

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



*The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 5, 2023*

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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

“The Star Proclaims the King is Here”

by Flor Peeters

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: God calls us to the work of justice.

All: **Help us to break every yoke, and strive for the flourishing of all creation.**

P: Then your light will break forth like the dawn.

All: **God is with us here, now, and always!**

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: *Gather Us In* #532

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 who sees,

All: You proclaim to us that we are salt and light—not that we might become these things by our own merit, but that even in our imperfection we can bear your goodness, mercy, and justice to the whole world. Remind us each moment that we are enough and inspire us to affirm one another in love. 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 112

A: What about those people who trust in God and are committed to His purposes?

All: **They are people rich indeed.**

A: Even amid the circumstances of poverty, the wealth and blessings of God are within their reach.

All: **They are people with purpose and meaning in their lives.**

A: Even amid the disorder and void of this temporal existence,

All: **They are aware of God's concern and love for them.**

A: They are people who walk unafraid. The threats of violence or prophecies of doom do not detract from their validity nor alter their course.

All: **They are people who relate to those around them.**

A: They identify with others in their sorrow and complaints and share with them their lives and gifts.

All: **They are people who are truly happy and through whom our God works His purposes in this world today.**

From Psalms Now by Leslie F. Brandt

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break

every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. [If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.]

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 5:13-20

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Rev. Lori Nickoloff

Hymn of the Day: *This Little Light of Mine*

#677

(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: Holy God, give us hearts to shine our faith brightly in this often dark and distressing world, that others might see a reflection of you in all that we say and do. God of light,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

A: Give us hearts to tend to all things that you have made. For tangible things and for those things that we cannot grasp: love, shame, compassion, fear, and mercy, we pray your blessings upon all our words and actions. God of light,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

A: Give us hearts to lead and to follow as you see fit. Give discernment to those whom we follow, and confidence to those whom we lead. God of light,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

A: Give us hearts to care for all who are in need of healing, and you're your restorative love upon those whose healing is beyond our reach, (especially). God of light,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

A: Give us hearts to remember those who live in conditions that prevent their flourishing, in our nation and across the world. Turn our remembering into action, that your justice might be done. God of light,

All: Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: Give us hearts to honor the example of parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors, and countless others who have gone before. We gratefully praise your name for all these good saints in our lives. 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 **Millie's Pantry**.*

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: God of love, we offer now these gifts to your service.

All: Use them to bring salt and light to the world, that those in need might receive healing and wholeness, and give glory to your holy name. In Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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.

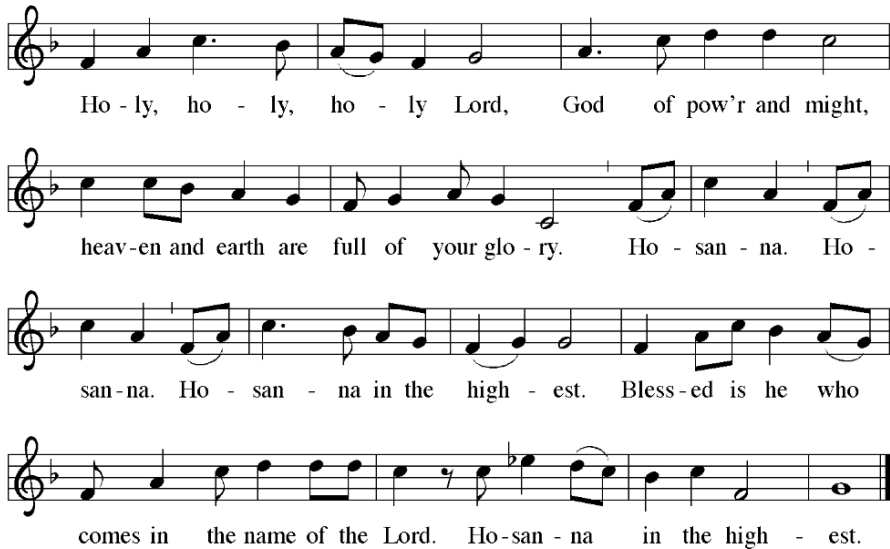
All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: Empowering God, you established your creation like a watered garden, and when your people's hopes lay in ruins you answered their call and removed the yoke from among them. You guided them continually and satisfied their needs in parched places. In the death and resurrection of Christ you repaired the breach between us and you and opened the way of peace for all your people. And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise.

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: Eye has not seen nor ear heard, beckoning God, what you have prepared for those who love you. In Jesus you are the salt that preserves us with you forever, and you are the light that transforms the darkness of death. On his last evening with the disciples your Son took the broken body and spilt blood of the cross and turned them into the glory of resurrection. Come among us now and turn the brokenness of our lives and the spiltness of your world into the wonder of your new life. Take these gifts of bread and wine and make them for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus 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: Inspiring God, you instill in us wisdom of your Son's cross, and you send us the Spirit who searches the depths of your heart and the depth of ours. Shape your people in the image of your Son to be repairers of the breach; send us to be beside those who cry, among any who are afflicted, alongside all whose foundations lie in ruins. Bless your church that it may bear the marks of its risen and ascended Lord. Raise up saints to embody your truth in our midst, loose the bonds of injustice, undo the thongs of the yoke, and let the oppressed go free, until the day when you are all in all, one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

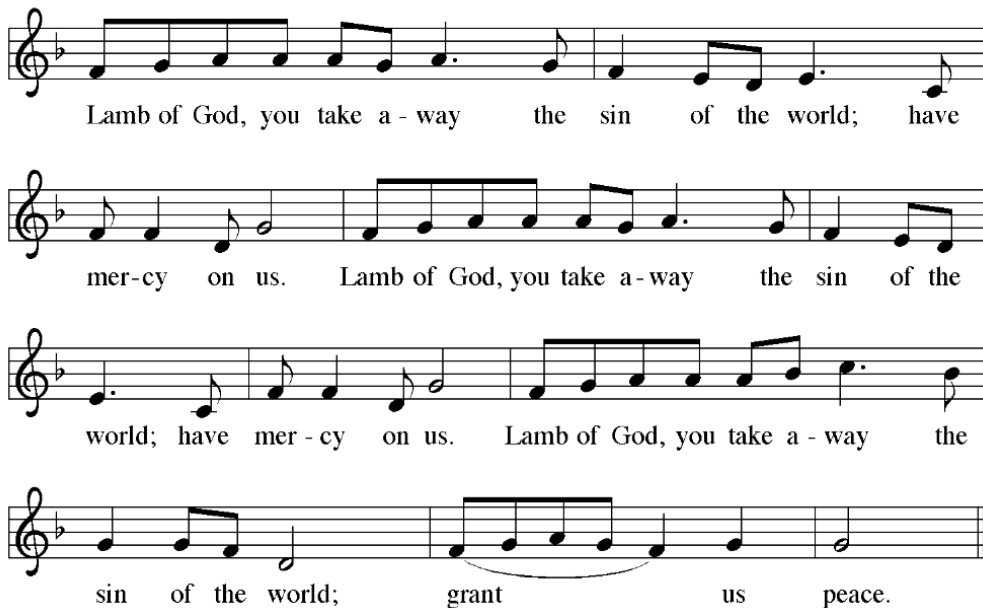
P: Christ invites you to the table and meets you there just as you are. Come and be nourished by the presence of our God.

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>As We Gather at Your Table</i>	#522
<i>Bread of Life from Heaven</i>	#474
<i>Open Your Ears, O Faithful People</i>	#519

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: You are the salt of the earth.

All: **We are called to a faith full of flavor.**

L: You are the light of the world.

All: **We are called to a faith that shines brightly.**

L: Do not let the salt of your faith become bland.

All: **We so often hold ourselves back, afraid of how we are perceived.**

L: Do not let the light of your faith go unseen.

All: **We so often hide it, afraid of failure.**

L: God does not expect perfection from you.

All: **We know it is impossible.**

L: God only calls you into the fullness of faith you already possess.

All: **God help us to take risks for the sake of the world.**

L: Let your light so shine before others,

All: That they will see the fruits of our good works and know they come from God.

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

Sending Hymn: *To Be Your Presence* #546

Sending

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude *“Short Prelude and Fugue in G”* by J S Bach

“This Little Light of Mine”

“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” ~ John 8:12

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” ~ John 1:5

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” ~ Matthew 5:16

“For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light” ~ Ephesians 5:8

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.” ~ 1 John 1:7

With these scriptures in mind, after hearing a sermon by Paul Rader, Harold Dixon Loes wrote “This little light of mine” in 1920. When the light is “mine,” the light of Jesus is claimed as dwelling in our hearts and minds. Horace Clarence Boyer arranged the tune as it appears in many hymnals.

Harold Dixon Loes was Pastor at Moody Church and studied at the Moody Bible Institute, where he joined the music faculty in 1939. Over his lifetime he wrote lyrics for 1500 gospel songs and 3000 tunes.

The song has four phrases: outlined as ABAC with phrases one and three the same. The melody is pentatonic, in the style of African music. Instead of our Western seven notes filling the octave, here it is five. This means there are no half step dissonances.

(“Amazing Grace” is also pentatonic as is most of the tune SLANE, used for “Be thou my vision.”)

It can be sung as a call and response with the leader singing the first part of each phrase

“This little light of mine” and the community responding “I’m gonna let it shine.”

After three phrases of call and response, leader and community join in the last phrase “let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!”

Some of us remember singing this song around campfires. I remember several additional lyrics: “Take my little light ‘round the block.” “Hide it under a bushel? No!”

“Won’t let anyone blow it out.” You may remember more and when sung in call and response, the leader could make up many more. How many do you know?