

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



*Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 19, 2025*

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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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 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 at home. Thank you!

Holy Communion All are welcome to share in Christ's meal of forgiveness and grace. Children who do not yet commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing. (If you feel your child is ready to receive or have additional questions, please speak with Pastor Lori.) Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Wine is in the outer rings of the tray. Grape juice is in the center of the tray. Gluten-free bread is available; please indicate your need to the pastor.

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

Hearing Assistance Individual hearing devices are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please return the device at the end of worship so they can be sanitized.

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We Worship God

Welcome

Prelude:

“Allein Gott in der Hoh sei her”

Johann Pachelbel

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 rise in body or spirit)

Call to Worship

P: Jesus calls us into this house of worship.

All: We come with open ears, minds, and hearts.

P: We come to nurture our relationship with others,

All: With ourselves, and with God.

Thanksgiving for Baptism

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

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:

All Are Welcome

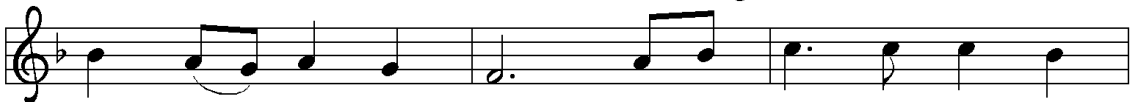
#641



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -

Refrain

Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:

all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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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.**



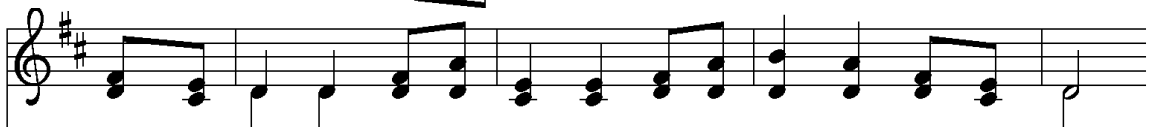
Hymn of Praise:

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

#843



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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Prayer of the Day

P: God of celebration,

All: You are our hope when disaster seems imminent. Give us the calm confidence which your own mother showed, knowing that things are safe in your hands. Amen.

(Please be seated)

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

A: Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit,

All: that in your light we may see light, in your truth find wisdom, and in your will discover your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new

name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says “Let Jesus be cursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit. Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

A: Word of God, Word of life.

All: Thanks be to God!

(Please rise in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation

Come and See

ACS#976

What are you look - ing for? Come,

see, come and see. What are you

look - ing for? Come and see. Come and see.

Text: Robert A. Hobby, b. 1962, from John 1:38-39

Music: COME AND SEE, Robert A. Hobby

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The Gospel

P: The Gospel according to John.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servants, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, “Fill the jars with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, “Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.” So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Rev. Lori Nickoloff

Following the sermon, there is a time of silence for reflection and quiet meditation. Our liturgy is made up not only of words, gestures, and music, but also moments of silence.

As the hymn begins, the assembly stands to sing.

Hymn of the Day:

Jesus, Come! For We Invite You

#312



- 1 Je - sus, come! for we in - vite you, guest and mas - ter,
- 2 Je - sus, come! trans-form our plea - sures, guide us in - to
- 3 Je - sus, come! in new cre - a - tion, heav'n brought near in
- 4 Je - sus, come! sur - prise our dull - ness, make us will - ing



friend and Lord; now, as once at Ca - na's wed - ding,
paths un - known; bring your gifts, com - mand your ser - vants,
pow'r di - vine; give your un - ex - pect - ed glo - ry,
to re - ceive more than we can yet im - ag - ine,



speak and let us hear your word: lead us through our need or
let us trust in you a - lone: though your hand may work in
chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine: rouse the faith of your dis -
all the best you have to give: let us find your hid - den



doubt - ing, hope be born and joy re - stored.
se - cret, all shall see what you have done.
ci - ples— come, our first and great - est Sign!
rich - es, taste your love, be - lieve, and live!

Text: Christopher Idle, b. 1938

Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958

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Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

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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 in your grace and truth, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: Lord, you are capable of turning the ordinary into something miraculous. Bolster our faith and give us confidence to do whatever it is that you require, that your glory might be shown through the humblest of acts. God, draw near,

All: Receive our prayer.

A: We pray for all endangered animals and ecosystems around the world. May we take bold actions that ensure their safety and ability to flourish. God, draw near,

All: Receive our prayer.

A: We pray for leaders facing complex challenges. Grant them discernment and wisdom. Help them to work collaboratively to foster understanding and positive change around the world. God, draw near,

All: Receive our prayer.

A: We pray for all who are experiencing pain, sickness, or distress, (*especially...*) Draw near to them with your loving presence, and strengthen and guide them each and every day. God, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

A: We pray for those impacted by crises and conflicts. Be with those facing adversity, displacement, and injustice. Grant us the courage and empathy to stand with those in need. God, draw near,

All: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We pray to reflect your love in our lives as the saints gone before us did. May we honor them by embodying compassion, grace, and service in all that we do. God, draw near,

All: Receive our prayer.

P: We lift up all of our prayers, spoken and unspoken to you. In Jesus' name we pray.

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 *"I Believe in Christ"* *John Longhurst*

(Please rise in body or spirit)

Offertory Hymn: *As with Gladness Men of Old (verse 3)* #302

*As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king*

Offertory Prayer

A: Abundant God, you have filled us with all good things, and lavished your goodness upon us.

All: **With joyful hearts we return to you these, our gifts and tithes, and ask that you would bless them for the work of loving our neighbors. Amen.**

We Share God's Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

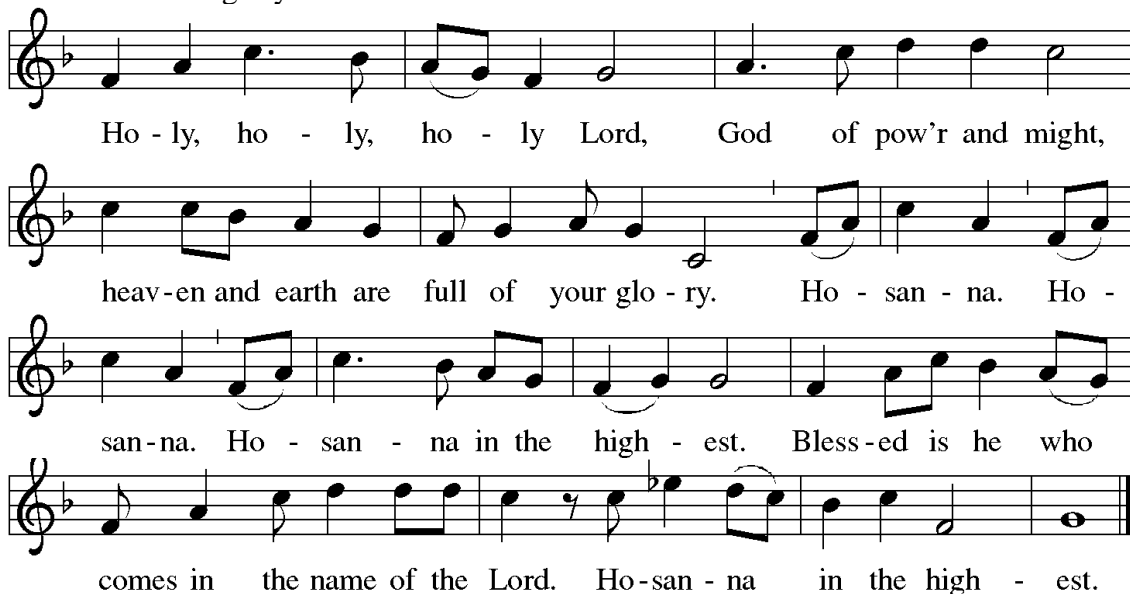
P: Lift up your hearts.

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: Redeeming God, we cannot keep silent, because your vindication of your people shines out like the dawn, and your salvation like a burning torch... .. And so we thank and praise you with the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your boundless glory.



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.

P: Gracious God, in your Holy Spirit you empower us with gifts of wisdom and knowledge and faith and healing and miracles and prophecy and revelation and discernment... .. Great is the mystery of faith.

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

P: God of justice and mercy, as at Cana the wine was good, bless your whole creation. As at Cana the wine ran short, be close to all who know their need of you. As at Cana the wine ran out, succor those living in the midst of death, and dying in the midst of life. As at Cana you saved the best till last, flood this earth with the wine of your kingdom, that justice may roll down like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream, until we see you face to face, and recognize our diverse faces in the face of your Son, through whom, and with

whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, 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: As you brought joy to wedding guests 2000 years ago, bring us now to the celebration of your feast today. Feed us on the bread and wine that last not only for an evening, but for all eternity, in your body and blood. Our generous host is calling us forth. Let us come to the table!

All: Amen.

(Please be seated)



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.

Hymns During Communion:

<i>He Comes to Us as One Unknown</i>	#737
<i>All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly</i>	#461
<i>Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life</i>	#816

Table Blessing

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

All: Amen

Prayer After Communion:

A: Generous God,

All: in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

We Leave to Serve

Announcements

Benediction

P: May God strengthen you and bless you with peace; may Christ Jesus bring forth justice for you and among you; and may the Holy Spirit alight on you and affirm you as God's beloved ones.

All: Amen.

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Litany

L: Jesus turned water into the finest wine,

All: And the guests said, "You have saved the best for last."

L: There are still miracles all around us every day.

All: God still works great wonders on this earth.

L: Sometimes, in the place where all seems lost,

All: Where we have given up hope,

L: That's the place where we find Jesus,

All: Who has saved the best for last.

L: Our wine from water, our grand celebration,

All: Our miracle,

L: The gift of love from God to us.

All: Thank you, God, for the best at the last.

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

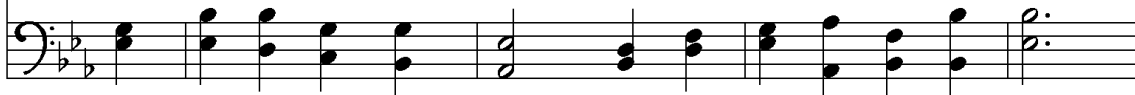
Sending Hymn:

We All are One in Mission

#576



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.
 so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.
 our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version

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Sending

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

"Jesu, Will You Remain with Us?"

J S Bach

Hymn Notes - "Jesus, Come! For We Invite You" ELW 312

Author Christopher Idle (1938-) as a young man was involved in the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. He Took theological training in the early 1960s at Clifton Theological College in Bristol, becoming a Deacon in 1965 and was ordained in 1966. After serving several churches in 1989 he became Rector of seven churches in Suffolk.

Idle began writing hymns in the 1960s and was part of the group of composers writing for the publisher Jubilate. He has written more than 400 hymns, publishing three collections. He has also written a dozen books on hymnology.

The text was written for a sermon he gave in 1979 and is based on the Wedding at Cana, Jesus' first public miracle. (John 2:1-11) In it, we ask for Jesus' transforming presence. The imagery suggests that we ourselves are transformed into "new wine." "Surprise our dullness" is like plain water becoming the good wine that lasts throughout the marriage celebration, "all the best you have to give, taste Your love, believe and live."

UNION SEMINARY composed by Harold Friedell (1905-1958) is more familiar as the setting for "Draw us in the spirit's tether" and is without time signature. The wonderfully flowing and richly harmonized melody alternates between measures of 6 and 4 beats. The four parts are in close harmony mostly moving in parallel with occasional great separation between the bass and three upper parts, thus allowing the melody its ecstatic rising. The chords used are simple and close to the home key. But there are incisive dissonances on the first beats in the second and third phrases. Interestingly, the sense of flow is assisted by the phrases being five instead of four measures long. These longer phrases ask us to move the song along rather quickly.