

**The First Sunday after Epiphany  
January 11, 2026**

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL**

**Theme of the Day:** Identity Revealed: Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One  
“Christ” is not the family name of Jesus. It is a title. The Greek word “Christ” and the Hebrew word “Messiah” both mean the same thing: “The Anointed One.” Anointing was the practice of pouring liquid over the head of someone to signify selection for some special task. When the Lord had someone anointed, he also poured his Spirit over them. It was the fulfillment of promises made over centuries.

**Order of Service:** Service Setting One (CW page 154)

**Prayer upon entering church:** Dearest Jesus, you are our perfect substitute. Your Baptism marks you as our savior and begins God's plan of salvation for us. We thank you for your willingness to be our savior and ensure that we have a future with you in heaven. Amen.

**Opening hymn:** God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It (CW 679)

### **Invocation and Confession**

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives:

**Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.**

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my**

**sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **The Word**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

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 Reading: Isaiah 42:1-7 – The Lord promises to put his Spirit on the Messiah.**

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight. I am placing my Spirit on him.

He will announce a just verdict for the nations. He will not cry out. He will not raise his voice. He will not make his voice heard in the street. A bent reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not snuff out. He will faithfully bring forth a just verdict. He will not burn out, and he will not be broken until he establishes justice on the earth. The coastlands will wait for his law.

This is what the true God says, the Lord who creates the heavens and stretches them out, who spreads out the earth and everything that it produces, who gives breath to the people on it and life to those who walk on it. I am the Lord. I have called you in righteousness. I will hold on to your hand, and I will guard you. I will appoint you to be a covenant for the people, to be a light

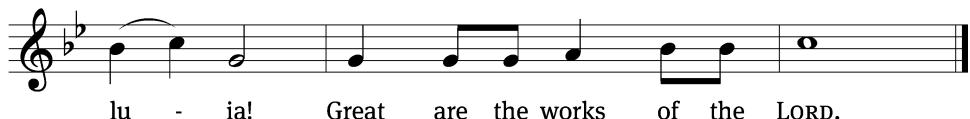
for the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring the prisoners out from the dungeon, and to bring those who sit in darkness out of prison.

**Psalm: Great Are the Works of the LORD (Psalm 45)**

*Refrain*

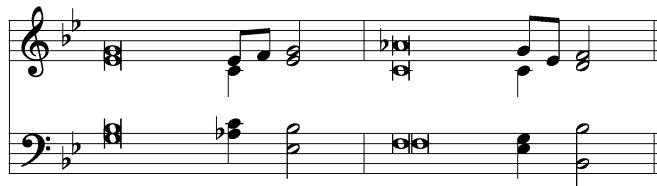


Great are the works of the LORD. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Great are the works of the LORD.

*Tone*



My heart is stirred by a / noble theme  
as I recite my verses / for the king.

You are the most excel- / lent of men  
and your lips have been anoint- / ed with grace.  
Gird your sword on your side, you / mighty one;  
clothe yourself with splendor and / majesty. *Refrain*

Your throne, O God, will last for ever and / ever;  
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your / kingdom.

You love righteousness and hate / wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has set you above your com- / panions.

I will perpetuate your memory through all gener- / ations;  
therefore the nations will praise you for ever and / ever.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

**Second Reading:** Acts 10:34-38 – The Holy Spirit was poured out onto Peter's listeners as he told them how God anointed Jesus.

Then Peter began to speak: "Now I really am beginning to understand that God does not show favoritism, but in every nation, anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. He sent his word to the people of Israel, proclaiming the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

"You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached. God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, because God was with him.

**Gospel Acclamation** *Mark 1:11*

The musical notation consists of three staves. The first staff shows the beginning of the Alleluia chant with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a dotted half note followed by an eighth note. The second staff, labeled 'Refrain', shows the full 'Alleluia' chant with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a melody of eighth and sixteenth notes. The third staff, labeled 'Tone', shows a simple melody with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a melody of eighth and sixteenth notes. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia,' are written under the second staff, and 'You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.' is written under the third staff.

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**Gospel:** Matthew 3:13-17 – In the waters of the Jordan River, Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to be baptized by John at the Jordan. But John tried to stop him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and yet you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, because it is proper for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then John let him. After Jesus was baptized, he immediately went up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens were

opened for him! He saw the Spirit of God, descending like a dove and landing on him, and a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with him.”

The Gospel of our Lord  
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day:** To Jordan's River Came Our Lord (CW 377)

**Sermon:** Follow Wherever the Lord Leads (Ruth 1:1-19a)

**Apostles' Creed** (CW 163)

**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.**

**Prayer of the Church**

**Offering:** We give our gifts to the Lord and sing “The Star Proclaims the King Is Here” (CW 374 vs. 1) in response to our offerings.

**Prayer and Blessing** (CW page 171)

**Closing hymn:** Christ, Your Footprints through the Desert (CW 379)

## **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 week we'll observe the Second Sunday after Epiphany. Our lessons will be from Isaiah 49:1-6, Colossians 2:6-15 and John 1:29-41. Our sermon will be based on Colossians 2:6-15 with the theme, "The Lamb of God."

**Hospitalized/Homebound members/people to keep in your prayers:** Janice Hooton and Elmer Guritz.

**Treats** have a signup in the narthex.

**Church undecorating** thank you to everyone who helped take down the decorations for church on Monday!

**Bible Study** will look at Isaiah 49:1-6 next week.

**Updated Church directories** have been completed. Please take one with you.

**Voters** will meet on Sunday, January 25 after worship.

**Council** will meet on Monday, January 19 at 6pm.

**Forward in Christ** are available in the narthex.

## **This week at St. Paul**

**Today:** Worship 9am

Sunday School after service

Bible Study after service

**Sunday:** Worship with communion 9am

Sunday School after service

Bible Study after service

**Organist:** Thank you to Doreen Romadka

**Last Week's Attendance:** 60

Bible Class 12

Sunday School 7

**St. Paul Evangelical (Gospel Centered) Lutheran Church**

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