

“Landmark of the Gospel Since 1834”

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Our Purpose: Led by the Word of God, St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is a family who lives and shares the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.

January 12, 2025

10:30 AM

Baptism of our Lord

After the ringing of the bell ...

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Mary Anne Weibel, Organist

HYMN

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

WOV #697

**1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters
Where your cleansing waters flow;
Number them among your people;
Bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;
Compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,
Holy dove and heart's delight.**

**2 We who bring them long for nurture;
By your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking
Cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps;
Free from sin and all its snares,
One with Christ in living, dying,
By your Spirit, children, heirs.**

**3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
Water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer.
Recreate us; God, transform!**

GREETING

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Shall We Gather At the River

WOV#690, vs.1-3

**1 Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God?**

Refrain:

**Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.**

**2 On the margin of the river, washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever, all the happy golden day.**

**3 Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down,
Grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 43:1-7

1 But now thus says the LORD,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
3 For I am the LORD your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
4 Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
 nations in exchange for your life.
5 Do not fear, for I am with you;
 I will bring your offspring from the east,
 and from the west I will gather you;
6 I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
 and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
 and my daughters from the end of the earth—
7 everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made."

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

⁶**he makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

⁷The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire; the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁸**The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.**

⁹And in the temple of the LORD
all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**

¹¹The LORD shall give strength to his people;
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

SECOND READING Acts 8:14-17

14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit 16 (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). 17 Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

GOSPEL VERSE

*Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.*

GOSPEL READING Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Glory to you, O Lord.

15 As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16 John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PROCLAMATION

**1 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit
cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
heirs of salvation,
trusting his promise,
faithfully now God's praise we sing.**

**2 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
one with his rising,
freed and forgiven,
thankfully now God's praise we sing.**

**3 Baptized in water,
sealed by the Spirit,
marked with the sign of Christ our king:
born of the Spirit,
we are God's children,
joyfully now God's praise we sing.**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM USING THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

Dear friends, we give thanks for the witness of our gospels telling us about Jesus' Baptism Day. Today we remember the gift of our baptism into the death and resurrection of that same Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit. We remember this day by making public affirmation of our baptism as a community of believers.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God? If so, respond, "We renounce them."

We renounce them.

See p. 85 for the articles of the Apostles' Creed.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
And born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS

You have heard the holy and saving gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and confessed your faith through the words of the Apostle's Creed.

Now receive the sign of that gospel, in your life and in your heart,
that you may know the Lord and the power of his death resurrection.

Receive the ✝ sign of the cross, a sign of God's endless love and mercy for you.
Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

Choose a partner or a group of three and trace the cross upon each other as indicated.

That you may hear the gospel of Christ, the word of life,
receive the ✝ cross on your ears.
Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

That you may see the light of Christ illumining your way,
receive the ✝ cross on your eyes.
Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

That you may sing the praise of Christ, the joy of the church,
receive the ✝ cross on your lips.
Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

That God may dwell within you by faith,
receive the ✝ cross on your heart.
Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

That you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ,
receive the ✝ cross on your shoulders.
Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

That God's mercy may be known in your work,
receive the † cross on your hands.

Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

That you may follow in the way of Christ,
receive the † cross on your feet.

Praise to you, O Christ, the wisdom and power of God.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, creator and giver of life, you have called all people from darkness into light, from error into truth, from death into life. Grant them grace and bring them blessing. Raise them by your Spirit. Revive them by your word. Form them by your hand. Bring them to the water of life and to the bread and cup of blessing, that with all your people they may bear witness to your grace and praise you forever through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

May the God of all grace, who has called you to glory,
support you and make you strong.

**May we know the peace, joy and fullness of life in Christ
and remind us always of the waters of baptism. AMEN.**

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that Tim Welch will lead us as a Deacon and Ray Noecker will lead us as a Trustee in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

They serve with the following individuals who continue their terms: Mike Miller – Congregational President, Julie Good – Congregational Secretary, Suzanne Trego – Congregational Treasurer, P J Tosca – Elder, Gary McCain - Deacon, Louis McFarland – Trustee.

1 Corinthians 12 reminds us: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-7*)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

- You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.
- You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.
- You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.
- You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the offices
to which you have been elected?

Leaders: I will, and I ask God to help me.

The assembly stands. Those being installed face the assembly.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders,
and will you share in the mutual ministry
that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the presiding minister, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as officers and council members of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ashville, Ohio. Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace, that you may be faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

p. 96

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God

✠ bless you with joy,

anoint you with compassion,

and send you in love.

Amen.

**1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.**

Refrain:

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.**

**2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]**

**3 Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, to live and share the gospel of Jesus Christ through love and service to all.