

*Welcome to St. Paul's
The Lord Bless You as You Worship!*



***The Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 22, 2023***

**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
135 Hamilton Street, Penn Yan, NY 14527
315-536-8165**

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Rev. Lori Nickoloff, Pastor

Enter to Listen, Exit to Serve

WORSHIP NOTES

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. We're glad you're here! May you experience God's love through the words you hear and sing, the meal you eat, and the fellowship of God's people.

Prayer Requests If you have a prayer request, please give a note to the ushers or send an email to Pastor Lori.

Face Masks Are optional however, just a friendly reminder...please wear a mask in the building if you have been exposed to someone with COVID-19/experiencing any kind of respiratory or flu-like symptoms. Masks are available on the table in the narthex in case you forget yours as home. Thank you!

Holy Communion All are welcome to receive our Lord as he comes to us in Holy Communion. The method of reception for Communion today will be "Continuous Communion at the Rail". For those who for whatever reason are unable to drink the wine, glasses of grape juice are placed in the center of the tray. Please let the pastor know if you would like gluten free bread. Those who prefer not to commune may come forward for a blessing.

Pew Cushions Are available on the pew in front of the organ at the back of the sanctuary.

Hearing Assistance Individual hearing devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please do not remove them from the plastic bags. Return the device at the end of worship so they can be sanitized. Take the earpiece home with you to use each time you come to worship.

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Winter Weather Updates

When the weather is questionable or if a weather warning has been issued by the National Weather Service/Sherriff's Department, please check your email to see if in person worship has been cancelled and to access the Zoom link. If you do not have an email address, you will receive a telephone call to inform you of the closure.

We Worship God

Welcome

Prelude

“Sicilienne”

by Maria Theresia Von Paradis

The prelude is a time for people to become quiet, to meditate and pray, and to prepare their hearts and minds to worship God. You are invited to pray this prayer to help you transition from the cares and activities of daily life to worshipping the Living God.

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Please stand in body or spirit)

Call to Worship

P: The people who walked in darkness

All: **Have seen a great light.**

P: It is the light of Jesus, who calls “Follow me.”

All: **We will follow in the way of Jesus.**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation.

All: **Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which

you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: *Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling* #582

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Hymn of Praise: *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* #843

Prayer of the Day

P: God with us,

All: Loosen our grip on our nets—the daily concerns and obligations which prevent us from hearing your wild and spontaneous call to action. So inspire and delight us that we might willingly drop everything to follow in your way, for the sake of the world. Amen.

(Please be seated)

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

A: God of all Wisdom,

All: we have gathered before you to read your holy word and to be guided by it. Send your Spirit to this place that we might feast upon your word and digest its meaning to fill our bodies with your wisdom and truth. Amen.

Psalm 27

A: I have one primary and ultimate desire: to abide within the love and acceptance of God.

All: Within in His tender care I know I am safe.

A: Thus I stand tall regardless of threatening enemies and the tyranny of evil.

All: I will counter the subtle voices of temptation with exclamation of praise to my God.

A: My God does hear when I cry out to Him.

All: He does not ignore my needs; neither is He indifferent to my desires.

A: He will not let me go even if my own family should turn against me.

All: He will sustain me and keep me on course through the dangers and pitfalls of this life.

A: It is possible to know and experience God's love in this uncertain, tumultuous existence.

All: Take courage, step out in faith, scorn the consequences and let God have His way with you.

From Psalms Now by Leslie F. Brandt

Isaiah 9:1-4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the

Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

All: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Acclamation

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

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The Gospel

P: The Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory

of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Rev. Lori Nickoloff

Hymn of the Day:

Will You Come and Follow Me

#798

(Please rise in body or spirit)

The Apostles' Creed

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

All: 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

A: Confident that our savior, Jesus Christ, hears us when we pray, we lift up the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A: God, you call us into relationship with you, and invite us to know you more fully and follow you more closely. Continue to guide us in our journey with you each day. God of light,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: All the waters of the earth, from mighty oceans to tiny ponds, from rushing rivers to trickling brooks belong to you. Move us to protect and care for them, source of life for all creation, as you would have us. God of light,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: We place in your care the leaders of this world whose duty it is to execute the laws that protect and support their people. Help them use their power responsibly, and with wisdom and compassion. God of light,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: We entrust to your care all who are in need of healing in body, mind, or spirit, (especially). Give peace and patience to caregivers so that they might have the strength to endure long nights and thankless days. God of light,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: Let us never forget that every single person on earth is your beloved child. Show us how we might be welcoming, loving, and accepting of everyone, regardless of our differences. God of light,

All: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We praise you for all the saints throughout the ages who have left their nets, literal or figurative, and followed you. May their faith echo your call and draw us after them onto your path. God of light,

All: Hear our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers and hold all for whom we pray in your loving arms, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Sharing of Peace

P: The Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in all ways.

All: And also to you.

Please turn to the people near you to offer a gesture of peace and the greeting, "God's peace be with you!" You are also encouraged to turn to the back of the sanctuary and greet the worshippers on Zoom with a wave or gesture of peace.

(Please be seated)

Offering

*This month our Local Hunger Offering will be given to **The Living Well.***

Offertory Music

(Please rise in body or spirit)

Offertory Hymn:

Verse 1 and 2 from God of the Fertile Fields (from All Creation Sings)

Tune: God Whose Almighty Word

God of the fertile fields,
shaper of earth that yields
our daily bread:
forth from your bounteous hand
come gifts your love has
planned,
that all in every land be clothed
and fed.

We would be stewards true,
holding in trust from you
all that you give;
help us in love to share,
teach us like you to care
for people everywhere,
that all may live.

Offertory Prayer

A: Gracious God, Andrew, Simon, James, and John left their nets to follow Jesus, and you sustained them in their needs.

All: **With the same faith, we offer these, our gifts, out of the abundance you have provided to us. Use them for the same work Jesus called his disciples to—to carry your message of justice and mercy into the world. Amen.**

We Share God's Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

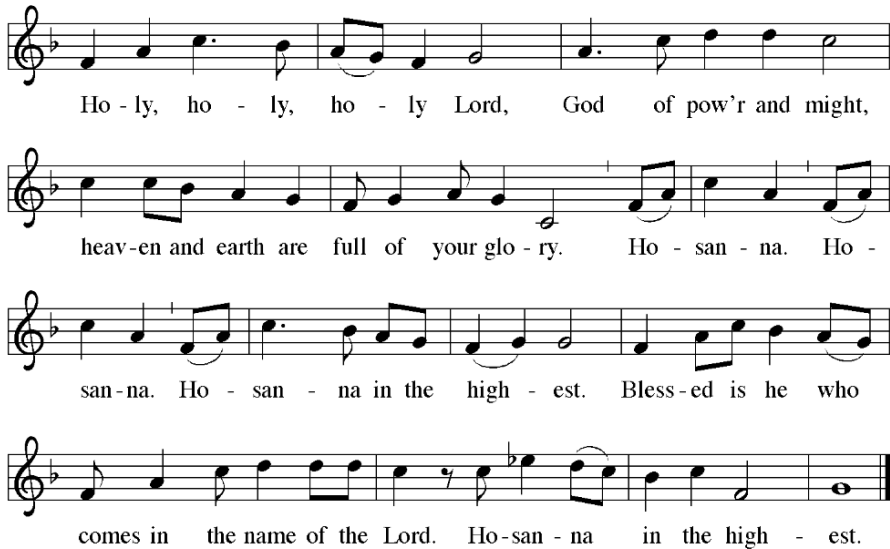
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: Worthy of praise and thanksgiving are you, Lord God, for you summoned all things into being, and from the beginning you beckoned your creation

to fullness of life in you. Through covenant you claimed a people to share your life; in slavery you called them to freedom; in exile you summoned them to faithfulness; in their sin you beckoned them toward your light. From the first day until now you have called creation to share your goodness. In Christ you came seeking our salvation with your very life, bidding us to come and follow. Our rejection of him led to the horror of the cross, but you have drawn us to yourself forever through the glory of his resurrection. And so with your people on earth and with the company of heaven, we join the unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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P: Sustaining God, in you many become one. You gathered fisherman from their nets to become apostles; just so you take grain from the fields and grapes from the vine to make this holy meal. And now you gather us around this table to remember the story of our redemption. Make us one body. Sustain us by the grace of the one bread we share and one cup of blessing which we bless. Send your Spirit upon this

bread and wine that it may be for us the body and blood of Christ; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Great is the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

P: Generous God, in Christ you threw wide the net of your grace, calling disciples one by one to be your followers; not in their righteousness, but because you would have us be your companions and share your glory forever. Reveal in your church the wideness of your mercy. Bless those today who wonder if they have strayed too far to be found by you or to belong among your people. Inspire all who struggle to know their purpose in your kingdom and long to hear your voice. Beckon your disciples to come and follow, to work alongside you, casting the net of grace, until all are gathered in and one in you, ever-seeking and ever-saving God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: 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.

Eucharistic Invitation

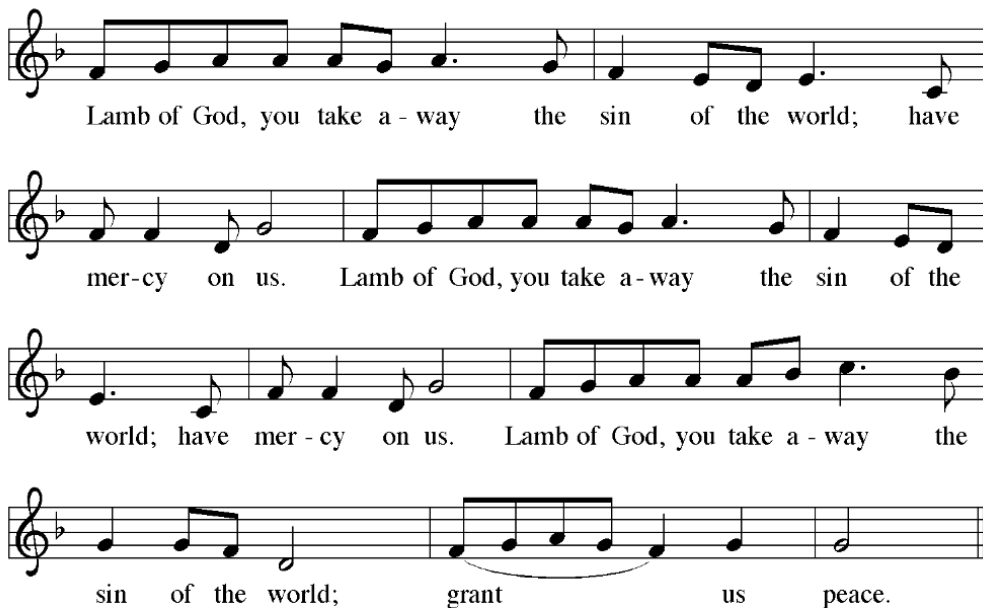
P: The God who called Andrew, Simon, James, and John calls you all now to the table, where all are one in the body and blood of Christ Jesus, our savior. All is prepared. Come and eat.

All: Amen.

(Please be seated)

Lamb of God

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

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Hymns During Communion:

<i>One Bread, One Body</i>	#496
<i>You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore</i>	#817
<i>Lord Jesus, Think on Me</i>	#599

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

All: Amen

Prayer After Communion:

A: O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

We Leave to Serve

Announcements

Benediction

P: We have celebrated together that Jesus Christ came not only for Christians, but to be known by every person, every country, every culture on earth. For he is the Savior of all. May we come to know him better and then make him known to others, especially by the way we live. And may almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

— posted on [Liturgy Alive: Models of Celebration](#).

Litany

L: Jesus calls us, "Follow me."

All: **We have so much on our plates, so much in our lives.**

L: What holds you back? What keeps your feet rooted?

All: **We know that following in the Way of Jesus is difficult.**

L: It requires time, patience, sacrifice, and commitment.

All: **We are already overcommitted. We cling to our nets in fear.**

L: Jesus calls us, "Follow me."

All: **His call is powerful. There is something about him.**

L: In Jesus we have all that we need. He tells us, "Do not be afraid."

All: **God, loosen our grip on worldly things. Help us to drop our nets and follow.**

L: Jesus calls us, "Follow me."

All: **We will, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

(Please stand to sing the hymn and turn to face the flame as it exits the church)

Sending Hymn: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* #815

Sending

A: Go in peace. Walk in the light of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude *"Good Christians All Rejoice and Sing" by Healey Willan*

Notes on Hymn 798 “Will You come and Follow Me”

The tune Kelvin Grove is usually referred to as “Scottish Traditional” and was published in “The Scottish Minstrel” 1811 as “Kelvin Water. It is named for a beautiful wooded area on the Kelvin River north west of Glasgow. Somewhat a lover’s lane at the time the text for the music described the lush springtime and a young man’s invitation to “Bonnie Lassie” that she accept his love, hopes that her father would respect him and if he should die on a foreign shore, that she would shed a tear for him. It’s three quarter time and descending intervals paint a picture of lover’s strolling swinging hand in hand.

The text for “Will you come and follow me” is in the voice of Jesus and originated in the Iona Community. Young people were trained and sent out to work with impoverished people for a year, maybe two. They were given songs specific to them as individuals, yet this text carries significant meaning for anyone embarking on a journey of discipleship in challenging places. In making that commitment to fully trust Jesus we will never be the same. And in the “holding hands” image of the melody, we experience the love and delight of companionship with our Lord Jesus.