



**St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church**  
**3rd Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 21, 2024**

**Pastor:** David Reim - 549-5250

**Pianist:** Julie Reim

**Ushers:** Guy and Ken

**Preparation for Worship:** Read Psalm 32 Hymnal pg.130

**Opening Prayer** Oh Lord, our gracious Father, be present with Your grace and mercy. Lord, open our hearts by Your Holy Spirit that we may see your loving kindness and tender mercies all around us and be moved to bless and praise you with our whole heart and soul. Move us to true repentance and faith that we may receive and rejoice in your forgiveness and salvation and truly live our lives without fear, looking forward to the day we stand before You face to face in paradise. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

**Opening Hymn: 279** Today Thy Mercy Calls Us

1. Today Thy mercy calls us To wash away our sin.  
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,  
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,  
Thy precious blood can cleanse us And make us white today.
2. Today Thy gate is open, And all who enter in  
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.  
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be given,  
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heaven.
3. Today our Father calls us, His Holy Spirit waits;  
His blessed angels gather Around the heavenly gates.  
No question will be asked us How often we have come;  
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father's home.
4. O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,  
What should we do without Thee When heart and eye run o'er?  
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,  
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

**Invocation:**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



**Confession of Sins:** P: Jesus invites us saying, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

**C:** We come to you Lord, with the heavy burden of our sins. We know that You bore our sins in Your body on the cross. Therefore we are confident to confess our sins trusting in You for forgiveness.

**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.



**Response of Praise:**

**Hymn 244**

**Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit: Great Jehovah, Three in One!  
Glory, glory, While eternal ages run!**

**Glory be to Him who loved us, Washed us from each spot and stain; Glory be to Him who bought us, Made us kings with Him to reign! Glory, glory, To the Lamb that once was slain!**

**Old Testament Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18**

And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. ...

9 “When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. 10 And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God. 11 “You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; you shall not lie to one another. 12 You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord. 13 “You shall not oppress your neighbor or rob him. The wages of a hired worker shall not remain with you all night until the morning. 14 You shall not curse the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind, but you shall fear your God: I am the Lord. 15 “You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor. 16 You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand up against the life of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

17 “You shall not hate your brother in your heart, but you shall reason frankly with your neighbor, lest you incur sin because of him. 18 You shall not take vengeance

or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

**Response of Praise:**

P: All the earth shall worship You and shall sing unto You, O God

**C: They shall sing to Your name, O Most High.**

P: Make a joyful noise unto God, all you lands,

**C: Sing forth the honor of His name, make His praise glorious.**

P: The Lord sent His Word and healed them,

**C: And delivered them from their destructions.**

P: Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness,

**C: and for His wonderful works to the children of men! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah!**

P: Praise Him, all His angels,

**C: Praise Him, all His hosts. Hallelujah!**



**Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-23**

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. 11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

18 Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," 20 and again, "The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile."

21 So let no one boast in men. For all things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, 23 and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

**P:** Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

### **Confession of Faith:** The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

### **Hymn: 371** Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

#### 1. Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness

My beauty are, my glorious dress;  
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,  
With joy shall I lift up my head.

2. Bold shall I stand in that great Day,  
For who aught to my charge shall lay?  
Fully through these absolved I am  
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

3. The holy, meek, unspotted Lamb,  
Who from the Father's bosom came,  
Who died for me, e'en me t'atone,  
Now for my Lord and God I own.

4. Lord, I believe Thy precious blood,  
Which at the mercy-seat of God  
Forever doth for sinners plead,  
For me--e'en for my soul--was shed.

5. Lord, I believe were sinners more  
Than sands upon the ocean shore,  
Thou hast for all a ransom paid,  
For all a full atonement made.

6. When from the dust of death I rise  
To claim my mansion in the skies,  
E'en then, this shall be all my plea:  
Jesus hath lived and died for me.

7. Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,  
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,  
For me, and all Thy hands have made,  
An everlasting ransom paid.

**Sermon Text: Matthew 5:38-48**

38 "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'  
39 But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on  
the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if anyone would sue you and  
take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 And if anyone forces you to go

one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ 44 But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. 46 For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? 47 And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? 48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

*Theme: Love Your Enemies?*

**1. THAT’S IMPOSSIBLE!**

**2. IT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY JESUS.**

**3. IT IS A SOURCE OF MANY BLESSINGS.**

**Hymn: 351** Love Divine, All Love Excelling

1. Love Divine, all love excelling,

Joy of heaven, to earth come down,

Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,

All Thy faithful mercies crown.

Jesus, Thou art all compassion,

Pure, unbounded love Thou art;

Visit us with Thy salvation,

Enter every trembling heart.

2. Breathe, oh, breathe Thy loving Spirit

Into every troubled breast;

Let us all in Thee inherit,

Let us find the promised rest.

Take away the love of sinning;

Alpha and Omega be;

End of faith as its beginning,

Set our hearts at liberty.

3. Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
Let us all Thy life receive.  
Suddenly return and never,  
Nevermore, Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessings,  
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
Glory in Thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, Thy new creation;  
Pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
Perfectly restored in Thee,  
Changed from glory into glory,  
Till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

**Offering of Thankful Hearts:**

**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.



P: The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

OFFERTORY



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me  
not a - way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly  
Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
Your sal - va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

**Benediction:** 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.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

**Closing Hymn: 349 st. 1-2, 5-6** Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me

1. Jesus, Thy boundless love to me  
No thought can reach, no tongue declare;

Unite my thankful heart to Thee  
And reign without a rival there.  
To Thee alone, dear Lord, I live;  
Myself to Thee, dear Lord, I give.

2. Oh, grant that nothing in my soul  
May dwell but Thy pure love alone!  
Oh, may Thy love possess me whole,  
My Joy, my Treasure, and my Crown!  
All coldness from my heart remove;  
My every act, word, thought, be love.

5. Oh, draw me, Savior, e'er to Thee;  
So shall I run and never tire.  
With gracious words still comfort me;  
Be Thou my Hope, my sole Desire.  
Free me from every guilt and fear;  
No sin can harm if Thou art near.

6. Still let Thy love point out my way;  
What wondrous things Thy love hath wrought!  
Still lead me lest I go astray;  
Direct my work, inspire my thought;  
And if I fall, soon may I hear  
Thy voice and know that love is near!



**Scripture Treasure to Remember:**  
**Ephesians 4:31-32**

*“Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you,  
with all malice. And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,  
even as God in Christ forgave you.”*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Monday** - Victory Service for Rosemarie Schwabe at 11:00 at the Bethel Funeral Home.

**Tuesday** - Visit with George at 1:30

**Wednesday** - Skype Bible Study with Kenneth in Sweden at 9:30

Bible Study with Karrie at 2:00.

**Thursday** - PCPC Study Club at 1:00.

Catechism Class at 4:00

**Next Sunday** - Worship Service at 10:00

Sunday School and Bible Class at 11:20

### **Rosemarie Schwabe**

We thank the Lord for blessing us all through the life and faith of Rosemarie. We thank Him for granting her faith in Jesus and for her example of faith to all those who knew her. We also thank the Lord that He has granted her the final goal of her faith, eternal life with Him in Heaven. We will celebrate the victory that Christ has won for her in a service tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. at Bethel Funeral Home.

We pray for God's grace and comfort for Rosemarie's family and friends. The family has designated that any memorials in Rosemarie's name can be given to [lutheranmissions.org](http://lutheranmissions.org), which goes to for foreign mission fields of the CLC.

### **Annual Voter's Meeting**

The annual voters meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 4, after the service. We will have election of officers, review our annual budget including our estimate of CBP offerings for the work of our synod. We will be presenting a summary of the of our Synods work and budget on that Sunday before the meeting. If anyone has any items they would like the voters to discuss, please share them with one of the voters before hand.

### **CLC Mission Prayer List**

**India (Southeast Asia)** – In early December, Cyclone Michaung hit the eastern coast of India, causing damage and flooding to the churches of the BELC as well as the Martin Luther Bible School (MLBS) pastor training center. The storm affected eleven out of the fourteen districts of the BELC, resulting in 55 churches and the MLBS being damaged and in need of repair. The Board of Missions has approved a Kinship disaster relief grant to assist with building repairs and reconstruction. Pray for the Lord's continued protection and provision as our brothers and sisters in Christ begin the clean-up and recovery from this disaster and to give comfort, courage, strength, and hope in His perfect love and plans.

**Myanmar (South Asia)** – Pastor Kham recently reported that the Myanmar military had dropped bombs on portions of the city of Kalaymyo. Fortunately, the bombing did not affect the CLC-Myanmar (CLCM) church or orphanage, and there were no injuries to CLCM. February 1 will mark the third anniversary of the military takeover and, thus, three years of civil war. The people of Myanmar and our brothers and sisters in Christ continue to suffer. Please pray for those caught in this conflict, especially our brothers and sisters in Christ of the CLC-Myanmar. Ask that God's will be done as this conflict continues and that peace may prevail.