

3rd Sunday after Epiphany January 26, 2025

God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.

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

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

O God Beyond All Praising By David Cherwien

Please quietly reflect and prepare for worship during the music.

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

In the name of the Father, and of the  $\pm$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

#### 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  $\pm$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

The prelude's purpose is to prepare your heart, your hands, and your mind for worship. The Lord is worthy of our preparation and the prelude provides us a time to do just that.

Washed in water and marked with the cross, the baptized children of God are united with Christ, and through him, with other believers, we confess our sins and return to our baptism. In forgiveness God raises us up again.

The paraments, which are the hangings on the altar, pulpit, and lectern, are green for growth, new life, and the expansion of the gospel to the whole world.

## GATHERING HYMN #239 Hark the Glad Sound



The Hymns proclaim the Gospel in song. We sing a variety of hymns to help us tell God's story.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751 Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

## GREETING

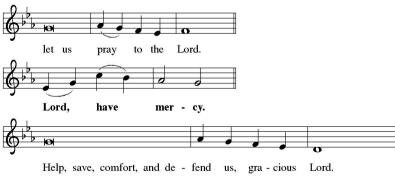
During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.** 

The Apostolic Greeting is given by the Pastor using the words of the Apostle Paul in 2 Cor 13:13. In this greeting the assembly is rooted in the Triune life of God.

#### **KYRIE**







#### **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**



## 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.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

# God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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

All 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. Accordingly, 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. He 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. And 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 answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And 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. Then 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."

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

The prayer of the day is typically a prayer focused around the scripture texts for the day.

The Word part of our liturgy, is where we hear "the living voice of the Gospel." We experience this in the Biblical readings, a sermon based around these readings, and the hymn of the day.



The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God, and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork. One day tells its tale | to another, and one night imparts knowledge | to another. Although they have no | words or language, and their voices | are not heard, 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. It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to | run its course. 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. R The teaching of the Lord is perfect and re- | vives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom | to the simple. The statutes of the Lord are just and re- | joice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light | to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean and en- | dures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous | altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb. R By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened, and in keeping them there is | great reward. Who can detect one's | own offenses? Cleanse me from my | secret faults. Above 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. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable | in your sight,

O Lord, my strength and | my redeemer. R

#### Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

12 For 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. 13 For 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. 14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. 15 If 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. 16 And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? 18 But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. 19 If all were a single member, where would the body be? 20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body. 21 The 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."

22 On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, 23 and 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; 24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, 25 that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. 26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 28 And 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. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 31a But strive for the greater gifts.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.** 

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter-nal life.

## GOSPEL Luke 4:14-21

## The holy gospel according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When 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, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "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, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And 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. Then 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.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN SERMON SERMON

#### HYMN OF THE DAY #710 Let Streams of Living Justice

Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow earth: down up - on the 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end. ci - tv's built to mu - sic; we 3 Your are the stones you seek: give free-dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth. love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to for mend. har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak. your hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the The work - ers claim their rights, Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun; Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams, mourn-ers long for laugh - ter, blind-ed seek for sight. the the loom of time en - roll till our thread of life is run. on your us love in hand of neigh - bor; home-land bright-ly our our gleams. bea - con, strike down the i - ron Make lib - er - ty a pow'r: O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one; scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way-the path un - tried; In bol - ish an-cient ven-geance: pro - claim your peo-ple's hour. dye our tex - ture with your ra - diance, light our col - ors with your sun. truth-the heart of strang - er; life-the Cru - ci - fied. your your

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

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#### THE APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in hope and trust, let us confess our faith together. 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

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

#### A brief silence.

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,

#### hear our prayer.

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace, hear our prayer.

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace, hear our prayer. As Lutheran Christians we have three creeds to articulate our faith. The Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds. Through the Apostles' Creed we confess our faith in the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

The prayers of intercession are prepared in advance by writers from across the Church based around the scripture for a given week. As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery especially Marcia, Greg, Jan, Janet, Joyce, Phyllis, Larry, Bob, Ellie, Mary, John, Pat, Anna, Pat, Susan, Wendy, and Charlie, and all those we name aloud or silently in our hears. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world (especially fellowship hosts, worship leaders, council, and committee members). God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church (especially Timothy, Titus, Silas, Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe), and beloved friends and family who have died. God of grace, **hear our prayer.** 

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.** 

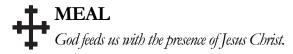
## PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ. The peace of Christ be with you always.

#### And also with you.

The congregation is invited to share a sign of God's peace with one another The assembly sits.

The passing of the peace is traditionally part of the liturgy, so that anyone in the gathered assembly may have a time to be reconciled to one another before sharing the meal.



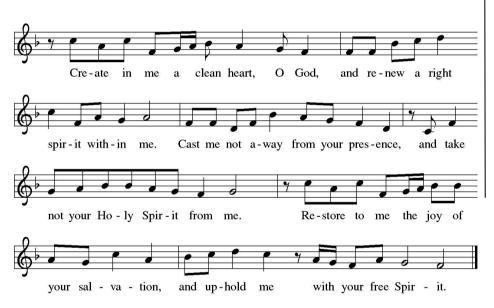
## OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

## OFFERTORY

Prelude and Introit for Epiphany By Maurice Durufle

## The assembly stands. OFFERTORY HYMN

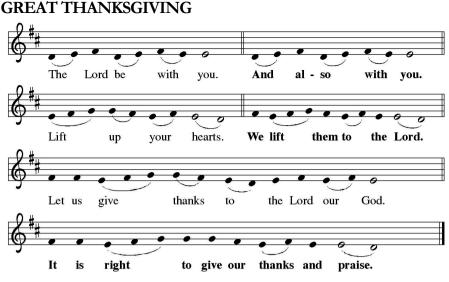


A musical offering is given to God in our worship as the gifts of the assembly are collected. This is a reminder of God's abundance. We offer back to God just a small portion of what God has given us, so that the mission of God can be realized.

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray together.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

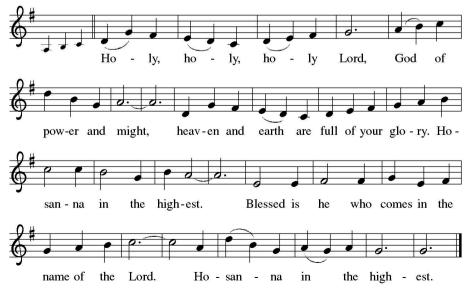


In the meal part of our liturgy we prepare to come to Christ's table. In the Great Thanksgiving we focus on being thankful for all God has done and for all God has given to us. In the Eucharistic Prayer, we ask God to send the Holy Spirit to this meal and we ask that Christ will fulfill his promise to be in the bread and wine.

## PREFACE

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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



## **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.** 

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

#### 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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

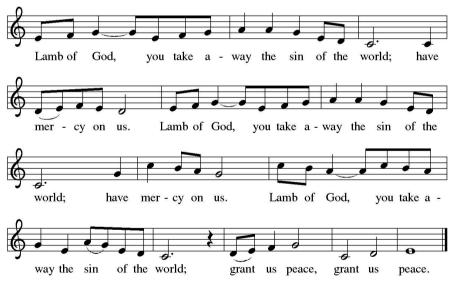
The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

## COMMUNION

This is the Lord's table. Jesus is the host. We are Christ's guests. Jesus welcomes everyone to come, to eat and be nourished, fed and forgiven. Visitors and children are welcome to receive communion. Those who do not receive communion are welcomed forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. The pastor and communion assistant will come to the pews of those unable to come forward.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Each person may respond: Amen. The assembly is seated.

## LAMB OF GOD



The Lamb of God is a title for Jesus that appears in John 1:29. It is here that we are reminded that our Lord is present and we are to behold his glory.

#### COMMUNION HYMN #496 One Bread, One Body



Text: John Foley, sJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, st

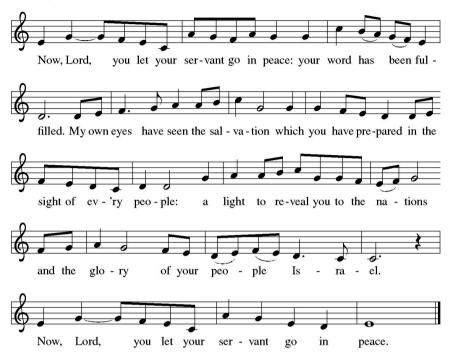
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## The assembly stands.

#### TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. Amen.



## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

## **\_\_\_\_**SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ± give you peace. **Amen.**  Our final part of our liturgy is the sending. We are sent out into the world reminded of God's mission and strengthened by the presence of Christ and one another through the power of the Holy Spirit.



Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955 Music: KUORTANE, Fianish folk tune; art. hymnal version Text O 1986 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188, All rights reserved. Used by permission. Art. O 2006 Augsburg Fertress.

## DISMISSAL

The assembly is sent into mission.Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.Thanks be to God.POSTLUDEA Trumpet T

A Trumpet Tune for Beginning By Philip Baker

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## "The Mission of St. Paul's Lutheran Church as a part of the family of God is to share God in Christ with the World by equipping one another through worship, learning, witness, service and support."

Congregation Council		
President	Katie Benjamin	
Vice-President	Ken Knudsen	
Secretary	Jonathan Hodges	
Co-Treasurers	John Foreman, Mike Mauriello	
<b>Co-Financial Secretaries</b>	Rod Runestad, Phil Hart	
Council Members	Katie Benjamin, Jayce Getz, Emily Pauline, Ken Knudsen, Michelle Meadors, Steve	
	Myzk, Jonathan Hodges, Bill Gresham, Nicolina Strom Jensen	

## Welcome to St. Paul's

In celebrating God's beauty and strength created through diversity, we welcome, value, and include all of God's children regardless of race, culture, age, sexual orientation, gender expression, ability, appearance, or citizenship. St. Paul's is committed to racial equality.

Admission to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is by invitation of our Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. If you are unable to receive Holy Communion at the altar, please notify an usher to receive communion at your seat. All are welcome at the table for a blessing. We use red wine and bread at communion, and offer grape juice and gluten-free wafers. Inform your server at the rail if you desire either.

#### Distribution of the Communion Elements take place as follows:

Exit the pew to the side aisles. Empty cups are obtained from the trays located by the front exit. Proceed to the altar. Persons on the right side (lectern side) proceed to the back of the altar rail and fill forward towards the front. The left side (pulpit side) proceed to the front of the altar rail and fill towards the back. After communing, depart down the center aisle to your seat. Please place your cup in one of the baskets.

#### St. Paul's Live Stream Policy

- 1.St. Paul's Lutheran Church live streams the 11:00 AM service every Sunday. The service is posted to Vimeo and Facebook. In addition, special services may be live streamed.
- 2. The 8:30 AM service is not live streamed and is available for attendance by those who do not wish to be recorded. For live streamed services there will be a "No Video Zone" designated in the Narthex.
- 3. It is recommended that all livestream services include a disclaimer about the service being recorded, posted on a visible location at the entrance of the sanctuary and written in the bulletin.
- 4. Children must have a signed waiver from their parent or guardian before being recorded.
- 5. We will not share personal or identifying information while a service is being live streamed, this includes during announcement, prayer requests, or the sermon.

Staff of St. Paul's		
Pastor	Rev. Scott Anderson	pastor@stpaulsdurham.org
Duke Lutherans Pastor/		
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## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

1200 W. Cornwallis Rd., Durham, NC https://www.stpaulsdurham.org/ (919) 489-3214 A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod