



# St. Paul Lutheran Church

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La Grange, Texas

Rev. Stan Larson, Interim Pastor  
Organist: Sherise Davis

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.  
January 21, 2024  
Third Sunday After Epiphany



**Next weekend's readings:**

**Deuteronomy 18: 15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8: 1-13**

**Mark 1: 21-28**

Visit our webpage, [www.stpaulg.org](http://www.stpaulg.org), and click "**Live Worship**" to hear our services live on your smart phone or computer! You can choose to watch live or listen only. You can also view our bulletin, weekly service video, newsletters and current calendar. Visit our Facebook page to view the service live Sunday morning at 9 a.m.

## St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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## Welcome!

- + Welcome to worship! All are welcome at the table of grace. We believe that Christ is truly present as we share the bread and wine. Those at home are invited to participate with appropriate elements.
- + The 9 a.m. service will be on Facebook live & audio streamed on our webpage, [www.stpaullg.org](http://www.stpaullg.org). It will also be posted on our Facebook page. You may listen to last week's service on KBUK 104.9 FM on Sundays at 10 am.

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us 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 brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

## GATHER

### Prelude

### Announcements

*Stand as able*

**Invocation** *The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.*

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

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### Hymn

*I Love To Tell The Story*

#661

### Greeting

**P:** 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.**

### **Kyrie** *page 138*

**P:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

### **Canticle of Praise** *pages 139-140*

**P:** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

*Sit*

### **The First Reading: Jonah 3: 1-5, 10**

*The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"*

<sup>1</sup>The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh

believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm: Psalm 65: 5-12**

<sup>5</sup>For God alone I wait in silence;  
truly, my hope is in God.

<sup>6</sup>**God alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.**

<sup>7</sup>In God is my deliverance and my honor;  
God is my strong rock and my refuge.

<sup>8</sup>**Put your trust in God always, O people,  
pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.**

<sup>9</sup>Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate  
cannot be trusted.

Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

<sup>10</sup>**Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride;  
though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.**

<sup>11</sup>God has spoken once, twice have I heard it,  
that power belongs to God.

<sup>12</sup>**Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord,  
for you repay all according to their deeds.**

### **Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31**

*Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.*

<sup>29</sup>Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, <sup>31</sup>and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand as able*

**Gospel Acclamation** *ELW 142*

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **The Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20**

*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.*

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

<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**Children’s Word**                      **Pastor Stan Larson**

**Sermon**                                      **Pastor Stan Larson**

*Stand as able*

**Hymn**                      ***You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore***                      **#817**

### **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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Inspire wisdom and a spirit of proclamation in your church, God of forgiveness. Uplift leaders especially Bishop Mike Rinehart and Pastor Stan Larson to share the truth of your word in community. Encourage us to live into the promises of baptism, working for justice and peace in all the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renew your creation, God of thunder and mighty waters. Restore the rivers in which your children are baptized. May fields flourish and grow. Summon the stewards and caretakers of the land to cherish your good works. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give strength to your leaders, God who is present in every country and community. Raise up leaders committed to equity and healing. Grant them discernment and compassion as they lead in love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Protect and cherish the most vulnerable among us, God of strength. Accompany those separated from family or hurting from broken relationships. Shelter our unhoused neighbors and any experiencing poverty. Protect those incarcerated in prisons and detention centers. Care for the sick and suffering and those in need of healing especially Ruth Poncik. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Encourage this congregation, God who calls and sends disciples. Guide us in accompanying, learning from, and serving our neighbors on the margins, following the example of Jesus. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting the assurance of the Holy Spirit, we remember all who have died and rest in God's care. Give hope to those who grieve even as we rest in your eternal promise of resurrection. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## **The Sharing of the Peace**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Sit*

**Offering** *The offering plates will be passed.*

*Stand as able*

## **Offertory** *ELW 186*

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

## **Offering Prayer**

**P:** God our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen**

MEAL

## **The Great Thanksgiving** *ELW 144*

**P:** 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.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Words of Institution**

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**

**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**

### **Agnus Dei** *page 146*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*Sit*

### **Communion**

*All are welcome to the Lord's table. White grape juice is in the center of the tray of cups. If you are physically unable to come forward for communion, please tell an usher and communion will be brought to you.*

*Stand as able*

### **Prayer after Communion**

**P:** Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**



# SENDING

## **Blessing**

**P:** God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## **Sending Song**

*Sent Forth By God's Blessing*

#547

## **Dismissal**

**A:** Go in peace. You are God's Beloved. **Thanks be to God.**

**This Weekend: 1/21**

9:00 am **USHERS:** Don Koether and Jackie Skelton  
James & Sharon Elias

**LECTOR:** Dianne Lude

**ALTAR GUILD:** JoLene & Gerald Hughes

**FELLOWSHIP REFRESHMENTS:** Open

**FLOWERS:** Open

**Next Weekend: 1/28**

10:00 am **USHERS:** David & Patty Ehler  
Frank & Sandra Teykl

**LECTOR:** Praise Band

**ALTAR GUILD:** Faye Bresan

**FLOWERS:** Annette Citzler

**SUNDAY (1/21):** 9:00 am Worship  
10:30 am Sunday School

**MONDAY:** 9:00 am Quilters

**WEDNESDAY:** 8:30 am Bible Study  
5:00 pm Confirmation

6:00 pm Handbells

6:30 pm LYO

7:00 pm Choir

8:00 pm Praise Band

**FRIDAY: NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FOR  
FEBRUARY**

**SUNDAY (1/28):** 10:00 am Worship

11:15 Meal in Fellowship Hall

11:45 Annual Meeting

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**—if you want to have information in the ***FEBRUARY 2024***

Messenger, please note the deadline: **Friday, 1/26 at 3:00 pm.**

**SAVE THE DATE**— The Annual Meeting of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church will be Sunday, January 28, 2024. Services will be at 10:00 on January 28, 2024 followed by a meal in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15. Members are asked to bring a dessert to share. The Annual Meeting will start at 11:45. Please bring your copy of the Annual Report to the meeting.