

Welcome!

to
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Clay Center, KS

Thank you
for joining us for worship
on this:

Fourth Sunday
after
Epiphany

January 28 & 29, 2023

Worship Folder



St. Paul Lutheran Communion Statement:

COMMUNION WELCOME-God calls upon His people to exercise care in the use of His Supper because harm results when Communion is received without repentance or a right understanding (1 Corinthians 11:23-30) and when fellowship is practiced without agreement in God's Word (Galatians 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:15, 3:14). In Communion Jesus gives us His true Body and Blood, in with and under the bread and wine, to forgive our sins (Matthew 26:26-28 and 1 Corinthians 10:16-21). We also profess agreement in the teachings of the church at whose altar we commune. Thus, we cannot offer this Supper to those who have not received instruction per the mysteries of this meal. We do invite fellow members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to join our members as we receive the Sacrament today. Others are asked to speak with the pastor before receiving the Lord's Supper. Those who desire to come forward for a blessing are invited to do so, indicating their intent to receive a blessing by crossing their arms in front.

Distribution of the bread is to the hand of the communicant. "Gluten Free" wafers are available. Please let the ushers know PRIOR to service if you are needing this substitution.

Distribution of the wine is by choice of individual cup or common chalice. If you receive with the individual cup, please keep the small cup visible to the minister with the common cup. Individual cups of unfermented grape juice will be provided at the center of each of the trays for those who prefer grape juice over wine. Both are "fruit of the vine" and in the sacrament become means by which Christ grants us his blood to assure us of forgiveness, life and salvation. The unfermented grape juice is light in color.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE

AS WE GATHER

Today's Old Testament Reading is the basis for the reproaches, traditionally spoken on Good Friday: "Thus says the LORD: What have I done to you, O My people . . ." We know that, like God's ancient people, we fail to live in ways pleasing to Him. In terms of the Epistle, we reflect the world around us in its false wisdom, rather than rejoicing in God's great folly in sacrificing His Son for us. And so, we pay more attention to the beginning of each Beatitude rather than finding solace in the reason for the blessing coming with that circumstance or action. But the Law-filled "do" in that list is covered by the "done" in the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord. He is the only One who fulfilled all our heavenly Father's will. And the Good News is that He did it in our place! He took all the Father's reproaches, all our worldliness, and all our failures to the cross. The great epiphany there was our Lord's showing the world God's boundless love for us. How shall we respond?

✠ PREPARATION ✠

O God of Mercy, God of Might

LSB 852

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,

C but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

P He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,

C whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Let us go to the throne of God's grace, confessing our sins and asking His mercy for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P We cannot repay God for our offenses, but He has given us His only Son to pay for every sin. As a called and ordained servant of Christ I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. Thanks be to God.

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT

P For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

C Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.

P He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.

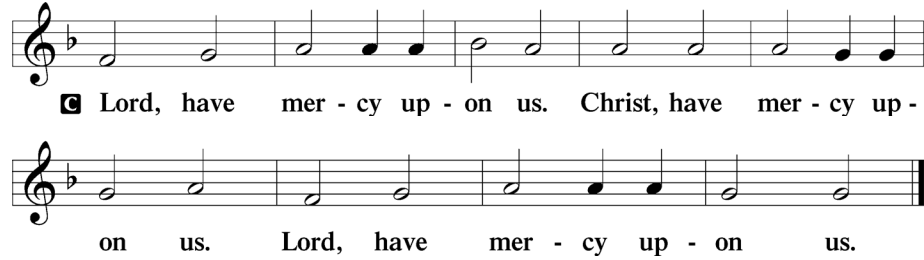
C The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

P Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

KYRIE



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

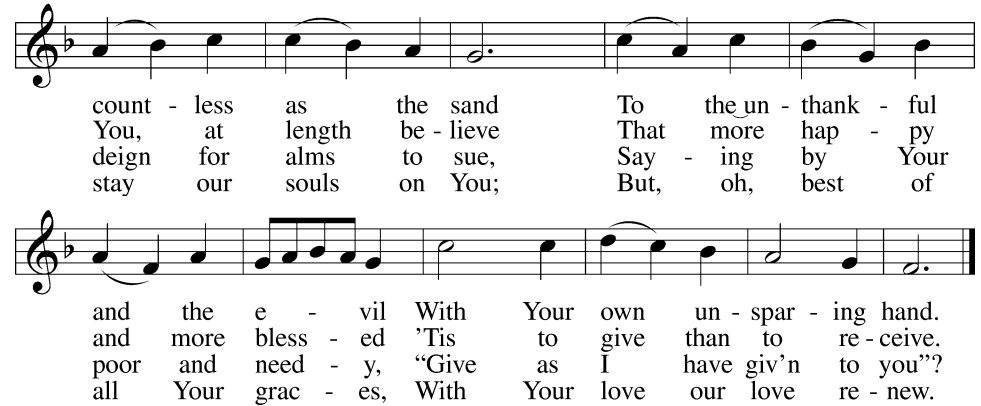
HYMN OF PRAISE

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

LSB 851



1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,
3 Won - drous hon - or You have giv - en To our
4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your
life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your
hum - blest char - i - ty In Your own mys - te - rious
life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
sen - tence, "You have done it all to Me."
lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.
And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That You
Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful
You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py
deign for alms to sue, Say - ing by Your
stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of
and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you?"
all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818-89, alt.
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87
Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
Almighty God, You have told us what pleases You and how we should live.
- C** **Help us to do justice and love kindness in response to Jesus' life of perfect obedience and sacrificial death on our behalf;**
- P** through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 6:1-8

- ¹Hear what the LORD says:
Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.
- ²Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the LORD has an indictment against his people,

and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you?

How have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised,
and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL

P Praise the LORD, all nations!

C **Extol Him, all peoples!**

P For great is His steadfast love toward us,

C **and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.**

P Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

C **bring an offering, and come into His courts!**

EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 1:18–31

¹⁸The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE

P Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit,

C **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 5:1–12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Seeing the crowds, [Jesus] went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Son of God, Eternal Savior

LSB 842

SERMON

NICENE CREED

C **I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and
the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Let us pray for all people who call out to God in their distress. For our brothers and sisters who are poor in spirit because of outside oppression or personal problems, that God would remind them of their heavenly citizenship, let us pray to the Lord.

C Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.

P For those who mourn, that by their faith in Christ's resurrection they would be comforted, let us pray to the Lord.

C Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.

P For those who are meek as they thirst for righteousness, that God would raise up local and national leaders to provide security and justice for all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.

P For those who reflect the mercy of God as they tend to the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those under their care, that God would give them wisdom and strength, let us pray to the Lord.

C Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.

P For the ill, including Kelly, Darylene, Buster, Chloe, Sharil, Mark, Georgie, Lauren, Janet, Kenzie, Dena, Kay, Gary, Larry, Cliff, Ann, Dee, Jackie, Sharon, Cassie, Lee, Randy, Brady, Melissa, Daphne, Darlene, Scot, Jim, Donna, Darla, Gail, Linda, Staci, Lon, Megan, Brody, Rachelle, Joe, Taylor, Raiden, Sheila, Jack, Donald, Sandy, Marla, Grant, Grace, Connie, Kerri, Ethan, Dan, Luke, Ella; and the shut-in, especially Bonnie, Jack, Velma, Irma, Darlene, Betty, Julie, and Cedric that God would grant healing, wholeness, and peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.

P For those who single-mindedly focus on sharing God's peace with conflicted people around them, that God would keep them strong in faith to use every opportunity at their disposal, let us pray to the Lord.

C Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.

P For the Church wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament, that God would alleviate persecution they may be enduring and let the Church grow in faith and numbers, let us pray to the Lord.

C Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.

P For ourselves in every difficulty, that God would remind us of Christ's having done in our stead all that He calls us to do, let us pray to the Lord.

C In grateful thanksgiving, we rejoice this day and look forward to the reward our Savior won for us. To You alone, O Father, be all the glory, with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OFFERING

If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? -Luke 16:11

OFFERTORY

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**

- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who not only lived a life of perfect obedience, but did it in our stead so that we might be free from all that would separate us from the eternal joy You have graciously promised. Therefore with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

LSB 940 st. 1

1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we
 bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,
 All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy
 vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.

Text: Latin, c. 4th cent.; German version Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820-1900, alt.
 Tune: Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna
 Text and tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P** Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for not only revealing to us what pleases You, but also You have sent Your only-begotten Son to live a perfect life in our place. Then, by Your grace, You have united us

to Him in Holy Baptism so that You may look on us through His sacrifice for us. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. We pray that You gather us together with all who call Jesus Lord to the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

- C** **Amen.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✝ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✝ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

C 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.

PAX DOMINI

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

AGNUS DEI



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the
world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that
tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

✠ DISTRIBUTION HYMNS ✠

In the Cross of Christ I Glory	LSB 427
We Give Thee But Thine Own	LSB 781
Songs of Thankfulness and Praise	LSB 394
Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness	LSB 788

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and

to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
 is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Let us pray.
 We give thanks, heavenly Father, that You have again assured us of sins forgiven in this Sacrament.
- C** **Grant us to know Your accompanying presence as we leave, so that, strong in faith, our thoughts, words, and deeds will reflect Your great love and mercy;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

Life High the Cross

LSB 837