



Witnesses that Show Us Our Savior

**The First Sunday after Epiphany
January 10, 2021**

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL

Order of Service: Worship Bulletin

Prayer Upon Entering Church: O Lord, you were baptized by John in the Jordan River. You weren't baptized because of any sins you had committed. Your baptism revealed that you are the savior of the world. Keep us who have been baptized into your name faithful until you return or call us home to heaven. Amen.

Opening Hymn: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (CW 16)

**1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh;
Come, then, and listen, for he brings
Good news about the King of kings.**

**2. We hail you as our Savior Lord,
Our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.**

Invocation and Confession

Leader: We begin the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen.

Leader: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Group: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.

Leader: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Group: Amen.

Prayer of the Day said by group: Father in heaven, at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Keep us who are baptized into Christ faithful in our calling as your children and make us heirs

with him of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 49:1-6

Listen to me, you coastlands. Pay attention, you faraway peoples! The LORD called me from the womb. When I was inside my mother, he mentioned my name. He made my mouth like a sharpened sword. He hid me in the shadow of his hand. He made me a polished arrow. He concealed me in his quiver. He said to me, “You are my servant Israel, in whom I will display my glory.” But I said to myself, “I have labored in vain. I spent my strength and came up empty, with nothing. Yet a just verdict for me rests with the LORD, and my reward is with my God.”

But now the LORD, who formed me from the womb to be his servant, to turn Jacob back to him, so that Israel might be gathered to him, so that I will be honored in the eyes of the LORD, because my God has been my strength—the LORD said: It is too small a thing that you should just be my servant to raise up only the tribes of Jacob and to restore the ones I have preserved in Israel, so I will appoint you to be a light for the nations, so that my salvation will be known to the end of the earth.

Psalm: Psalm 2 read responsively

Refrain: Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Great are the works of the Lord.

Leader: Why do the nations conspire

Group: and the peoples plot in vain?

Leader: The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord

Group: and against his Anointed One.

Refrain: Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Great are the works of the Lord.

Leader: The One enthroned in heaven laughs;

Group: the Lord scoffs at them.

Leader: Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath saying,

Group: “I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

Leader: I will proclaim the decree of the Lord:

Group: He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father.”

Group: 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.

Refrain: Great are the works of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Great are the works of the Lord.

Second Lesson: Romans 6:1-11

What shall we say then? Shall we keep on sinning so that grace may increase? Absolutely not! We died to sin. How can we go on living in it any longer? Or do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life. For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him, to make our sinful body powerless, so that we would not continue to serve sin. For the person who has died has been declared free from sin. And since we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that since Christ has been raised from the dead, he will never die again. Death no longer has control over him. For the death he died, he died to sin once and for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way also consider yourselves dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you. Alleluia. (Mark 1:11b)

Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:4-11

John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him. They were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair, and he wore a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. He preached, "One more powerful than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals! I baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with you."

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord.

Group: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day: To Jordan's River Came Our Lord (CW 89)

**1. To Jordan's river came our Lord,
The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,
The God from God, the Light from Light,
The Lord of glory, pow'r and might.**

**2. As Jesus in the Jordan stood
And John baptized the Lamb of God,
The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,
"The one I love, who pleases me."**

Sermon: Witnesses that Show Us Our Savior (Mark 1:4-11)

Apostles' Creed: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Offering: We might be separated in our worship, but the Lord still gives us opportunity to gather our gifts for him. If you are uncomfortable placing your offering in the basket in the back of church, please continue to send in your offerings to our PO Box. It is a safe and secure way to continue giving thanks to God in the midst of trial. Our PO Box is: St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 143, Grant Park, IL 60940.

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

Blessing spoken by Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. Amen.

Closing hymn: Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice (CW 377)

**1. Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
With exultation springing,
And, with united heart and voice
And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
How his right arm the vict'ry won.
How dearly it has cost him!**

**3. He spoke to his beloved Son:
"Tis time to have compassion.
Then go, bright Jewel of my crown,
And bring mankind salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free;
Slay bitter death for them that they
May live with you forever."**

**2. But God beheld my wretched state
Before the world's foundation,
And, mindful of his mercies great,
He planned my soul's salvation.
A Father's heart he turned to me,
Sought my redemption fervently;
He gave his dearest treasure.**

**4. "The foe shall shed my precious blood,
Me of my life bereaving.
All this I suffer for your good;
Be steadfast and believing.
Life shall from death the vict'ry win;
My innocence shall bear your sin,
And you are blest forever.**

Announcements

Welcome in Jesus' name to any and all guests and visitors here with us today. It is a joy to be able to worship with you. Help us to remember your visit by signing our guest book. Ask an usher if you need help finding the book. If you would like more information about our church please speak with pastor after church. If you need a hearing device, please speak to a greeter. Please come again!

Weekly Preview next Sunday we will celebrate the Second Sunday after Epiphany. Our lessons will be from 1 Samuel 3:1-10, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 and John 1:43-51. Our sermon will be based on John 1:43-51 with the theme, "Jesus is the Bridge to Heaven."

Hospitalized/Homebound members/members to keep in your prayers: Carol Luft, Marcia Graf, Bob Jacobs, Patty Rosenbrock (Heritage Village), Mira Wieggen, Becky Herz and Gloria Martens.

Bible Class will meet today after church.

Forward in Christ is available in the narthex.

2021 envelopes are being passed out. Please pick yours up after service or seek to make arrangements with the finance committee in order to receive yours.

Christian Worship 2021 Did you know our synod is producing a new hymnal which is set to be published in 2021? It is intended to launch in Advent 2021. That means at the end of this year! We distributed a Christian Worship Preview booklet last year, but it might have gotten lost in the COVID shuffle. Please look at this website: <https://www.christianworship.com/resources> for more information.

Thanks to everyone who helped take the decorations down at church.

Annual meeting St. Paul's annual voter meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24 after church.

This week at St. Paul

Today: Worship 9am
Bible Study after church
Saturday: Worship 6pm
Sunday: Worship 9am
Bible Study after church

Organist: Thank you to Doreen Romadka
Last Week's Attendance: Sunday

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