

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, JANUARY 23, 2022

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

GATHERING SONG: We Are Called ELW#720

1) Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are called . . .
To be light for the king-dom, to live in the free-dom of the cit-y of God.

**Refrain: We are called to act with jus-tice, we are called to love ten-der-ly;
We are called to serve one an-oth-er to walk . . . hum-bly with God.**

2) Come! O-pen your heart! Show your mer-cy to all those in fear! We are called . . .
To be hope for the hope-less, so ha-tred and blind-ness . . .will be . . . no more. **REFRAIN**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Let us pray... Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: **Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

¹All the people [of Israel] gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

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

SECOND READING: **1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a}But strive for the greater gifts.

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

GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 4th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SONG: This Little Light of Mine ELW#677

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
This lit-tle light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Let it shine . . . let it shine . . .let it shine.

Ev - 'ry-where I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Ev - 'ry-where I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Ev - 'ry-where I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Let it shine . . . let it shine . . .let it shine.

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THE SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: Praise the One who Breaks the Darkness ELW#843

1) Praise-the One who breaks-the dark-ness with-a lib-er-at-ing light . .
Praise-the One who frees-the pris-'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in-to sight . .
Praise-the One who preached the gos-pel, heal-ing ev-'ry dread dis-ease . .
Calm-ing storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the ver-y bread of peace.

3) Praise-the one true love in-car-nate: Christ, who suf-fered in our place . .
Je-sus died and rose-for man-y that-we may know God-by grace . .
Let-us sing for joy-and glad-ness, see-ing what our God-has done . .
Praise-the one re-deem-ing glo-ry; praise-the One who makes-us one.

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THE 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

THE PRAYERS

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made. *A brief silence.*

You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain, or those living under oppression *especially*.....

And those we name now out loud, in our hearts,
or add in the comment section at this time
(pause for names to be added)

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation. Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn. Bring us together in your everlasting glory.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all of our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: I invite you, at this time, to make a gesture of peace to your siblings in Christ.

THE THANK OFFERING

For those who desire to make a financial offering you may drop them off at the offering station before or after service. You may also go to www.stpaulscasco.com and click on the donate icon at any time or mail them to the church during the week.

THE OFFERING PRAYER Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light. **Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples. He also took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink.

With these words he made us this promise. At this time, I invite you to lift the bread and cup.

Please repeat after me the promise that our Lord gave us.

P: Take and eat; **C: Take and eat.**

P: This is my body, given for you. **C: This is my body given for you.**

P: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, **C: This cup is the new covenant in my blood.**

P: Shed for all people for the forgiveness of sin. **C: Shed for all people for the forgiveness of sin.**

P: Do this for the remembrance of me. **C: Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. **C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again**

P: Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **C: Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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 MEAL Pastor: You have just spoken the words of promise that the Lord has made with all of creation! Jesus is present in this meal because He has given us his word! There is forgiveness in this meal because He has given us his word! Those who believe in the promise are invited to partake in God's amazing grace at this time.

COMMUNION SONG: What Have We To Offer

What have we to of-fer? What have we to share? Coins from the cof-fer, hearts filled with care.
God will not fal-ter; so let us dare . . . Lay it at the al-tar . . . there.

What have we to of-fer? What have we to bring?: Love, ripe with laugh-ter; hope that we can sing;
Dreams of what we're af-ter; prom-ises of when. Lay it at the al-tar . . . then.

What have we to of-fer? What have we to give? Eyes that are wide o-pen; lies that we won't live;
Truth that must be spo-ken; jus-tice . . some-how. Lay it at the al-tar . . . now.

What have we to of-fer? What have we to give? Lives we will live.

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COMMUNION, POST COMMUNION LITURGY

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and give you peace. Amen

DOXOLOGY - Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Public Domain

POST COMMUNION PRAYER - - - BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN: The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve ELW#551

- 1) The spir-it sends us forth to serve; we go in Je - sus' name . .
To bring glad tid -ings to the poor . . God's fa - vor to . . pro-claim.
- 3) We go to be the hands of Christ . . to scat - ter joy like seed . .
And, all our days, to cher - ish life . . to do the lov - ing deed.
- 4) Then let us go, to serve in peace, the gos - pel to pro-claim.
God's Spir - it has em- pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus name.

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DISMISSAL

P: Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

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Meditation for the week - - - Read Psalm 19
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Pastor's Midweek Devotional

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Facebook at 7:00 p.m. Facebook.com/stpaulscasco

Note it will be left on the sight for viewing also at a later time.