



7TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 20, 2022

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 West 94th Street, Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453

(708) 423-1040
Pastor John Moeller

www.stpauloaklawn.org
Director of Music Ruth Sievers

As We Gather

The number of Sundays during the season of Epiphany varies depending on when Easter falls—the later Easter is, the more Sundays there are after Epiphany. This year, the Epiphany season includes eight Sundays. The light of Christ burns brightly as Jesus is revealed as the Son of God, and through the Gospel writers we see His power shine among His people. Today we welcome His presence among us also!

Prelude

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

P. Manz

Opening Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

#850

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 God of grace and God of glory,
On Your people pour Your pow’r;
Crown Your ancient Church’s story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow’r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.</p> <p>2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.</p> | <p>3 Cure Your children’s warring madness;
Bend our pride to Your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we miss Your kingdom’s goal,
Lest we miss Your kingdom’s goal.</p> <p>4 Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving You whom we adore,
Serving You whom we adore.</p> |
|---|--|

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878–1969

Text: Public domain

Invocation

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

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

P Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me!

C O LORD, be my helper.

P Send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead me;

C let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling!

P The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn,

C which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 30:10; 43:3; Proverbs 4:18; Isaiah 2:5b

P At our Lord’s invitation and confident of His mercy, let us confess our sins to our gracious heavenly Father.

C Eternal God, we confess that by nature we are sinful people. We are given to sinful thoughts, sinful words, and sinful deeds. We have broken Your law in many ways, by what we have done

and by what we have left undone. We deserve Your punishment, now and for eternity. Gracious Heavenly Father, in Your mercy, forgive our sin and restore us to a full and joyful relationship with You through the merits of our Lord Jesus. Direct our ways by Your Holy Spirit, that we may joyfully follow Your will and gladly obey Your commandments as Your redeemed people, bringing the brightness of Your light to the darkened world.

P God hears our pleas for mercy, and for the sake of Christ, grants us forgiveness. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it.

C Thanks be to God. Amen.

† WORD †

Psalm

Psalm 103:1–13

P Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

C Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits,

P who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

C who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

P who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

C The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

P He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the people of Israel.

C The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

P He will not always chide, nor will He keep His anger forever.

C He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

P For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;

C as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us.

P As a father shows compassion to his children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.

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.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray together...

C O Lord, You taught us to love our enemies and to be merciful as You are merciful. By Your Holy Spirit, grant us the gifts of love and peace without which we cannot live before You; for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

Old Testament Reading ✠ Joseph Provides for His Brothers and Family ✠ *Genesis 45:3-15*

³ Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence. ⁴So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. ¹⁰You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹There I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.' ¹²And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. ¹³You must tell my father of all my honor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." ¹⁴Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept upon his neck. ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them. After that his brothers talked with him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem of Praise Duet

"Brothers and Sisters in Christ"

T. Dittmer

Epistle

✠ The Resurrection Body ✠

1 Corinthians 15:21-26;30-42

²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ³⁰Why am I in danger every hour? ³¹I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day! ³²What do I gain if, humanly speaking, I fought with beasts at Ephesus? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." ³³Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." ³⁴Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. ³⁵But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" ³⁶You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. ³⁷And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ³⁸But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. ³⁹For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. ⁴⁰There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ⁴¹There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. ⁴²So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

✠ Love Your Enemies ✠

Luke 6:27-38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter.

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

²⁷[Jesus said:] “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bles those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. ³²“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount. ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. ³⁷“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

Catechism

P Today we confess our faith using the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed and the words of explanation from Luther's Small Catechism, which tell of the work of the Holy Spirit and the ways in which His work intersects with our lives. In these few words, the Creed encompasses all that is important in our spiritual lives now and forever. We confess:

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Sermon Hymn

“Where Charity and Love Prevail”

#845

1 Where charity and love prevail
There God is ever found;

Brought here together by Christ's love
By love are we thus bound.

2 With grateful joy and holy fear
His charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind and soul
Now love Him in return.

3 Forgive we now each other's faults
As we our faults confess,
And let us love each other well
In Christian holiness.

4 Let strife among us be unknown;
Let all contention cease;
Be God's the glory that we seek;
Be ours His holy peace.

5 Let us recall that in our midst
Dwells Christ, His only Son;
As members of His body joined
We are in Him made one.

*Text: Latin, c. 9th cent.; tr. Omer E. Westendorf,
1916–97, alt. Text: © 1960 World Library Publications.
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Sermon

Prayer of the Church

Offering—*may be left in the offering plates near the doors as you leave. Those worshipping at home may continue to mail or drop off offerings at the church office, and on-line giving is available to everyone on our website at www.stpauloaklawn.org. For information about regular electronic giving, please contact the church office.*

Offertory Meditation

✠ SERVICE of the 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.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary...

Lord's Prayer

C **Our Father who art in heaven...**

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

✠ DISTRIBUTION of the SACRAMENT ✠

Hymn

“Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord”

#637

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
And drink the holy blood for you
outpoured;
Offered was He for greatest and for least,
Himself the victim and Himself the priest. | With heav’nly bread He makes the hungry
whole,
Gives living waters to the thirsting soul. |
| 2 He who His saints in this world rules and
shields,
To all believers life eternal yields; | 3 Come forward then with faithful hearts
sincere,
And take the pledges of salvation here.
O Lord, our hearts with grateful thanks
endow
As in this feast of love You bless us now. |

*Text: Latin, 7th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale,
1818–66, alt.*

Text: Public domain

Hymn

“O Bless the Lord, My Soul”

#814

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 O bless the Lord, my soul!
Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name
Whose favors are divine. | 4 He crowns thy life with love
When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell
Hath sov’ reign pow’r to save. |
| 2 O bless the Lord, my soul,
Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness
And without praises die! | 5 He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff’ers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for th’oppressed. |
| 3 ’Tis He forgives thy sins;
’Tis He relieves thy pain;
’Tis He that heals thy sicknesses
And makes thee young again. | 6 His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His belovèd Son. |

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Text: Public domain

Communion Blessing

- P** The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

Closing Prayer

- P** Let us pray.
Blessed are You, almighty God, for by You we have been fed and nourished with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to treasure the Epiphany of our Lord and see in Him the fullness of Your divine presence. Grant us Your abiding peace each day of our lives as we await Your eternal kingdom. We pray in Jesus’ name,

C Amen.

P The season of Epiphany is the time of growing brightness in the Church as the glory of Jesus is revealed in His words and deeds, leading us to the Mount of Transfiguration. There, as we'll hear next week, the dazzling glory of our Lord was seen by Peter, James and John. That Epiphany glory continues to shine in the Church, where we now experience the kingdom of God until at last, we are with Him in eternity.

P Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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.**

Closing Hymn

"Praise to You and Adoration"

#692

1 Praise to You and adoration,
Blessèd Jesus, Son of God,
Who, to serve Your own creation,
Came to share our flesh and blood.
Guide me that I never may
From Your fold or pastures stray,
But with zeal and joy exceeding
Follow where Your steps are leading.

In my laughter and my weeping
Be with me throughout my life.
Give me greater love for You,
And my faith and hope renew
In Your birth, Your life, and passion,
In Your death and resurrection.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; (st. 1): tr. Kristen Kvamme, 1866–1938, alt.; (st. 2): tr. Christian Worship, 1993

Text: Public domain

2 Hold me ever in Your keeping;
Comfort me in pain and strife.

Postlude

"Holsworthy Church Bells"

S. Wesley



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

Vocalists: Lori Freeze and Susan E. Volk

Lector: David Witkosky

Altar Care: Sue Lilja

Flowers on the Altar are in loving memory of June & Rich Hagberg's 50th Wedding Anniversary on 2/19.

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Acknowledgments

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Announcements & Notes:

- **Collators are needed** to help collate and staple this year's Lenten Devotion Booklets. Talk to Sandy about helping.
- **Our collection** diapers, wipes, or any new or gently used baby items to help the Southside Pregnancy Center ends TODAY! Monetary gifts will also be appreciated—envelopes are available on the table.
- **The next Voters' meeting** is Tues., Feb. 22nd at 7pm in the church. Pastor Gensch will give a brief presentation on Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) and Qualified Charitable Distribution (QLD) to churches or any non-profit.
- **The deadline** for renewing or starting a new subscription to *The Lutheran Witness* is Friday, February 25th. Please call the church office.
- **The Ladies Guild** will host a continental breakfast on Ash Wednesday, Mar. 2nd at 10 am in the Timothy Room before our 11:00 Service. Everyone is invited!
- **Beginning on Ash Wednesday**, evening services will be at 7:00 PM through Lent & Holy Week.
- **Starting the NEXT week after Ash Wednesday, March 9th**, there will be supper served in the gym from 5:30 – 6:30 before each of our Lenten services, assuming we have groups lined up to serve each of those weeks—We still need to cover March 9, March 23, and April 6. Call the office and talk with Sandy about helping with a meal.

Please pray for these members of our St.

Paul family:

Betty Kruckow	Cathy Gleason
Helen Bonder	Dawn McNicholas
Janice Przybycien	Kevin Hickey
Mary Ann Colander	Art Hornburg
Melva Smith	Laverne Abraham
Carol Small	Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski	Beverly Sellers
Lenore Curran	Betty Beegle
Delphine Cherry	Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank	Deb Skopec
Herta Iversen	Loretta Frank
Jane & Freddie Giacobbe	Marge Rochlitz
Ron Hickey	Julie & Larry Gurga
Ingrid Lesko	Katherine Hice
Gloria Meyer	Jan Briede
Delores Stegemann	Connie Braun
Kurt Seehofer	The Polezoes Family
Lincoln & Parker Alex	Patricia Murdoch
Gloria Crook	Lois Kaminske
Janet Varnagis	

We pray for those who grieve

For family and Friends of Kenneth Wiederhold father-in-law of Chelsea Wiederhohld-Volk, called from this life on Feb. 14th.

For the family and friends of Anthony Krecelic Jr, as he is now called home to heaven.

And we give thanks with those who celebrate!

For Doris Cyga who celebrates her 95th birthday today!

Please let the church office know when your need for our congregational prayers is over (708) 423-1040.

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Andrew Mrochen	Vern Howe
Eugene Marcinkowski	Roberta & Carlos Owens
Denise DeLaurentis	Dorothy Kroll
Eric Kessling	Gina Arns
Bob Hessert	Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta	Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow	Janet Trierweiler
Alan Hecke	Kim Lamberth
Matt Favero	Sandra Wilson
Michelle Mitchell	Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi	Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher	The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross	Brenda Gurgel
Gloria Folsom	Autumn Kessling
Shirley Fairchild	Simeon Hoppe
Ron Lunt	Christopher Kosary
Sandy Plath	Iris McCoy
Shirley Demyres	Raquel Rameriz
Nick & Bridget DeAngelo	Henry Bonder
Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.	Kyle Hughes
Elaine Hoffstetter	Fred Raddatz
Allyson Seehofer	Selma Carmichael
Bernadette & Rich Trusk	Dana Kahn
Donald Hakanson	Guillermo Ramirez
Paul Noffke	Sue Sortino
Pam Brown	Lisa Sanders
Shawn Harland	Ann Herold
Barb Potter	Wayne Volk
Charley Heitz	Sharon Bryant
Doris Potts	Brad Benfield
Doreen Holford	Janice Hernandez
Judy Collins	Phyllis Hicks
Maryann Krieg (Wilke)	Katherine Zeleny
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.	Knox Christensen
Cathy Becker	Ken Matz
Jean & Al Zirbel	Heather & Josh Turro
Donna Patri	Skip Sorensen
Joe Thomas	Patrick Pasqua Sr.
Logan Bliss	Debbie Guarascio
Justin & Ashley Fasel	Frank Coglina
Nora Maculitis	Gene Wawrzynikowski
Beckham Klintworth	Sophia Salus
Kimberly Rooney	Barb & Emily Feehan