

## PREFACE

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death; And by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, Holy (music on screen)**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: Holy, living and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: Carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

**A: Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,  
**A: 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

### Communion Music Video

**"Listen to Our Hearts" by Casting Crowns**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Giver of every gift. Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

## SENT FOR WORK AND WITNESS

### BLESSING

L: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✚ bless you and remain with you always.

**A: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN- "We are Called" ELW 720

### DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

**A: Thanks be to God!**

Licensing information for this Worship Service:

CCLI Copyright License A 2440181 5/31/23 + Streaming Plus License A 211196712 5/31/24 Sundays and Seasons License Sundays and Seasons v.20200325.1254

**Presiding Minister:** Pastor Wayne Shelksohn

**Worship Steward:** Greg Putnam

**Greeters:** Dawn Boitnott and Pat Lund

**Ushers:** Dawn Boitnott and Pat Lund

**Lector:** Nathan Joerndt

**Communion Prep:** Jean Harrison

**Comm. Asst:** Marty & Shelly Heller

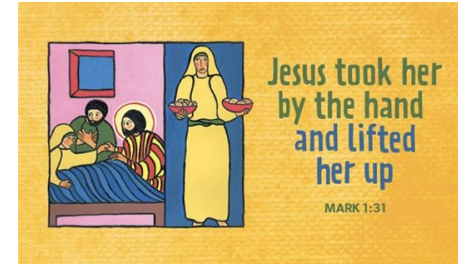
**Hospitality:** Rosemary Sutton and Sandy Erickson

**Musician:** Sandy Erickson

**SS Teacher:** Mary Leach

**Counters:** Jean Harrison and Marty Heller

**Livestream:** Louis Kehinde



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**February 4, 2024**

**Fifth Sunday in Epiphany**

**Introduction:** As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please consider sponsoring the Altar Flowers*

## GATHERING HYMNS

**"Seek Ye First" WOV 783**

**"Bright and Glorious is the Sky" - ELW 301**

## Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, creator of darkness and light, word of truth, wind sweeping over the waters.

**A: Amen.**

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

L: God, our rock and refuge,

**A: we pour out our hearts before you. We have known you but have not always loved you. We have wounded one another and sinned against you. We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit dwelling in each of us. Remember your covenant. Renew your creation. Restore us, that we might proclaim your good news to all. Amen.**

L: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. God has spoken: The time of grace is now. In Jesus, the reign of God has come near. By the authority of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. You are God's beloved.

**A: Amen.**

## GREETING

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**A: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**A: Amen.**

## Children’s Message—*Dismissal to Children’s Chapel*

### HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

#### First Reading- Isaiah 40:21-31

L: A reading from Isaiah

<sup>21</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup>It 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 live in; <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? <sup>28</sup>Have 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. <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary; and the young will fall exhausted; <sup>31</sup>but those 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: Word of God, Word of Life

**A: Thanks be to God**

#### Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

A reading from Psalm

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>**The LORD counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.**

<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and mighty in power; there is no limit to God’s wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>**The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make music upon the harp to our God,

<sup>8</sup>**who covers the heavens with clouds and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.**

<sup>9</sup>God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might of a horse, and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,**

<sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD, in those who await God’s steadfast love.

<sup>20c</sup> **Hallelujah!**

L: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

**A: Thanks be to God**

#### Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians

<sup>16</sup>If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! <sup>17</sup>For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. <sup>18</sup>What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel. <sup>19</sup>For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. <sup>20</sup>To 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 I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. <sup>21</sup>To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law. <sup>22</sup>To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. <sup>23</sup>I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise, as you are able, for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

#### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (music available ELW 171)

**“Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah.**

**“Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah.**

#### Gospel - Mark 1:29-39

L: The Holy Gospel according to Mark

**A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. <sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured 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. <sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” <sup>38</sup>He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

**A: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Pastor Wayne Shelksohn**

#### HYMN OF THE DAY “On Eagles Wings” ELW 787

#### APOSTLE’S CREED

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

**A: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition will end “God of Grace”

and the congregation will respond “**Receive our Prayer**”

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors by turning to the people near you saying, “Peace be with you.”*

#### OFFERING

*Offerings can also be sent by mail or given online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at [stpaulpontiac.org](http://stpaulpontiac.org)*

#### Offering Prayer

L: Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you.

In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table, that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**A: Amen.**

#### MEAL

*All are welcome at Christ’s table. Communion is distributed in front of the altar by intinction. Please dip the wafer into the lighter colored liquid which is grape juice or the darker liquid which is wine. If you prefer not to receive communion you may come forward with your hands crossed over your chest to receive a blessing or you may remain in your seat.*

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**