

“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.

**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 42:1-9

1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

2 He will not cry out or lift up his voice
or make it heard in the street;

3 a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

4 He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth,
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

5 Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

6 I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness;
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,

7 to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

8 I am the Lord; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,

nor my praise to idols.
 9 See, the former things have come to pass,
 and new things I now declare;
 before they spring forth,
 I tell you of them.

PSALM 29

Read responsively

p. 228

- ¹ Ascribe 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.**
³ The 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.**
⁵ The 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.**
⁷ The 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.**
⁹ And 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.**
¹¹ The LORD shall give strength to his people;
 the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

SECOND READING Acts 10:34-43

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

GOSPEL VERSE

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

GOSPEL READING Matthew 3:13-17

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PROCLAMATION

HYMN

Baptized in Water

WOV #693

**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 illuminating 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.**

PEACE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING and OFFERTORY

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: Merciful God, **receive 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.

HYMN

Blessed Assurance

WOV #699

**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.

