



*They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles. Isaiah 40:31*

THE 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
FEBRUARY 4, 2024

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

Living in this age when it seems the Church is under attack, we might wish we lived in a time when everyone was looking for Jesus. Whether they know it or not, the world is *still* looking for Jesus – that is, looking for an answer to sin, fear, loneliness, pain, and death. Jesus is that answer, as He made himself known throughout His earthly ministry. For the same reason, we continue to proclaim the unchanging Gospel year in and year out, because it is the only Gospel by which anyone can be saved. May the Lord continue to move us all to share His love!

Prelude Excerpts from J. S. Bach's "Sinfonia" and hymn #825, "Rise, Shine, You People"

Opening Hymn

"Rise, Shine, You People"

#825

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
Our human story; God in Him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
With grace unbounded.</p> <p>2 See how He sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
He brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
Now are forgiven.</p> | <p>3 Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
Your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
Of Jesus' glory.</p> <p>4 Tell how the Father sent His Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
His new creation.</p> |
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Invocation

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

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 13:5; 147:6

P I have trusted in Your steadfast love;

C my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

P The LORD lifts up the humble;

C He casts the wicked to the ground.

Silence for reflection.

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work in you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

† Word †

Introit

Psalms 147:1–11 (antiphon: v. 5)

P Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God;

C **for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

P The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

C **He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.**

P He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

C **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.**

P The LORD lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

C **Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!**

P He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth;
he makes grass grow on the hills.

C **He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.**

P His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,

C **but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

P Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God;

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Merciful Lord, You have granted us a new identity and life in Christ, our Lord. Keep us, we pray, in this faith and life, that we may know with confidence that we belong to You and live secure in this knowledge, both now and forevermore; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whom with You and the Holy Spirit, are one God, one Lord, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

† The Greatness of God †

Isaiah 40:21–31

²¹Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; ²³who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these?

He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Anthem of Praise Solo

“On Eagles’ Wings”

M. Joncas

Epistle

✠ Free and Yet a Servant ✠

1 Corinthians 9:16–27

¹⁶For if I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

¹⁹For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

✠ Jesus Heals Many; Preaches in Galilee ✠

Mark 1:29–39

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁹And immediately [Jesus] left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon’s mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.

³⁶And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." ³⁸And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." ³⁹And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Hymn

"When to Our World the Savior Came"

#551

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|---|--|--|---|
| 1 | When to our world the Savior came
The sick and helpless heard His name,
And in their weakness longed to see
The healing Christ of Galilee. | While lightened eyes could see and know
The healing Christ of long ago. | |
| 2 | That good physician! Night and day
The people thronged about His way;
And wonder ran from soul to soul,
"The touch of Christ has made us
whole!" | 4 | Of long ago: yet living still,
Who died for us on Calv'ry's hill;
Who triumphed over cross and grave,
His healing hands stretched forth to save. |
| 3 | His praises then were heard and sung
By opened ears and loosened tongue, | 5 | His sov'reign purpose still remains
Who rose in pow'r, and lives and reigns;
Till ev'ry tongue confess His praise,
The healing Christ of all our days. |

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Sermon

✠ Confession of Faith ✠

The Second Article

- P** We now confess the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed and Martin Luther's explanation of it, which tells of the redemption that our Lord Jesus Christ has won for us.
- C** **I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**
- P** What does this mean?
- C** **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,**
- P** What has He done for you?
- C** **He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil.**
- P** How has He done this?
- C** **Not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.**
- P** Why did He do that for you?
- C** **That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.**

P What proof do you have?

C Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true!

Prayer of the Church

Announcements

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

A word about the Sacrament of the Altar...

We believe Jesus' own words that the bread and wine we receive in Holy Communion is indeed His true Body and Blood and not just a representation of it. We also acknowledge St. Paul's instruction to the Church at Corinth that it is harmful for anyone to receive the Sacrament without recognizing the real presence of His Body and Blood. Because of this, in Christian love we ask anyone who does not understand these truths to please refrain from receiving the Sacrament until you've spoken with the pastor. (*Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-30*)

✠ The Sacrament of the Altar ✠

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 right and proper...

The Lord's Prayer

P Taught by our Lord, we are bold to pray,

C Our Father who art in heaven...

Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

✠ Distribution of the Sacrament ✠

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”

#620 sts. 1-4

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Jesus comes today with healing,
Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off’ring pardon, grace, and peace.
He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation:
“Come and taste the blessed feast.”</p> <p>2 Christ Himself, the priest presiding,
Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.</p> | <p>3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,
I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv’n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursèd tree.</p> <p>4 God descends with heav’nly power,
Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign.
On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing
That I taste His love divine.</p> |
|---|--|

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“Son of God, Eternal Savior”

#842

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory,
For Your own will ever plead:
Fill us with Your love and pity,
Heal our wrongs, and help our need.</p> <p>2 As You, Lord, have lived for others,
So may we for others live.
Freely have Your gifts been granted;
Freely may Your servants give.
Yours the gold and Yours the silver,
Yours the wealth of land and sea;
We but stewards of Your bounty
Held in solemn trust will be.</p> | <p>3 Come, O Christ, and reign among us,
King of love and Prince of Peace;
Hush the storm of strife and passion,
Bid its cruel discords cease.
By Your patient years of toiling,
By Your silent hours of pain,
Quench our fevered thirst of pleasure,
Stem our selfish greed of gain.</p> <p>4 Son of God, eternal Savior,
Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us
Hallows all our human race:
By Your praying, by Your willing
That Your people should be one,
Grant, O grant our hope’s fruition:
Here on earth Your will be done.</p> |
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“Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy”

#774 (Sung Twice)

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| <p>1 Feed Thy children, God most holy;
Comfort sinners poor and lowly.
O Thou Bread of Life from heaven,
Bless the food Thou here hast given!</p> | <p>As these gifts the body nourish,
May our souls in graces flourish
Till with saints in heav’nly splendor
At Thy feast due thanks we render.</p> |
|---|---|

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Communion Blessing

P The true 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.

Merciful Lord, in Your great love You have brought us from death to life, forgiven all our sins, and made us Your children. Grant us not only the healing of the ills of this life but the perfect healing of everlasting life, which we have tasted already in this blessed Communion. Deliver us from pride and arrogance and build within us a servant's heart, that we may love You above all things and our neighbor as You have loved us; 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.

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

#528 sts. 1-3 & 7

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
My great Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of His grace! | 3 Jesus! The name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life and health and peace. |
| 2 My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad,
The honors of Thy name. | 7 To God all glory, praise, and love
Be now and ever giv'n
By saints below and saints above,
The Church in earth and heav'n. |

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Postlude

“Postlude in G Major”

D. Buxtehude





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & THANKS

Organist: Ruth Sievers

Vocalist: Sue Marcinkowski

Lector: Sunday: Ruth Diver

Altar Care: Sunday: Denise Murray; Wednesday: Sandy Barry

Elders: John Lilja, Curtis Simonson, David Witkosky

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Announcements & Notes:

St. Paul is again partnering with Southside Pregnancy to help support their ministry to families in need by collecting **“All Things Baby”** through Sunday, February 18. There are fliers on the tables in the narthex listing items they need, as well a display and information for you to check out. Any donations can be brought to the church any time and placed there on the tables.

The Soup and Bread Event benefiting Beds Plus is today from 3-7pm at the Holiday Inn Countryside. **Online tickets are sold out**, but tickets are available at the door starting at 4:30.

Adult Choir Members and anyone interested in joining the Choir: Please meet in the Timothy Room at 7pm this Wednesday, February 7 following the Wednesday evening church service, to begin rehearsals for our 2024 season. We will be preparing music for Ash Wednesday, Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter services! For more information, please see Ruth Sievers.

Ash Wednesday is February 14. Please join us for worship at either of two services, at 11am and at 7pm

A FREE Continental Breakfast will be served by the Ladies Guild on Ash Wednesday at 10am in the Timothy Room before the morning service. Everyone is invited for food, fellowship, and inspirational singing! If you are able to help with a food donation for the breakfast, please sign the “Food Donation” sheet that’s on the counter outside the church office.

Our midweek Lenten Suppers begin the following Wednesday, February 21, and will be served from 5:30 – 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall before each Lenten service through March 20. A hymn sing will follow in the church at 6:40pm before the 7pm Lenten service.

Lenten Devotion Booklets will be available for you to pick up beginning next Sunday, February 11. In ‘Lamb of God’, we see Jesus as both human and divine concerned about people’s everyday lives and their eternal welfare. Please take a booklet for your family and share one with a friend.

Our Sunday morning Adult Bible Studies continue in the Timothy room after our worship services, and Thursday Evening Bible time has resumed at 7pm in the Timothy Room. All are invited!

It's time to renew OR START your subscription to The Lutheran Witness! This is a publication of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod written for the lay person with articles about living the Christian life, worldwide missions, ministries of various congregations and encouragement for your personal walk of faith. If you would like to become a subscriber or renew your subscription, please let Sandy know, and make your checks payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church in the amount of \$20.65 before February 28, 2024.

Next Sunday, January 11th, we will return to the communion rail as we receive the Lord’s Supper.

Remembering our homebound friends is a caring ministry of St. Paul meant to help us stay in touch with our members who aren't able to be with us for worship. Please remember them in your prayers. You may also like to send a note or a card. This week our homebound friend is **Charlotte Thies, 14804 S. Van Dyke Road, #2121, Plainfield, IL 60544.**

Please pray for these members of our St. Paul family

Janice Janiszewski
Dawn Schumann
Rev. Daniel Gensch
Dorothy Pavella
Vic & Marty Both
George Oberg
Rich & Jan Przybycien
Rev. Paul and Judy Anderson
Bill Volk
Arthur Gerth
Ingrid Lesko
Jan Briede
Roy Hodgeman
Katherine Hice
Kurt Seehofer
Flora Jones
Graham Jackson
Kevin Hickey
Gloria Meyer
Elaine Lebron
Melva Smith
Delores Stegemann
Carol Small
Mike Degidio
Norma Silinski
Beverly Sellers
Betty Beegle
Warren Miller
Delphine Cherry
Ron Klingensmith
Louis Frank
Betty Kruckow
Herta Iversen
Loretta Frank
George Dodaro, Sr.

Barbara Prendergast
Nancy Bundley
Rosa Richardson
Tammy & Carl Hoppe
Sarah Weber

Please pray for these friends and family of our members:

Roberta & Carlos Owens
Dorothy Kroll
Emily Feehan
LeRoy Bitner
Georgiana Easton
Jackie Plichta
Patricia Paulsen
Ken Kruckow
Janet Trierweiler
Vicki Warren
Rhonda Scott
Michelle Mitchell
Al Silinski
Pam Palhegyi
Carol Milazzo
Rich Huscher
The Lamberth Family
Jerry Gross
Louise Hrynkow
Gloria Folsom
Mary Beth Pasqua
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
Vern Howe
Shawn Harland
Ann Herold
Barb Potter
Wayne Volk
Lance Barrientos
Linda Shuman
Doris Potts
Doreen Holford
Judy Collins
Luke Pajowski
Phyllis Hicks
Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.
Cathy Becker
Ken Matz
Jean & Al Zirbel
Carol Loecherbach
Charley Heitz
Sophia Salus
Justin & Ashley Fasel
Frank Coglina
Gene Wawrzynkowski
Kimberly Rooney

Helena Hoffman
Evelyn & Ron Konieski
Audrey Metes
Richard DeSaga
Ken Went
Margaret Lundgreen
Julie King
Sharon Bryant
Anika Seger
Monica Kato
Herb Kleeman
Debra Kleeman
Sarah Skelton
Barbara Apt
Bob & Gloria Freeman
Carrie Aspan
Lisa Anglin
Devon Apt
Tristan Ferry
LaNell Mauler Koenig
Todd, Sofia & Grace Lynam
Hillary Pittelko
Sue Berg
Carol Jean & Tim McPhillips
Donna Santi
Evelyn & Ron Konieczki
Katherine Zeleny
Elmo Schultz
Jose Urena
Mike Feyerer
Edward Cyga
Jessica Nigrelli
Elaine & Paul Horan
Ted Gross
Avery Kenny

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