



Epiphany

February 5, 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Welcome to St Paul's Lutheran Church!** If you are visiting, we are delighted that you're here to share in the Good News. If you have any questions, please ask anyone near you.
- **XYZ meeting** Thursday, February 16, at 1:00 in the activities center. Lyle and Shirley Scharping are the hosts and are planning to play Mexican Train, a fun and easy dominoes game. (Other games will also be available.) Please join us for a fun afternoon.
- **Outreach Board February project** is "LOVE ONE ANOTHER"! Instead of collecting items for charitable organizations, we are asking all of our members to reach out in **LOVE** with cards, texts, emails or phone calls to church members that you haven't seen for a while, or to someone who has touch your life with a kind word or special deed. (Think of all the people who serve in underappreciated ways- ushers, sound people, property and grounds people, altar guild, youth volunteers, Sunday School teachers, choir members, etc.) It will be a great way for us to reunite with each other and reach out to folks that have not been around either because of health, Covid or just gotten out of the habit of worshiping together. Let us **LOVE ONE ANOTHER!**
- **The Outreach Board would like to thank** everyone for the successful "Fifth Sunday Fellowship" Potluck Brunch! Also, thanks for all the delicious food that was brought by our great cooks! Once again, welcome to all the new members to St. Paul's. Please put **Sunday, April 30 on your calendars for the next "Fifth Sunday Fellowship"!**
- **SPLC Youth Missions Fundraiser:**
- **Directory updates needed:** If any of your contact information has changed or if you have joined recently, please send the information you would like to include in the directory to Ashley at articles@stpaulsokc.com with "directory update" in the subject line.
- **Updating Picture Board:** We are asking everyone to bring a current 4 x 6 picture of your family with your faces clearly showing. Please give your picture to any Outreach Board member (or put it in our church mailbox. Outreach Board members- Nola Pirog, Carolyn Behrens, Joyce Martin, Debi Musick, Vahla Todd, or Bobbie Garrity. Thanks to everyone for helping us with this project!

SERVING TODAY:

Reader:	Joyce Martin
Altar Guild:	Cindy Bench
Communion Assistants:	Joyce Martin
Video Assistant:	Rick Ayling
Children's Message:	Tom Friedemann
Ushers:	Robert Adair, Kedrick Veit, Ben Sitton & Brandon Carey
Acolyte and Crucifer:	Kyriel Carey & Kale Foote
WOW Speaker:	Megan Jeffries

PRELUDE:

Ron Wallace

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: We gather today in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Leader: 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.

People: Amen.

Leader: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Pause for silent reflection)

Leader: Gracious God,

People: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion, forgive us our sin, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may serve you in the newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Leader: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace we have been saved and in the name of Christ we have received his forgiveness. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN:

#532

Gather Us In

vs. 1, 2 & 4

Here in this place the new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind and the lame;
Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry, we are the old who yearn for your face;
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away-
Here in this place the new light is shining, now is the kingdom, and now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

This Is the Feast

Refrain
Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: ***Let us pray.*** Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **AMEN.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a

58 Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2:2-12

²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷But we speak God’s wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”— ¹⁰God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God. ¹²Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

Word of God, Word of Life

Thanks be to God

GOSPEL RESPONSE

Alleluia



The Holy Gospel according to **Matthew 5:13-20**

Glory to you, O Lord

¹³“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot. ¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a

letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Jesus Shall Reign* Children's Bell Choir

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Tom Friedemann

SPECIAL MUSIC: *Lift Your Light* SPLC Adult Choir

MESSAGE: Pastor Stefanie Rowinski

HYMN: #669 *Rise Up O Saints of God*

Rise up, O saints of God! From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts with nobler zeal might burn.

Speak out, O saints of God! Despair engulfs earth's frame;
As heirs of God's baptismal grace, the word of hope proclaim.

Rise up, O saints of God! The kingdom's task embrace;
Redress sin's cruel consequence; give justice larger place.

Give heed, O saints of God! Creation cries in pain;
Stretch forth your hand of healing now, with love the weak sustain.

Commit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;
And, quickened by the Spirit's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

THE APOSTLE'S 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 again 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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Father, we pray for your holy Christian Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops and ministers;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

(Silence as people pray.)

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also, with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to the glory of your Name:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

And now, as our Savior Christ taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

THE BLESSING

May the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

Amen.

SENDING

Go in Peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.