



**3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Sunday** after the  
**Epiphany**



***Welcome to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School  
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor***

January 26, 2025

He has anointed me  
to bring **good** news...

Luke 4:14-21

St. Paul  
Lutheran



Taylor, TX  
LCMC

***Welcome to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School***

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor



**lcmc**  
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

WELCOME

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US



# Be part of our California wildfire disaster response

Emergency relief efforts are underway to bring critical aid to communities affected by the heartbreaking wildfires in California. In times of disaster, your support can bring help and hope. As part of Thrivent's ongoing efforts to show up in times of need, **we are matching up to \$500,000 to help provide relief and recovery resources.**



**Make a donation; Thrivent will boost – up to \$500,000!**

Thrivent has partnered with six organizations who are actively responding to the crisis in California. Donate online today to one of these partnering organizations, and Thrivent will boost your donation. For every \$2 donated through Thrivent's [online giving platform](#) or through a Thrivent Charitable Impact and Investing® Donor Advised Fund, **Thrivent will add \$1.\***

The match will run until the \$500,000 cap is met, or March 10, 2025, whichever comes first. Thrivent pays all the processing fees so **100% of your donation will go directly to the cause.\*\***



**lcmc**  
Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

**Brunch will resume  
in February**

**80**  
years of loving  
our neighbors



This year marks 80 years of Lutheran World Relief's service to the world.

LWR was founded to help Lutherans in Europe recover from the devastation of World War II. Since then, their mission has grown, and the devotion of Lutheran congregations has grown with it.



## **INTRODUCTION**

*God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. The unity of the church is another reflection of God's glory. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. Glimpse the glory of God.*



## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
our creator,  
our protector,  
our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the  
meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you speak blessing and compassion into the world.**

**Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.**

**Cleanse us from our faults  
and release us from their grasp.  
Show us your lovingkindness.  
Restore our hearts and repair your world,  
that we may live in Christ's ways.  
Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance:  
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by name. You are mine."  
In + Christ, you are forgiven.  
In the Spirit, you are made free.  
Refreshed by the waters of mercy,  
live anew as beloved children of God.  
**Amen.**



## **Gathering Song**

**“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**

**Hymn # 886**

**1 Oh, for a thousand tongues  
to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,**

Hymn # 886

**the glories of my God and  
king,  
the triumphs of his grace!**

Hymn # 886

**2 My gracious Master and my  
God,  
assist me to proclaim,**

Hymn # 886



**to spread through all the earth  
abroad  
the honors of your name.**

Hymn # 886

**3 The name of Jesus charms  
our fears  
and bids our sorrows cease,**

Hymn # 886

**sings music in the sinner's  
ears,  
brings life and health and  
peace.**

Hymn # 886

**4 He speaks, and list'ning to  
his voice,  
new life the dead receive;**

Hymn # 886



**the mournful, broken hearts  
rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.**

Hymn # 886

**5 Look unto him, your Savior  
own,  
O fallen human race!**

Hymn # 886

**Look and be saved through  
faith alone,  
be justified by grace!**

Hymn # 886

**Final**    **To God all glory, praise,  
and love  
be now and ever giv'n**

Hymn # 886

**by saints below and saints  
above,  
the church in earth and  
heav'n.**

Hymn # 886

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

*Kyrie eleison*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*Christe eleison*

***Christ, have mercy.***

*Kyrie eleison*

***Lord, have mercy.***

## **Glory To God**

*Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest,  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on  
earth.*

*Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you  
thanks, we praise you for your  
glory.*

*[Refrain]*

*[Refrain]*

*Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest,  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on  
earth.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the  
Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us; you are seated  
at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.*

*[Refrain]*

*[Refrain]*

*Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest,  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on  
earth.*

*For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus  
Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the  
glory of God the Father. Amen.*

*[Refrain]*

*[Refrain]*

*Glory to God, glory to God,  
glory to God in the highest,  
glory to God, glory to God,  
and peace to God's people on  
earth, and peace to God's people  
on earth.*



## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray

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*

*The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that "the joy of the Lord is your strength."*

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>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: PSALM 19

*The teaching of the LORD revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)*

<sup>1</sup> The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup> **One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to  
another.**

<sup>3</sup> Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

<sup>5</sup> It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup> **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.**



<sup>7</sup> The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives  
the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives  
wisdom to the simple.

<sup>8</sup> **The statutes of the LORD are just and  
rejoice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is  
clear and gives light to the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup> The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

<sup>10</sup> **More to be desired are they than gold,  
more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in  
the comb.**

<sup>11</sup> By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup> **Who can detect one's own  
offenses?**

**Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup> 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.

<sup>14</sup> **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**

*The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity that is a mark of the church today.*

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

<sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,

<sup>23</sup>and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.



<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31a</sup>But strive for the greater gifts.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation***

***Alleluia.***

***Lord, to whom shall we go?***

***Alleluia.***

***You have the words of eternal Life.***

***Alleluia, alleluia.***

# GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 4:14-21

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-21**

*Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission.*

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup>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, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup>"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,  
<sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup>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.

<sup>21</sup>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  
SERMON



# **Sermon**

Kenneth Kruse



## **Hymn of the Day**

**“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”**

**Hymn # 843**

**1 Praise the One who breaks  
the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the  
pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.**

Hymn # 843

**Praise the One who preached  
the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding  
thousands  
with the very bread of peace.**

Hymn # 843

**2 Praise the One who blessed  
the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out  
demons  
with a piercing, two-edged  
sword.**

Hymn # 843

**Praise the One who brings cool  
water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living  
water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**

Hymn # 843

**<sup>3</sup> Praise the one true love  
incarnate:**

**Christ, who suffered in our  
place;**

**Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.**

Hymn # 843



**Let us sing for joy and  
gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us  
one.**

Hymn # 843

With the whole church let us confess our faith.

## **CREED**

*Apostles' Creed*

**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**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

As your word is opened in our midst, we give thanks for all who share scripture: for parents, grandparents, and godparents; teachers and mentors; deacons, pastors, bishops, and scholars. Inspire passion for the stories of faith. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

As heavens declare your glory and the sky proclaims your work, we lift our voices in awe of quarks and atoms, vast stars and solar systems. Guide us to speak on behalf of your handiwork. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

As Jesus proclaimed life and freedom in his community, energize communities and nations to eliminate poverty, engage in prison ministry and transformative justice, and envision new ways of working together for your promised reign. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

As your word and presence revive the soul, accompany all experiencing depression, anxiety, or eating disorders; be a source of strength for all affected by memory loss and their caregivers; draw near to all undergoing medical treatment or surgery and those who are ill (especially). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

As we are made one body in baptism, strengthen all who serve. Renew and inspire all who use their gifts in this congregation, community, and the world (especially parish nurses, fellowship hosts, worship leaders, council, and committee members). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**



We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries: for Cheryl Kruckemeyer our missionary in Tanzania, for Chris and Lori in the Home Office serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregations at St. John Lutheran Church in Richland, Texas & Faith Community Lutheran Church in Slayton, Minnesota. Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders, our students, teachers and school administrators. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Lord of the Harvest, you declare that the harvest is plentiful and invite your people to pray earnestly for laborers in your harvest field. Be with the faculty and staff of Harvest Workers, our online ministry training program, as they equip future leaders for mission. Today we also give you thanks for Spirit of Peace in McAllen, Texas and their pastor, Dale Whitzel. Bless their ministry both now and for generations to come. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

As our faith is strengthened by saints who have gone before us, we remember leaders of the early church, and beloved friends and family who have died. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**Amen.**

# **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you. Amen.**

## **Canticle of Thanksgiving**

*Refrain* ***Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb for ever and  
ever.***

***<sup>1</sup> Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.***

***Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?***

*Refrain* **Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and  
ever.**

***2 For you alone are the Holy One,  
and blessed is the one whose  
name is the Word of God.  
All praise and thanks to you, holy  
God!***



*Refrain* ***Salvation belongs to our God  
and to Christ the Lamb forever and  
ever.***

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

## **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.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you  
peace.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song**

**“The Church of Christ, in Every Age”**

**Hymn # 729**

**<sup>1</sup> The church of Christ in ev'ry  
age beset by change, but  
Spirit-led,**

Hymn # 729



**must claim and test its  
heritage and keep on rising  
from the dead.**

Hymn # 729

**<sup>2</sup> Across the world, across the  
street, the victims of injustice  
cry**

Hymn # 729

**for shelter and for bread to  
eat, and never live before  
they die.**

Hymn # 729

**3 Then let the servant church  
arise, a caring church that  
longs to be**

Hymn # 729

**a partner in Christ's sacrifice,  
and clothed in Christ's  
humanity.**

Hymn # 729

**4 For he alone, whose blood  
was shed, can cure the fever  
in our blood,**

Hymn # 729

**and teach us how to share  
our bread  
and feed the starving  
multitude.**

Hymn # 729

**Final We have no mission but  
to serve in full obedience to  
our Lord;**

Hymn # 729



**to care for all, without  
reserve,  
and spread his liberating  
word.**

Hymn # 729

# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

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