

Inviting People to Journey with Christ's Family in Spreading God's Love and Mercy



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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January 27, 2019
Third Sunday after Epiphany

The Sundays after Epiphany continue to celebrate the revelation of the glory of God to us as it was made known to the magi and to those on Jordan's banks at the baptism of Jesus—today using wedding imagery. Our God rejoices over God's people "as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride." By the power of the Spirit there are gifts galore for everyone. In Christ Jesus the best wine is saved for last. Taste and see.

GATHERING

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

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, 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 live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✙ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

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.

WORD

A Reading from 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.**

Psalm 19

- ¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
- ²**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
- ³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**
- ⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- ⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**
- ⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- ⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**
- ⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
- ¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- ¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them
not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.
- ¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

A Reading from 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 Acclamation

ELW p. 151

The holy gospel according to Luke 4:14-21

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.**

GOSPEL MESSAGE : Sharing a Mission

What is your mission in life? What centers and directs your time and energy? Corporations, churches, and other organizations often carefully choose the words of a mission statement to articulate what orients their collective work. Most individuals do not create a personal mission statement, but we may find ourselves drawn to certain ideas and phrases that speak to the values and hopes we seek to live out on a daily basis.

In today’s gospel, Jesus uses a passage from the prophet Isaiah to lay out the mission at the core of his ministry: he has come to release people trapped in captivity. Jesus does more than just speak these words. Throughout the Gospel of Luke, we see Jesus living them out through repeated encounters with people whose lives are transformed and set free by God’s unbounded grace. Many are trapped in others’ judgment and societal stigma. Jesus steps through such barriers and brings release. Through loving actions, he affirms the value and dignity of all people in the sight of God.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to share in his mission. In doing so we can expect to encounter Christ ourselves. As the Holy Spirit draws us together in worship, Christ comes to bring us good news and release, wherever we are bound. This freedom is given to us with a purpose: to enable us to find those in captivity around us and set them free. In the church, we are invited to ask ourselves: Who in our community is trapped by fear and hatred? Who is longing for release from stigma and judgment today? Wherever such captivity exists, we disciples of Christ are called to follow where our Lord leads so that all might experience the grace and love of God that sets us free.

*Hymn

“Let Justice Flow like Streams”

ELW #717

***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** (Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**)

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

****Offertory**

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”

ELW #184

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

SENDING

Benediction

Sending Hymn

“We Are Marching in the Light”

ELW #866

Dismissal:

Go in peace. Christ is your light.

Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God's People *Organist:* Nalani Bever

Greeters: Dixie and Leonard Arndt *Reader:* Barb Ornes

Communion Server: Barb Ornes *Altar Committee:* Nalani and Greg Bever

Ushers: Leonard Arndt, Jerry Von Haden, Greg Bever, Steve Brandau, Sr.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY 27 – FEBRUARY 3

| Today | Annual Meeting | After Worship |
|----------------|--|--------------------|
| Thurs. Jan. 31 | Quilting | 9:00 AM |
| Sun., Jan. 27 | Sunday School | 9:00 AM |
| | Worship | 10:15 AM |
| Sun., Feb. 3 | Sunday School | 9:00 AM |
| | Worship | 10:15 AM |
| | Soup Sunday @ St. John's Catholic, Wilton | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Nominating Committee

Re: Annual Meeting

Council Members completing 4 years (2 terms) are Caitlyn Stanek, Ginger Arndt, Kirstin Arndt, and Lois Reineke. Tim Deichler is completing his first term and has agreed to seek a second.

These people are certainly thanked for their service to the Church.

People who have agreed to be nominated are Justin Arndt for President-Elect; Larry Ballwahn for the secretary and, as Council Members responsible for committees, Bud Osteboe and Angie Gruen.

Additional nominations can be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.