

# THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



January 23, 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.*

*Cover Image: Rembrandt (1606-1669), Christ Preaching, called La Petite Tombe, 1657, etching*

*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 and celebration of  
Mark Steinhoff by his wife Liz Senft.*

### PRELUDE

Voluntary in F, Op. 6, No. 4

John Stanley  
(1712–1786)

### 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

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

ELW 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!  
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.  
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.  
the mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice, the hum-ble poor be-lieve.

- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

\* 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

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.**

## WORD

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 stood up. Then 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. 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."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory 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.**

The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures 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.**

By them also is your servant 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.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

**N**ow 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 4:14-21

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**T**hen 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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor Ross Goodman

SERMON "Today"

Pastor Ross Goodman

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

“Hark, the Glad Sound!”

ELW 239



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior  
2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's  
3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing  
4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come



prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
soul to cure, and with the trea - sures  
shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.  
fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.  
of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

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

\* 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.*

You reveal yourself to us in the reading of scripture. Fulfill your word through the faithful witness of your church. Send us out to bring your liberating good news to all people. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

All creation proclaims your handiwork. Teach us to love the intricate and beautiful bodies that you have created. Bless tiny insects, enormous whales, and every creature in between. Sustain species at risk of extinction. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

You desire that there be no dissension among us. Where we are divided in our society, nation, or world, come quickly to reunite us into one body. Ease conflict, dispel violence, and bring an end to war. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Anoint with your Spirit all who seek your favor. Grant provision and justice for people living in poverty, people living with disability, those living with pain or illness, or those living under oppression, especially Anne-Louise, Beverly, Dan, Ed, Elna, Heikki, Janna, Jeff, Jeffrey, John, John, Lois, Lorraine, Lynn, Meredith, Paul, and Phyllis. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Build up the body of Christ in this place. Bless the variety of ministries in this congregation. Empower us to freely welcome and deeply value each person who enters into worship and ministry among us. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In thanksgiving we lift before you the saints for whom the promise of salvation has now been fulfilled. Tend to those who mourn. Bring us together in your everlasting glory. 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.**

\* 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

## \* BLESSING

God, who leads you in pathways of righteousness, who rejoices over you, and who calls you by name, bless your going out and your coming in, today and forever.

**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## \* SENDING HYMN

"Let Streams of Living Justice"

ELW 710

1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;

give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.

The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, 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,

the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.

Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;

a - 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.  
your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

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

\* DISMISSAL

Go with Christ into a weary world. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Voluntary in D, Op. 5, No. 5

John Stanley  
(1712–1786)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Below are highlights from our announcements this week. For more information, please see our Weekly Update email. You can subscribe from our website (stpaularlinton.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@stpaularlinton.org by noon on Wednesday for inclusion in the coming Sunday's bulletin. Announcements received after that will be published the following week.*

**Annual Meeting:** The congregation is invited to the St. Paul 2022 Annual Meeting next Sunday, January 30 at 11:30am on Zoom. We need at least 30 members in attendance for quorum. The Annual Report and Zoom meeting link will be distributed electronically next 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 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.



# SAINT PAUL

## EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

929 Concord Turnpike  
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476  
www.stpaularlington.org | Office Phone: 781-646-7773

### ST. PAUL STAFF

The Reverend Ross Goodman, *Pastor*  
The Reverend Liz Senft, *Pastoral Associate*  
W. Roger Randolph III, *Vicar*  
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.



Liturgical materials and visuals reproduced by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003024. © Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible. Copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. © Music reprinted under OneLicense #A-709763. All rights reserved. © Psalm reprinted from *St. Martin's Psalter* by Thomas Pavlechko. Copyright © 2010 St. James Music Press.