

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Pastor - Rev. Paul Krentz

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2ND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 16, 2011

WELCOME to all who are visiting today! Our greatest desire is to share that wonderful message of forgiveness and eternal salvation for all in Jesus' name. We pray you will be drawn closer to Christ today as the Holy Spirit nurtures us through God's Word. Before you leave, please, take time to sign our guest register in the entrance way, and we invite you to join us every week as part of God's family in worship.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC + WELCOME

HYMN: #134 "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" Vs.1,2,5

INVOCATION

CONFESSION OF SIN:

P. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C. BUT IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, GOD, WHO IS FAITHFUL AND JUST, WILL

FORGIVE OUR SINS AND CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

P. Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C. MOST MERCIFUL GOD, WE CONFESS THAT WE ARE BY NATURE SINFUL AND UNCLEAN. WE HAVE SINNED AGAINST YOU IN THOUGHT, WORD, AND DEED, BY WHAT WE HAVE DONE AND BY WHAT WE HAVE LEFT UNDONE. WE HAVE NOT LOVED YOU WITH OUR WHOLE HEART; WE HAVE NOT LOVED OUR NEIGHBORS AS OURSELVES. WE JUSTLY DESERVE YOUR PRESENT AND ETERNAL PUNISHMENT. FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR SON, JESUS CHRIST, HAVE MERCY ON US. FORGIVE US, RENEW US, AND LEAD US, SO THAT WE MAY DELIGHT IN YOUR WILL AND WALK IN YOUR WAYS TO THE GLORY OF YOUR HOLY NAME. AMEN.

ABSOLUTION

PSALM DECLARATION: *(From Psalm 92:1-5, Spoken together)*

It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, 2 to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, 3 to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp. 4 For you make me glad by your deeds, O LORD; I sing for joy at the works of your hands. 5 How great are your works, O LORD, how profound your thoughts!

HYMN OF PRAISE: *(Sung, LW p. 161)*

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 49:1-6

I Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations: Before I was born the LORD called me; from my birth he has made mention of my name. 2 He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. 3 He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor." 4 But I said, "I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand, and my reward is with my God." 5 And now the LORD says—he who formed me in the womb to be his servant to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD and my God has been my strength— 6 he says: "It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

I Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, 2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: 3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge— 6 because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

RESPONSE: *(Sung, LW 164) 8:00am*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

ANTHEM: *“Glory to the King of Kings” Adult Choir 10:30am*

CONFESSION OF FAITH: *“The Nicene Creed”*

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 worshipped 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.

SONG MEDLEY:

“I Love You Lord”

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice, to worship You, O my soul rejoice. Take joy my King, in what You hear, May it be a sweet, sweet sound in Your ear. *(repeat)*

(C. 1978 House of Mercy Music. Used by permission. CCLI #1561573)

“Beautiful Savior”

1.Beautiful Savior, King of Creation, Son of God and Son of Man!

Truly I’d love Thee, Truly I’d serve Thee, Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.

3.Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight, Bright the sparkling stars on high;

Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer, Than all the angels in the sky.

4.Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, Praise, adoration, Now and forevermore be Thine!

(Public Domain)

“More Precious than Silver”

Lord, You are more precious than silver. Lord, You are more costly than gold. Lord, You are more beautiful than diamonds and nothing I desire compares with You. *(repeat)*

*Ending...*Nothing I desire compares with You. Nothing I desire compares with You.

(C. 1982 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music. Used by permission. CCLI #1561573)

SERMON: John 1:29-34 **“We Are Not Blind Guides”**

(A sermon outline with the Scripture reading is printed on the back of the bulletin to aid your meditation on God's Word)

THE OFFERING + RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

(Please sign fellowship book at end of pew)

ANTHEM: *“Star of the East” Adult Choir 10:30am*

PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER: *(Spoken together)*

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.

PRAYER FOR BLESSING: *(Sung, LW p.168)*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

CALL TO THANKS AND PRAISE

HYMN OF ADORATION: *(Sung, LW p. 170)*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

HYMN OF ASSURANCE: *(Sung, LW p. 172)*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

THOSE DESIRING COMMUNION: *The Bible teaches under the bread and wine of Communion Jesus gives His real body and blood to assure us of forgiveness. (Mt 26:26-28) It also teaches in receiving this meal together, we are by that act professing a unity of faith with the church at whose altar we commune. (1 Cor 10: 16-21) While Communion is meant as a blessing, we can however misuse it to our harm. Those who eat without repentance or recognizing the presence of Jesus' body and blood sin against the Lord. (1 Cor 11:27-29). Also, when fellowship at this meal is practiced with others who hold beliefs contrary to God's Word, the church is weakened and the truth God tells us to guard is compromised. (Ro 16:17, 2 Thess 3:14) In an effort to avoid these sins and follow God's Word, before communing anyone we first seek to teach them about Christ's meal, and have them make a public profession of their agreement with us in the faith. As a matter of loving spiritual care then, not judgment, we invite to commune with us today confirmed members in good standing of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, or the American Association of Lutheran Churches (AALC) who have received instruction, and by current membership in one of these sister churches confess a unity of faith with us here at St. Paul's.*

NON-ALCOHOLIC COMMUNION WINE: *Out of consideration for those who have difficulty with alcohol a few glasses in the center ring of each Communion tray contain non-alcoholic white wine.*

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN OF THANKS: *(Sung, LW p. 173)*

Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev'ryone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He recalls his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

BENEDICTION

HYMN: #127 "As with Gladness Men of Old" vs. 1-4

ANNOUNCEMENTS + POSTLUDE

PRAISE BAND SCHEDULE FOR MONTH OF JANUARY:

January 23rd and 30th – 10:30 Service

John 1:29-34

"We Are Not Blind Guides!"

29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' 31 I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel." 32 Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. 33 I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34 I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God."

1. Why might John the Baptist have felt like a "blind guide"?
2. Why didn't John stay a "blind guide"?
3. Why should telling someone about Jesus be easy?
4. When does telling someone about Jesus become difficult for us?
5. Where is evidence about Jesus as the Savior NOT to be found?
 - A.
 - B.
6. What is Christian faith based on?
7. What made John the Baptist certain that Jesus really was the Savior of the world?
8. What evidence has God provided to make us sure that Jesus is the true Savior?
9. Where does the Holy Spirit point us when we have doubts about Jesus?