

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



January 16, 2022

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy you have joined us for worship today. Wherever you are on your journey with or toward God, you are welcome here—you are a blessing to this assembly.

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Lutherans believe, teach, and confess that in, with, and under the bread and wine in Holy Communion we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. All who are drawn in faith are welcome to join in this confession and receive the Sacrament.

We invite and encourage your full participation in our worship this morning. With this service bulletin you can follow and participate in this morning's liturgy.

New to St. Paul? Ready to make it your own? Questions about St. Paul, including transferring membership from another Lutheran church, or for beginning the process for baptism, confirmation, reception, or transferring from one of the other Christian traditions, may be directed to the Church Office at 781-646-7773 or parishadmin@stpaularlington.org.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The following guidelines are in place to keep all of us safe and healthy. Thank you for your cooperation in showing love to our neighbors. Adjustments will be made as needed moving forward.

Masks: Everyone (except children age 2 and under) are required to wear a face covering.

Physical Distancing: Maintain physical distancing (six feet or more) between households while inside the building. Do not congest or linger in hallways. Offerings may be left in the Narthex. At the end of the service, you will be dismissed row by row, from both the front and the back. Please remain seated during the postlude and follow the directions of the clergy and ushers.

Ventilation: Windows will remain open while the building is in use. As colder weather approaches, please remember to dress warmly. Coffee Hour will be held outdoors after the 10:30am service.

Singing: Masked, fully vaccinated attendees are welcome to sing at the 10:30am service only. The 8:15am service will be a spoken service with no singing.

More details about our Covid-19 Protocols can be found on our website.

*As we prepare for God's presence in worship, please be aware that some prefer to be quiet at this time.
When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable.
At the †, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism.
The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

The flowers on the altar are given in loving memory of John and Dorothy Stanat by Pat Gray

PRELUDE

Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam, BuxWV 180

Dietrich Buxtehude
(1637–1707)

WELCOME

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates us, redeems us, and calls us by name.
Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you and your beloved children. We have turned our faces away from your glory when it did not appear as we expected. We have rejected your word when it made us confront ourselves. We have failed to show hospitality to those you called us to welcome. Accept our repentance for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us and lead us, that we may bathe in the glory of your Son born among us, and reflect your love for all creation. Amen.

Rejoice in this good news: In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God.

Amen.

* GATHERING HYMN

“Crashing Waters at Creation”

ELW 455



- 1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
- 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
- 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
- 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.



first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
wash - ing off the chains of bond - age— chan - nel to a life made new.
o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876

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* 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.

* 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.

WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

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. 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. 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. 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. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and

from the west I will gather you; 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 — everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

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

The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;

The Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forevermore.

O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING

Acts 8:14-17

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

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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. 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."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, 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."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Ross Goodman

SERMON

Pastor Ross Goodman

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Beloved, God's Chosen"

ELW 648



1 Be - lov - ed, God's cho - sen, put on as a gar - ment
 2 With - in, call forth Wis - dom, to dwell in you rich - ly;
 3 Be - lov - ed, God's cho - sen, put on as a gar - ment



com - pas - sion, for - give - ness, and good - ness of heart.
 let peace rule your hearts and that peace be of Christ.
 com - pas - sion, for - give - ness, and good - ness of heart.



A - bove all, be - fore all, let love be your rai - ment
 And from the heart's cham - ber, be - lov - ed and ho - ly,
 A - bove all, be - fore all, let love be your rai - ment



that binds in - to one ev - 'ry dis - so - nant part.
 let sing - ing thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er rise.
 that binds in - to one ev - 'ry dis - so - nant part.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: ANDREW'S SONG, Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962
 Text © 1994 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

* APOSTLES' CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

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 into hell. 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

The Spirit of the Lord is poured out upon us in abundance; so we are bold to pray for the church, the world, and all that God has made.

A brief silence.

By the Holy Spirit, you gather your church and send it out in mission to share the good news of Jesus. Inspire your faithful people to be fervent in prayer and service, that all people may know they are precious in God's sight. God of Grace,
hear our prayer.

You reveal your love and power through water and the Spirit. Guard rivers, seas, and all bodies of water from destruction and pollution. Secure access to clean water for all, and protect the land from drought and flood. God of Grace,
hear our prayer.

Establish among the nations the blessings of peace. Raise up leaders who will protect vulnerable people in their care. Strengthen advocates who risk reputation or retaliation for the sake of mercy and justice. God of Grace,
hear our prayer.

You protect us through the fires and troubled waters of this life. Assure us that we will not be cut off from you by illness or despair, anxiety or pain, confusion or weakness. Comfort all who are in need, especially Anne-Louise, Beverly, Dan, Ed, Elna, Heikki, Janna, Jeff, Jeffrey, John, John, Kip, Lois, Lorraine, Lynn, Meredith, Paul, and Phyllis. God of Grace,
hear our prayer.

We are joined in baptism to Christ and to one another. Bless those who are newly baptized and those who are preparing for baptism. Help us to be faithful in fellowship, worship, evangelism, service, and justice-seeking. God of Grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You bless us through the spiritual gifts of the saints who have gone before us. We give thanks for the life of Martin Luther King Jr. and all who have modeled the way of courageous faith. God of Grace,
hear our prayer.

Since we have such great hope in your promises, O God, we lift these and all our prayers to you in confidence and faith; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

* PEACE

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

MEAL

* OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, Sovereign of the universe. You offer us new beginnings and guide us on our journey. Lead us to your table, nourish us with this heavenly food, and prepare us to carry your love to a hungry world, in the name of Christ our light.
Amen.

* THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.
Amen.

* LORD'S PRAYER

Feel free to say this prayer in the language in which you first learned it, or in one of these translations:

**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.**

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray that you come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, soul, and mind. Let nothing separate me from you until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom of unending peace. Amen.

SENDING

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Ryan Patten, as you leave Saint Paul, we wish to bid you farewell.

A reading from John: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

When you came to this community we rejoiced to welcome you into the mission we share as the people of God. At Saint Paul, you have come to know and to share in God's loving purpose for you and for all creation. God has blessed you in this community, and God has blessed us through you.

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of Ryan, who has enriched this community and shared his gifts with us. Now bless and preserve Ryan at this time of transition. Day by day, guide him and give him what is needed, friends to cheer his way, and a clear vision of that to which you are now calling him. By your Holy Spirit be present

in his pilgrimage, that he may travel with the one who is the way, the truth, and the life,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God bless us, and direct our days and our deeds in peace.

Amen.

* BLESSING

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

"When Jesus Came to Jordan"

ELW 305

1 When Je - sus came to Jor - dan to be bap-tized by John,
2 He came to share temp - ta - tion, our ut - most woe and loss,
3 Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, aid us to keep the vows we make;

he did not come for par - don but as the Sin - less One.
for us and our sal - va - tion to die up - on the cross.
this ver - y day in - vade us, and ev - 'ry bond - age break.

He came to share re - pen - tance with all who mourn their sins,
So when the dove de - scend - ed on him, the Son of Man,
Come, give our lives di - rec - tion, the gift we cov - et most:

to speak the vi - tal sen - tence with which good news be - gins.
the hid - den years had end - ed, the age of grace be - gan.
to share the res - ur - rec - tion that leads to Pen - te - cost.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2006
Music: KING'S LYNN, English folk tune
Text © 1990 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

* DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"The People Respond – Amen!"

Dan Locklair
(b. 1949)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Below are highlights from our announcements this week. For more information, please see our Weekly Update email. You can subscribe from our website (stpaularlington.org—click SUBSCRIBE in the navigation menu at the top of the page) or like us on Facebook! Please send announcements via email to parishadmin@stpaularlington.org by noon on Wednesday for inclusion in the coming Sunday's bulletin. Announcements received after that will be published the following week.

Education Hour Updates: Sunday School is cancelled throughout the month of January. Adult Forum and Confirmation will occur virtually on Zoom. See the Weekly for information on how to join virtually.

Adult Forum | Sundays at 9:15am in the Fellowship Hall

January 16 | MLK's Theology of Service, and an Introduction to Vicar Roger's Intern Project with Vicar Roger

January 23 | Desmond Tutu and our Public Ministry in the Global Church with Clifford Green

January 30 | To Be Announced

Acolyte Training | The Acolyte training has been postponed. More information forthcoming.

Our Whole Lives | We are proud once again to offer Our Whole Lives (OWL), a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curriculum for 8th-9th graders. This is open to the community; if you have youth or know youth who'd like to participate, please see the Weekly Update for a registration form. The parent meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January, 16.



SAINT PAUL

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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ST. PAUL STAFF

The Reverend Ross Goodman, *Pastor*
The Reverend Liz Senft, *Pastoral Associate*
W. Roger Randolph III, *Vicar*
Ryan Patten, *Director of Music & Organist*
Kourtni Patten, *Director of Children, Youth, & Families*
Toni Sacco, *Interim Parish Administrator*
Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*
Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday, 9am–3pm



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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