

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

**Real. Present. God.**

**A Celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week**

**January 26-27, 2019**

**5:00pm & 8:00am**

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### AS WE GATHER

God is real! We live in a skeptical world and a questioning culture filled with doubts and downright disbelief!! Yet, our God is real. He created all things. He knit us together in our mother's womb. He loved us enough to send His only Son, Jesus, into the world to be our Savior. Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. Therefore, our God is present. He is with us in the joyful times. He is with us when we face struggles. He is with us in the darkest most difficult times of life. Indeed, Jesus promises that He is with us always, to the very end. We gather to worship and celebrate this very real, present God and rejoice in the blessings He bestows through Christian education in our schools.

### WELCOME

**MINISTRY MOMENT – The Staff of St. Paul's Lutheran School**

### READING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION

Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!  
For great is his steadfast love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!  
(Psalm 117, ESV)

### HANDSHAKES & HUGS

#### OPENING HYMN # 723 "The Lord is My Light"

**Refrain: The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life.  
Since the Lord is my life, my strength,  
and my all, Whom then shall I fear?**

There is one thing I ask of the Lord; To dwell in His house forever,  
To gaze on the beauty of the Lord All the days of my life. **Refrain**

Do not hide Your face, O Lord; Ev'ry day I will seek Your face.  
Though my father and mother may forsake me, The Lord will receive me.

### Refrain

Teach me, Lord, and keep me on Your paths;

Guide me, Lord, along a level way.

I will gaze on the goodness of the Lord In the land of all the living. **Refrain**

### INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Preserve me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

**People: I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you."**

Pastor: As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones, in whom is all my delight.

**People: The sorrows of those who run after another god shall multiply.**

Pastor: The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

**People: The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.**

Pastor: Therefore my heart is glad, and my whole being rejoices.

**People: You make know to me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy.**

### CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: The path of life calls us to repent of our sins and return again and again to our God, to confess and receive his grace and forgiveness. Therefore, let us confess our sins to God:

**People: Father in heaven, too often we have neglected your Word, seeking guidance and joy from other places. Too often we have ignored all that you have done for us in our lives. We have focused on ourselves instead of you. We have served our selfish desires and all too often failed to serve you and others. Forgive us, gracious Father, and renew us through your Word of life. Help us to see Jesus in our midst and find our joy and life in him.**

Pastor: Jesus is with us as we have gathered in his Name. Jesus brings us the good news of God's mercy and grace, speaking to us through his called servants. Therefore, as your pastor and as a servant of Jesus Christ, it is my joy to proclaim to all of you his forgiving grace. In the stead of Christ and by his command and authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

### **HYMN OF PRAISE "I AM Forever Who I AM" – VonKampen**

*Students: Refrain: I AM forever WHO I AM. Above you, beneath you, around you and within you. Be still and know that I am God.*

*Though mountains slide into the sea, and waters rush where field should be, though monuments and nations fall, Your holy city stands through all. When nothing seems to stay the same, You teach us your eternal name.*

**ALL Refrain: I AM forever WHO I AM. Above you, beneath you, around you and within you. Be still and know that I am God.**

*Each generation looks for truth, and doubt can trouble age or youth. If other gods would take your place, Remember us with love and grace. Reclaim us if we go astray; You are the Truth, the Life, the Way.*

**ALL Refrain: I AM forever WHO I AM. Above you, beneath you, around you and within you. Be still and know that I am God.**

*Some days seem long, though life is brief, and death is waiting like a thief. When vision fades and dreams go dry, we will on unseen things rely. Our stories take up but a page, But yours goes on from age to age.*

**ALL Refrain: I AM forever WHO I AM. Above you, beneath you, around you and within you. Be still and know that I am God.**

### **SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Dear brothers and sisters, the Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon us in our weakness and lift us up through the power of your Word, that our eyes may behold Jesus Christ present in our daily lives, living joyfully in his love and grace day by day; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, "Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

**Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.**

People: Thanks be to God.

### **EPISTLE READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would

be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

**Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.**

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

**Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter**

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

**Luke 4:16-30**

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke well of him and marveled at the gracious words that were coming from his mouth. And they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Physician, heal yourself." What we have heard you did at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'" And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his hometown. But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the heavens were shut up three years and six months, and a great famine came over all the land, and Elijah was sent to none of them but only to Zarephath, in the

land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When they heard these things, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, he went away.

**Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.**

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – The Staff of St. Paul's Lutheran School**

**SERMON HYMN #644 "The Church's One Foundation"**

The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation By water and the Word.  
From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses With every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war  
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore  
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.  
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace  
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

**SERMON "The Joy of Being United in Christ" 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And 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.  
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.

**OFFERINGS** As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

## HYMN #803 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountainhead of love divine:  
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

**Pastor:** The almighty God cares for us, calls us to faith, and has promised to hear our prayers. Therefore, let us pray to Him in full assurance of faith. God of grace, fill our hearts and souls with the gift of divine peace and pardon for our all sins.

**People:** **Grant us to trust in you with all our hearts and with all our minds.**

**Pastor:** Lord of the Church, we pray for your holy people gathered throughout the world. We pray for our mission partners, Pastor Chuck Ferry and Rachel Meyer and all who serve in the Church. Bless the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all people to faith in Christ.

**People:** **Bless each of us with faith to see ourselves as part of the body of Christ, that we would work together to share the faith and build one another up in the faith.**

**Pastor:** Lord of Truth, as we enter into National Lutheran Schools Week, bless our Early Childhood Centers, our Grade schools, our High Schools, our Universities and Seminaries. Grant them to be places of excellent education where also Christian faith and life is formed.

**People:** **Bless St. Paul's leaders, teaching staff, and workers to be good models of Christian life and bless our students to learn and grow in knowledge and faith.**

**Pastor:** King of kings, we pray for this nation, for those elected and appointed to positions of leadership in government, for judges and magistrates, and for the welfare of our cities and communities.

**People:** **Bless our leaders to serve with honesty and integrity. Free them from any corruption and self-serving. Lead them always to work for the common welfare of all.**

**Pastor:** Provider of all we need, we pray for seasonable weather, for the fruitfulness of the earth, for commerce and industry, and for the flourishing of the arts and the cause of beauty.

**People:** **Bless all laborers in their work, guard and protect the armed forces and police who defend us, grant success to medical workers who care for us, and bless all able bodied people with honest work to provide for their needs.**

**Pastor:** Compassionate Lord, we pray for all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, for all those in prison, for the mentally ill, for those struggling with addiction, and for those who live in solitude.

**People:** **Bless, comfort and strengthen all who struggle and fill them with steadfast faith and hope in Christ.**

**Pastor:** Merciful Lord, healer of the afflicted, we pray for the sick, the hospitalized and the dying; and for the grieving, and for all who face difficulties in life, especially for the Rohloff family mourning the death of William; Nancy, Grant, Bill, Fred, Edith, Henry, LuEva, Nancy, Don,

Barbara, Larry, Marge, Dolores, Herb, Dick, Cliff, Cindy, Arlene, Nancy, Shirley, Gladys, Russ, John, Arlene, Jack, Shirley, Jonathan and Sarah.

**People: Grant success to all those who care for them, and grant your people healing, hope, and peace through faith in their Lord.**

Pastor: Lord of life, help each of us to cherish the gift of life, to provide care for our children, and to support and protect the life of the unborn and their mothers. For children in need of adoption or foster care, provide willing people to care for these underprivileged youth.

**People: We rejoice in all your goodness, join with Lenore who gives thanks for all your blessings. We thank you also for the gift of marriage, rejoicing with John and Lois in all the blessings of their 66 years of life together.**

Pastor: God of grace, we cannot thank you enough for the gift of our Savior and the treasure of knowing our sins are forgiven through Christ's cross.

**People: Give us hearts of gratitude that lead to lives of repentance and faith, being renewed day by day through the work of the Spirit. Bless us with true unity of faith that will bear the fruit of righteousness in our lives.**

Pastor: Holy Lord, we thank you for the faithful who have loved and served you throughout their lives and now rest from their labors.

**People: Grant us to follow in your ways and to pray for the day when we shall be together with all the saints in the life of the world to come.**

Pastor: Father in heaven, thank you for hearing our pleas and grant us all things beneficial for life and salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

### CLOSING SENTENCES & BENEDICTION

Pastor: You make known to me the path of life;

**People: in your presence there is fullness of joy!**

*All: At your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

Pastor: Our God is real and our God is present in our daily lives.

**People: Love, joy, and peace are his precious gifts to us.**

Pastor: Let us rejoice daily in Jesus. And now, receive the benediction of our good and gracious God: 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 His peace.

**People: Amen.**

### CLOSING HYMN# 922 "Go, My Children With My Blessing" verses 1, 2 & 4

Go, My children, with My blessing, Never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.

In My love's baptismal river I have made you Mine forever.

Go, My children, with My blessing – You are My own.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.

Here you heard My dear Son's story; Here you touched Him, Saw

His glory.

Go, My children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace.

I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;

I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.

Go, My children; I will keep you And give you peace.

Preacher  
Liturgist  
Lectors  
Acolytes  
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender  
Pastor Noah Kegley  
Staff of St. Paul's Lutheran School  
Emily Yakel, Brooklyn Hoffman  
Michelle Prince