

St. Paul Lutheran Church
“Let’s Make a Difference Together”



158 Fish Hill Road
PO Box 196

Tannersville, Pennsylvania

Telephone: (570) 629-1992

Fax: (570) 629-2038

Website: www.stpaultannersvillepa.org

Parish Administrator’s Email: parishadmin@stpaultannersvillepa.org

Worship Services: Sunday at 9:00 A.M.

Holy Communion: 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month & Festivals

Christian Education: Sunday’s at 10:15 A.M.

Air Conditioned & Handicapped Accessible

Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church

OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Grounded in faith and growing in grace, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed in our local community and throughout the world.



Are you visiting St. Paul? Are you interested in membership or just looking to see if St. Paul is a good fit for you and/or your family??

Please call (570-629-1992) or stop by our office during regular business hours (Mon – Thurs 9:00am – 1:00pm) and speak to our Parish

Administrator, Leanna Wickline, who will be happy to guide you through

the membership process and help you find information on all of the great programs at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

SILENT MEDITATION. . . Please note – the silent meditation is a part of the morning worship service. This is a time for individual reflection; a time for communicating with God, as well as a time of preparation for the service of worship. We encourage you to use it in a meaningful way.

Please respect the prayerful atmosphere of this holy place. We ask that you turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Thank you.

Our Church Staff

Pastor: Vacant – in Call Process

Parish Administrator: Mrs. Leanna D. Wickline

Choir Director/Organist: Mr. Robert Jones

2021 Council Members

Grant Allen

Bill Below

Terry Fouts

Chris Kinsley Sr.

Nicole Kresge

Carl Reindl

Deb Storman

Ingrid Unternahrer

Beth Werkheiser

We welcome the Rev. William Thompson this morning. Thank you for leading us in worship!

Worship Service

Third Sunday of Epiphany

Sunday, January 24, 2021

+Late Seating

**Please stand, if able.*

Words in bold print denote congregational response.

Prelude

Chimes (Call to Worship)

Announcements

***Confession**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin— our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy.

Amen.

***Absolution**

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

Amen.

*+ Opening Hymn

This Little Light of Mine

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh, oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

oh,

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

oh,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer, b. 1935
 Arr. © Horace Clarence Boyer, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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.

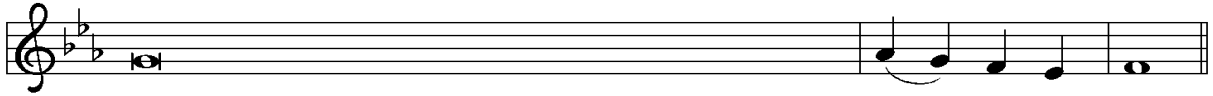
***Kyrie**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



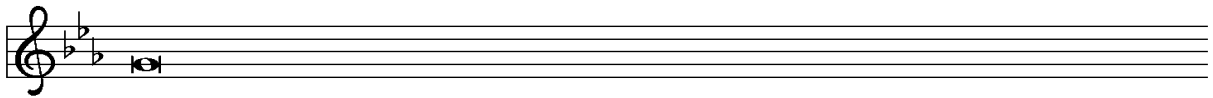
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



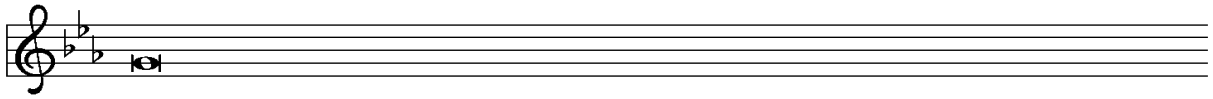
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

*Hymn of Praise

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of
God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***Prayer of the Day**

Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"

¹The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time, saying, ²"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." ³So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. ⁴Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" ⁵And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

¹⁰When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 62:5-12

⁵For God alone I wait in silence; truly, my hope is in God.

⁶God alone is my rock and my salvation, my stronghold, so that I shall never be shaken.

⁷In God is my deliverance and my honor; God is my strong rock and my refuge.

⁸Put your trust in God always, O people, pour out your hearts before the one who is our refuge.

⁹Those of high degree are but a fleeting breath; those of low estate cannot be trusted. Placed on the scales together they weigh even less than a breath.

¹⁰Put no trust in extortion; in robbery take no empty pride; though wealth increase, set not your heart upon it.

¹¹God has spoken once, twice have I heard it, that power belongs to God.

¹²Steadfast love belongs to you, O Lord, for you repay all according to their deeds.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

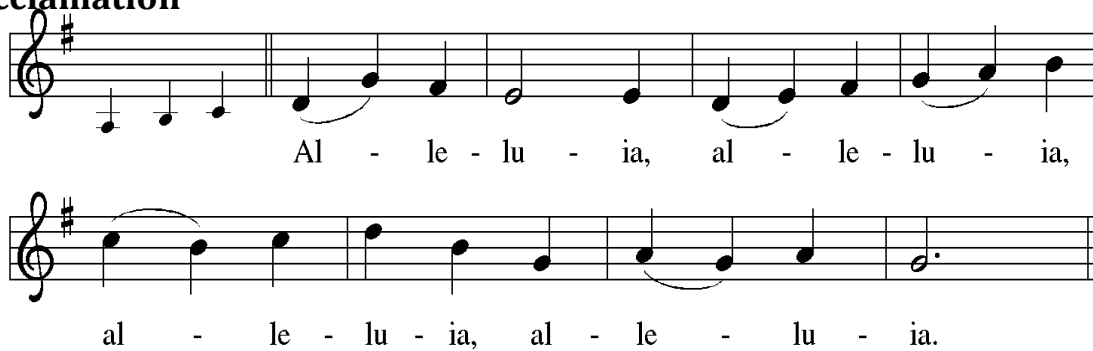
Paul does not disapprove of marriage or other human social institutions. He does, however, want Christians to live in the present in fervent anticipation of God's future, which even now has dawned through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

²⁹Brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, ³⁰and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, ³¹and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***Gospel: Mark 1:14-20**

The holy gospel according to Mark, the 1st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as “the gospel” or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.

¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

¹⁶As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁷And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” ¹⁸And immediately they left their nets and followed him. ¹⁹As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. ²⁰Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

The word of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon – “Just Another Fish Story?” - Rev. William Thompson

***Hymn of the Day God of Love, We've Known Division**

God of love, we've known division and we've seen its awful cost.
We have struggled as a nation, and there's much that we have lost.
We have been a house divided — and, divided, we can't stand.
May our nation be united; give us peace throughout this land.

Turn us, Lord, from what divides us — fear that drives us far apart,
greed that leads to great injustice, racist ways that break your heart.
May we seek what brings together — hearts that bear each other's pain,
care and mercy toward our neighbors, love that welcomes strangers in.

May we all, in conversation, speak the truth and listen well.

May we hear, across this nation, stories others have to tell.
May we learn from other cultures and be blessed by their worldview;
May we serve with one another — loving others, loving you.
You have challenged us to goodness; you have shown a kinder way.
It's your love that now inspires us as we seek a better day.
May we end our harsh division; may we stop the hate and fear.
Make us one, Lord, as a nation; may we be united here.

Tune: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending") Text: Copyright © 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/ "God of Love, We've Known Division" was written as a hymn for the nation after the 2020 elections.

*** The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

***Pastoral Prayer**

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the church throughout the world, for pastors and teachers, for deacons and deaconesses, and for musicians and servers, that all proclaim the good news of God's reconciling love, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For skies and seas, for birds and fish, for favorable weather and clean water, and for the well-being of creation, that God raise up advocates and scientists to guide our care for all the earth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who provide leadership in our cities and around the world, for nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, for planning commissions and homeless advocates, that God inspire all people in the just use of wealth, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who are sick, distressed, or grieving; for the outcast and all who await relief that in the midst of suffering, God's peace and mercy surround them, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For our congregation and community, for families big and small, and for the organizations that meet here during the week, that God's steadfast love serve as a model for all relationships, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for our ancestors in the faith whose lives serve as an example of gospel living, that they point us to salvation through Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer

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.

*Blessing

God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

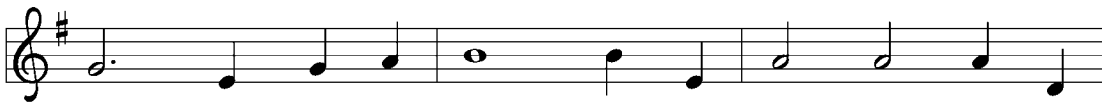
Amen.

*Closing Hymn

Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me:"
kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more?"
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

***Choral Benediction** *"Go Now and Pass It On"*

May the Lord _____ walk be - side us _____ as we

6
leave _____ this qui - et place, _____ for the Lord _____ will al - ways

12
guide us _____ if we walk in the light of His grace. _____

17
_____ May we feel God's love a - round us _____ as it

22
keeps us faith - ful and strong, _____ for the peace _____

27
_____ of God sur rounds us, _____ and now we must pass it

32
on. _____ Go now and pass it on. _____

The musical score is written on a single staff in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of seven lines of music, each with a measure number (6, 12, 17, 22, 27, 32) at the beginning. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with horizontal lines indicating where the notes align with the words. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the 32nd measure.

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"The worship ends. . .the service begins."

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2021 Offering Envelopes are now in. If you have not picked up your envelopes, please call the church office to schedule a time to do so.

The Council has decided that it is prudent to continue our virtual services through January. They will again evaluate the number of COVID-19 cases and the trend in Monroe County to decide if we can return to in-person worship on February 7, 2021.



Prayers have been requested for the following brothers and sisters in Christ who have concerns needing God's help...

Ryan Ace, Sr.; Msgt. William F. Allen; Grant Allen; Private William "Blake" Allen; Tom Altemose; Mark Anthony; Evelyn Arroyo; Daniel Bartron; Dawn Bartron; Wynne Below; Nancy Besecker; Dillon Berenti; Cptn. Matthew Blessing; David Brong; Vicki Burnett; Jack Callahan; Judi Carman; Elaine Cornelus; LilliAnna Daniels; Dee, Michael & Scott DeAngelo; Don Deibler; Renee Depuy; Doris Drury; John Drury; Louis Genset; Lynn Gerber; Jean Gerstlauer; Barbara Grosch; T. J. Imhof; Carol Jones; Ian Juica; Mason & Addison Kapun; Richard Kernan; Robbie Kinsley; Eleanor Kreuger; Esther Laurito; David Leith; James Meckes; Ruth Mitchell; Mattie Morales & family; Bev Otten; Dr. Kenny Pearson; Annabelle Peechatka; Shirley Pensyl; Faye Reiner; Sandy Richards; Joan Rinker; Anna Rivera; Jean Ross; Gloria Russell; Jack Russell; Alice Schambra; Claudette Segear; Lynn Seip; Shirley Singer; Samuel Smith, Jr.; Gerald Staples; David Stirling (liver transplant); Greg Theadford; Jim Werkheiser; Kelly Wickline; Kyle & Katie Wickline; Charles Zuccarelli; Fran Zuccarelli; for all who are traveling; for all of those struggling with addictions; the families of those killed and wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan; the members of the Armed Forces of the United States; for the victims of the mass shootings, for all those around the world and here at home suffering from the coronavirus pandemic.

Have your prayers been answered? Or do you still need God's help? Please let us know. Thank you to everyone who prays with us for those in need.



Thank you to all who have helped to support St. Paul's Strunk Food Pantry! Your commitment to help is a true blessing to those who are struggling to feed their families. The pantry is always in need of basic food supplies, and we need your continued support to keep this program going strong. **Items of particular need are: canned meats like tuna, chicken, beef and other protein sources and cereal.** ***Our Food Pantry remains open, although it is functioning as a curbside service. This limits the contact to others and protects our food pantry staff and our building while still serving the needs of those in need.***

The Mitten Tree

We are collecting children's hats, mittens, and scarves through January for distribution to Monroe County Children & Youth Services.

Grocery Tapes

If you shop at Kinsley's Shoprite or Weis markets we get a percentage of your purchase. Just bring your receipts in and put them in the box on the table in the Narthex. In order for us to receive credit, the receipts must include the date and store number. On a Weis receipt it is below the Weis Club Savings and above the Weis Reward Points. It looks like this: "1/06/2020 12:12 166 306 10 229" Your numbers will be different. If in doubt, don't tear off the bottom of the receipts.



You shop. Amazon gives. Don't forget to put St. Paul Lutheran Church Tannersville as your charity before checking out on Amazon. They will send us 1% of your purchase.

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