for all the wonderful support we have received since my cancer diagnosis. Many of our fellow Christians, known and unknown, have sent us cards, letters, emails, etc., with edifying reminders from Scripture and letting us know they are praying for us. These and the generous outpouring of financial support sent to us and to Grace Lutheran in Fridley, MN, have been absolutely incredible. We stand in awe at how the LORD uses our challenges to remind us what a gracious God He is in our lives, even as He moves hearts to such expressions full of Christian love. Our cup overflows! May the LORD be glorified during my treasured time of grace as I face what lies ahead according to His good pleasure. In Christ, Pastor John Hein (www.caringbridge.org/visit/pastorjohnhein)

Foreign Missions Prayer List

Bangladesh –Pastor Monotosh continues to spread the Gospel in new areas of Bangladesh. He recently reported that recently one young lady has been baptized and two families have been received into the fellowship of the BLCM after seven months of Bible instruction. Pastor Monotosh also reports that they are completing negotiations on a piece of land upon which they hope to build a multipurpose building that would be used as a church headquarters, worship facility, and Bible School for training pastors and church leaders. The Board of Missions has approved a grant from the Mission Development Fund to assist the BLCM in purchasing land. Once the land is purchased and the building is constructed, this will be a great blessing for the BLCM. Over the past few years, they have had to move several times because of persecution. Missionary Ohlmann is planning a visit to Bangladesh in early May. **Ask the Lord** to continue to bless both the preaching and hearing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Bangladesh and for the Lord's wisdom and provision in the purchase of land and construction of a building.

Tanzania – The students at the Wittenberg Lutheran Theological Seminary in Arusha are scheduled to return to classes on Monday, January 16th. Seven students are enrolled in the three-year seminary course. Three additional students are enrolled in a one-year pre-seminary/evangelism course. These students will spend one-year studying basic theology, Bible History, Evangelism, and English. At the conclusion of the pre-seminary year, the faculty will evaluate each student. Some will receive an Evangelist certificate and be assigned to a congregation. Those who demonstrate the necessary gifts and commitment will move on to the three-year seminary program to prepare for a call into the pastoral ministry.