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**Second Sunday after Epiphany**

# January 15, 2023

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 3383 EAST LAKE LANSING ROAD

EAST LANSING, MI 48823

PHONE (517) 351-8541

Pastor Carl E. Ballard

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**VISITORS WELCOME!** If this is your first time worshipping with us, please sign our guest registry just outside the sanctuary doors. We hope you are blessed through worship today. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the church at (517) 351-8541.

**Children** are always welcome in worship! We consider the sounds of children a joyful noise. The choir room (off the sanctuary) can also be used as a ***cry room*** for younger children and includes a sound system so parents may continue to participate in the service. Clipboards with children’s bulletins, activities and crayons are available for use during the service.

**Sunday School/Education** is available September-May.

**This Bulletin** is for your use during the service and to take WITH for the upcoming week. If you choose not to take it home, please place in the recycle receptacle in the back.

**Newsletters and Calendars of Upcoming Events** are available in the

lobby/narthex. We welcome anyone who has an interest in our small groups or activities! You can also look us up on the web at www.stpaul-el.org.

**Contacting Us:** Our office manager is Maria Oliver. The office e-mail address is [officemanager@stpaul-el.org.](mailto:officemanager@stpaul-el.org) Our Director of Music is Elene Kobulashvili. You may leave a message for either at (517) 351-8541.

**Holy Communion** is available at most services. All who believe in the real presence of Christ in the bread and the wine are invited to celebrate Communion with us. Those who wish can come forward for a blessing.

**You are invited** to share in fellowship after worship. Kay (with the assistance of Bob) usually makes the most delicious snacks to our delight. We would love this opportunity to introduce you to the St. Paul community

**P: Presiding Minister A: Assisting Minister C: Congregation**

**PRELUDE**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Today’s gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus’ baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

**GATHERING**

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

(*Please rise as you are able)*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who makes all things new,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin.

*(Silence is kept for reflection.)*

Holy One, source of our renewal,

**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,**

**and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness.**

**Our hearts have turned away from you.**

**For the sake of the world you so love,**

**forgive us,**

**that we may be reconciled to one another**

**for the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

P: Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass

and new things I now declare.”

God’s mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of ☩ Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715**

*1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.*

*Longing for truth, we turn to you.*

*Make us your own, your holy people,*

*light for the world to see.*

***Refrain***

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in our hearts.*

*Shine through the darkness.*

*Christ, be our light!*

*Shine in your church gathered today.*

*2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.*

*Longing for hope, many despair.*

*Your word alone has pow'r to save us.*

*Make us your living voice.* ***Refrain***

*3 Longing for food, many are hungry.*

*Longing for water, many still thirst.*

*Make us your bread, broken for others,*

*shared until all are fed.* ***Refrain***

*4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.*

*Longing for warmth, many are cold.*

*Make us your building, sheltering others,*

*walls made of living stone.* ***Refrain***

*5 Many the gifts, many the people,*

*many the hearts that yearn to belong.*

*Let us be servants to one another,*

*signs of your kingdom come.* ***Refrain***

**GREETING**

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

**C: And also with you.**

**KYRIE ELW Setting 2, Page 120**

*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.***

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray.

**C**: **Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

*(Children are invited to Sunday School)*

**Lord, Let my Heart be Good Soil ELW 512**

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,*

*Open to the seed of your word.*

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,*

*Where love can grow and peace is understood.*

**THE WORD**

P: God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:1-7**

*Here the servant, identified as Israel, speaks for herself and describes her honored mission. Called before her birth like Jeremiah and John the Baptist, the servant is not only to restore Israel. The servant’s ultimate assignment is to bring news of God’s victory to the ends of the earth. God in faithfulness has chosen Israel for this task.*

1Listen to me, O coastlands,  
  pay attention, you peoples from far away!  
 The Lord called me before I was born,  
  while I was in my mother’s womb he named me.  
 2He made my mouth like a sharp sword,  
  in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
 he made me a polished arrow,  
  in his quiver he hid me away.  
 3And he said to me, “You are my servant,  
  Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”  
 4But I said, “I have labored in vain,  
  I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
 yet surely my cause is with the Lord,  
  and my reward with my God.”  
  
 5And now the Lord says,  
  who formed me in the womb to be his servant,  
 to bring Jacob back to him,  
  and that Israel might be gathered to him,  
 for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,  
  and my God has become my strength—  
 6he says,  
 “It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
  to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
  and to restore the survivors of Israel;  
 I will give you as a light to the nations,  
  that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”  
  
 7Thus says the Lord,  
  the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
 to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
  the slave of rulers,  
 “Kings shall see and stand up,  
  princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,  
 because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
  the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 40:1-11**

*I love to do your will, O my God. (Ps. 40:8)*

1I waited patiently up  on the Lord,  
  who stooped to me and  heard my cry.  
 2**The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the  miry clay,**  
  **and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure.**  
 3The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God;  
  many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.  
 4**Happy are they who trust in the Lord!**  
  **They do not turn to enemies or to those who| follow lies. R**  
 5Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you!  
  Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.  
 6**Sacrifice and offering you do not desire;**  
  **you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required. R**  
 7And so I said, “Here I am; I come.  
  In the scroll of the book it is writ- **|** ten of me:  
 8**‘I love to do your will, O my God;**  
  **your law is deep within me.’ ”**  
 9I proclaimed righteousness in thegreat assembly;  
  I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.  
 10**I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance;**  
  **I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.**  
 11You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;  
  may your steadfast love and your truth continually  keep me safe.**R**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

*Though God’s church in Corinth is a fractious congregation beset with many conflicts, Paul opens this letter by spotlighting the multiple ways God has enriched and sustained its life as part of the divine call into the fellowship of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,  
 2To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:  
 3Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
  
 4I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## (Please rise as you are able.)

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW Setting 2, Page 124**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the first chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**John 1:29-42**

*John the Baptist’s witness to Jesus initiates a chain of testimony as his disciples begin to share with others what they have found.*

29[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!30This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ 31I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32And John testified, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.”  
 35The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, 36and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, “Look, here is the Lamb of God!” 37The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi” (which translated means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39He said to them, “Come and see.” They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon. 40One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41He first found his brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated Anointed). 42He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: The Praise to you, O Christ.**

## (Please be seated.)

**SERMON Pastor Carl Ballard**

## (Please rise as you are able.)

**HYMN OF THE DAY Lamb of God, Your Only Son ELW 336**

*Your only Son, no sin to hide,*

*but you have sent him from your side*

*to walk upon the guilty sod*

*and to become the Lamb of God.*

***Refrain***

*God, sweet Lamb of God,*

*I love the holy Lamb of God.*

*Oh, wash me in your precious blood,*

*my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.*

*Your gift of love we crucified.*

*We laughed and scorned him as he died.*

*The humble king we named a fraud*

*and sacrificed the Lamb of God.* ***Refrain***

*I was so lost, I should have died,*

*But you have brought me to your side*

*To be led by you staff and rod*

*to be called a lamb of God.* ***Refrain***

***(INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS)***

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary** **and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,**

**who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen**

## (Please be seated.)

**THE PRAYERS**

A:Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

The waters of baptism call us into life in the Spirit. Preserve the world’s waters: protect them from pollution, support plants and animals who depend on them, and bring rain in places of drought. Guide us in protecting local waterways (*especially*) and in responding to devastating floods. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

In Jesus you are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Show your mercy to all nations. Direct leaders to do your will; fill governing bodies with righteousness; equip judges with discernment and compassion. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

You incline your ear to all who cry to you. Draw near to individuals and communities suffering violence, injustice, illness, or poverty. Hide them in the shadow of your hand and make us signs of your faithfulness to all in need. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

Send angels of protection to provide care and compassion to those who serve in our armed forces as they face the trauma of war. We pray especially for Beth & Ryan, Coen, Jonathan, Jacob, Noah, Irene, and Alex. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer**.

You are glorified in the servants you have called. With Martin Luther King Jr., give us bold trust in you. Even when it feels like a sharp sword or polished arrow, give us courage to receive your call to repentance and racial justice. Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

Healing God, raise up any who are bowed down with illness or sorrow. Deepen our care and concern for one another. We lift to you all who are undergoing transition in relationships, occupation, living situation, or health condition. We pray especially for Ahren, Anne & Bob, Bev, Dan, David, John, Jon, Jordan, Lawton, Lera & family, Carrie, and Tim.

Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

We especially lift up to you Presiding Bishop Elizabeth, our Synod Bishop Craig, and Pastor Carl. We ask that you be with their respective staffs as they live out their callings to serve.

As we are called to be one, even as Jesus and the Father are one, be with

the leaders and the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church, in Wyoming, Merciful God,

**C: receive our prayer.**

In every place and time, you have sanctified your people. We praise you for the testimony of those who have died in the faith. Strengthen us as we wait for the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Merciful God,

P: We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

**GREETING OF PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

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

# THE MEAL

*The gifts of the bread, wine and contributions*

*are brought forward to the altar.*

# **OFFERTORY Create in Me a Clean Heart 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**

**C: Liberating God,**

**you break the bonds of injustice**

**and let the oppressed go free.**

**Receive these offerings in thanksgiving**

**for all your works of merciful power,**

**and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.**

**You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,**

**C: 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.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

P: 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** **ELW Setting 10, Page 207**

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*

*Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

# **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

# **C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

# **C: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

# **C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

# **C: Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

# **C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

*All who believe in the real presence of Christ in the bread and the wine (juice) are welcome to the table. Others may come forward for a blessing.*

*Communion will be offered a couple of ways. You may either take a communion cup with host as you enter worship and come forward to the rail or take part where you are seated. Or you may come forward and receive Communion directly from the Pastor at the rail.*

*When approaching the communion rail, come forward down the side aisle, kneel, if you are able, starting at the front of the communion rail (spot closest to the font) on your side and filling in toward the back. After receiving both the bread and the wine, you may return to your seat by the center aisle. If you prefer grape juice, please ask the assisting minister.*

# **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: Come and taste the joy of God!

P: The body of Christ, given for you.

# **C: Amen.**

A: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

# **C: Amen.**

**COMMUNION HYMN Let Us Break Bread Together ELW 471**

*1 Let us break bread together on our knees;*

*let us break bread together on our knees. [Refrain]*

*Refrain:*

*When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,*

*O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*2 Let us drink wine together on our knees;*

*let us drink wine together on our knees. [Refrain]*

*Refrain:*

*When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,*

*O Lord, have mercy on me.*

*3 Let us praise God together on our knees;*

*let us praise God together on our knees. [Refrain]*

*Refrain:*

*When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,*

*O Lord, have mercy on me.*

## 

## (When all have returned to their seats,

## please stand as you are able.)

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

# **C: Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Let us pray.

Holy One, we thank you for the healing

that springs forth abundantly from this table.

Renew our strength to do justice,

love kindness,

and journey humbly with you.

**C: Amen.**

**BLESSING**

P: The God who faithfully brings forth justice

and breaks the oppressor’s rod

☩ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,

today and always.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song ELW 808**

*1 Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;*

*I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:*

*you alone are our life and our peace and our love.*

*Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.*

*2 Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.*

*May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.*

*May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.*

*Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.*

*3 As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,*

*to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.*

*For you saved me by giving your body and blood.*

*As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.*

*4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;*

*but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.*

*And with all of the family you saved by your love,*

*we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.*

**DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Aacknowledgments

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