

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Pastor - Rev. Paul Krentz

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Principal - Jeff Boehlke

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LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL:

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2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

JANUARY 2, 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.

WELCOME

HYMN: #132 "O God of God, O Light of Light" vs. 1,3,5

INVOCATION

OPENING PRAYER: *(Spoken together)*

Lord God, You once revealed Your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know Your presence in our lives, and give us an understanding of the great mystery of Your love. As we gather to worship our King, give us hearts that overflow with joy that we may share Your great gift with all the world. In the name of our King, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

EPIPHANY READING: Matthew 2:1-12

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'" 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On

coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

CONFESSION OF SINS: *(Spoken together)*

Lord, had I been one of the Magi, I wonder if I would have followed your guidance and trusted your hand. So often my skepticism breaks down my trust in you, and snuffs out the Light you want shining in my life. Forgive me, restore me, and guide me with your Holy Spirit, that I may see the babe in the manger, know the Christ on the cross, and thus see you in heaven for eternity. I pray this in the name of Jesus, Immanuel, my Savior and Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

- P. The Bible tells us because of Jesus Christ,
- C. WE CAN APPROACH GOD'S THRONE WITH FREEDOM AND CONFIDENCE.
- P. Because Christ was obedient to death on a cross
- C. OUR LACK OF OBEDIENCE IS FORGIVEN.
- P. Because God raised Him up from the dead,
- C. OUR SIN, WHICH MEANS DEATH FOR US, NO LONGER CAN KEEP US IN BONDAGE. WE TOO SHALL BE RAISED UP WITH JESUS TO LIVE IN HEAVEN ETERNALLY.
- P. This is the Lord's glory brought to us in Christ,
- C. WHOSE LIGHT IS FOR NOW AND FOREVER.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(Adapted from Isaiah 60:1-6)*

- P. Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.
- C. SEE, DARKNESS COVERS THE EARTH AND THICK DARKNESS IS OVER THE PEOPLES. BUT THE LORD RISES UPON YOU AND HIS GLORY APPEARS OVER YOU.
- P. Nations will come to your light,
- C. AND KINGS TO THE BRIGHTNESS OF YOUR DAWN.
- P. Lift up your eyes and look about you:
- C. ALL ASSEMBLE AND COME TO YOU...PROCLAIMING THE PRAISE OF THE LORD!

SONG: "We Will Glorify"

("I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever." Psalm 86:12)

1. We will glorify the King of kings, we will glorify the Lamb; We will glorify the Lord of lords, for He is the great I Am.
2. Lord Jehovah reigns in majesty; We will bow before his throne. We will worship him in righteousness; We will worship him alone.

3. He is Lord of heaven, Lord of earth; He is Lord of all who live. He is Lord above the universe; All praise to him we give.
4. Hallelujah to the King of kings; Hallelujah to the Lamb. Hallelujah to the Lord of lords, Who is the great I Am.

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OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

10 I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations. 1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet, till her righteousness shines out like the dawn, her salvation like a blazing torch. 2 The nations will see your righteousness, and all kings your glory; you will be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will bestow. 3 You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's hand, a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 1:1-6,15-18

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. 18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints.

RESPONSE: (*Sung, LW 164*)

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

GOSPEL READING: John 1:14-18

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'" 16 From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth

came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. Who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death, that I may be his own and live under him in his kingdom and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

HYMN: #106 "The People That in Darkness Sat" vs. 1,4,5,7

SERMON: John 1:1-5 "**Do You Understand?**"

(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)

PRAYERS

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SONG: "Spirit of the Living God"

(*"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Cor 3:17*)

1. Spirit of the Living God, we affirm Your presence here, Spirit of the Living God, we affirm Your power here. To heal us, and to deliver us, To fill us and to change us, Spirit of God.
2. Spirit of the Living God, we affirm Your presence here, Spirit of the Living God, we affirm Your power here. To rest on us, and to empower us, To work through us and to reveal in us, Jesus the King.

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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

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.

MISSION AFFIRMATION:

P. The love of Christ compels us to...

C. GO IN HIS NAME, PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS, HEAL THE HURTING, TEACH THE TRUTH. SEND ME, LORD!

BENEDICTION

HYMN: *“Once in Royal David's City” (LW #58)*

1. Once in royal David's city, Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for His bed; Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all, And His shelter was a
stable, And His cradle was a stall; With the poor and mean and low, Lived our Savior long ago.

3. But our eyes in truth should see Him, Through His own redeeming love, For that child so
dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heav'n above, As He leads His children on, To the place where He is gone.

4. Not in that poor lowly stable, With the oxen standing by. Shall we see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high. Then like stars His children, crowned, All in white, His praise will sound.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS + POSTLUDE

PRAISE BAND SCHEDULE FOR MONTH OF JANUARY:

January 9th, 23rd and 30th – 10:30 Service