

**Christ Beatrice – 8AM**

**St. Paul's Plymouth – 10AM**

**January 21, 2024**

**Epiphany 3**



**Welcome!**

**St. Paul's Lutheran (WELS)**

[www.stpaulsplymouth.org](http://www.stpaulsplymouth.org)

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Plymouth, NE

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**Christ Lutheran (WELS)**

[www.christbeatrice.com](http://www.christbeatrice.com)

223 N 8th St.

Beatrice, NE

402-223-4250

# Welcome

**THANK YOU for joining us for worship today!**

**We pray that your spiritual life will be nourished through Word and Sacrament.**

- † If you do not want to use a paper bulletin this morning, you can access the bulletin on our website – [www.stpaulsplymouth.org](http://www.stpaulsplymouth.org). The entire worship service is printed out so that you do not need to use the hymnal.
- † Offering plates can be found at the entrances. After the sermon, the offering plates will be brought to the altar during the singing of a hymn. This is a reminder that giving offerings for gospel ministry is an act of worship.
- † May the Lord bless the time we spend together around His Word this morning! If you are looking for a church to call home, please contact Pastor Berger ([pastorberger@gmail.com](mailto:pastorberger@gmail.com); call/text 402-239-4509) or Pastor Dauck ([justin.dauck@gmail.com](mailto:justin.dauck@gmail.com); call/text 402-806-9082) or stop by the church office. They would love to serve you with God's Word!
- † If you desire, there is a nursery in the back on the west side of the church, but please know that **your children are ALWAYS welcome** in our service no matter how much noise they make. We're happy to have them hear the Word and join us praising God with their voices!
- † Before you leave, please sign the **guest register**. It is located on the top of the stairs in the church entryway.
- † Please talk to one of the **Elders** (seated in the back of the church) if you have questions about the service or the congregation.
- † **Large print service folders** are available. Please speak to one of the Elders if this would be of assistance to you.
- † **Listening assist devices are available at St. Paul's. Please speak to one of the Elders if you would like one for this morning's service.**
- † Our Sunday morning service can be heard on KWBE 1450AM (94.7FM) and viewed live and archived at [www.stpaulsplymouth.org](http://www.stpaulsplymouth.org). Please share this information with those who are not able to attend.
- † **Prayers before Worship** can be found in *Christian Worship: Hymnal*, pp. 255-258.

## Focus for Our Worship

To whom does the work of salvation belong? Simple answer: Jesus! But this is how good Jesus is. So that our lives might have profound meaning and eternal purpose, he calls us not just to be followers, but to be follower-makers. Jesus asks some— prophets, apostles, pastors, missionaries, teachers—to do this full time. But ultimately Jesus asks all believers to serve as his ambassadors, sharing the gospel with whomever he brings into our sphere of influence. This lofty charge requires commitment—a willingness to abandon everything else should faithfulness require it. This is the life-changing revelation (“aha moment!”) for this week in the Epiphany season.

## Order of Service

### INVOCATION

*We begin our worship by recalling our baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son  $\oplus$  and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Christ Begins

CW 385

*Christ continues to carry out his office of prophet by sending us to serve as his ambassadors.*



1 We stand and we watch on the bank, wide-eyed.  
2 Mar - y's whis - per - ing, but it's not the time.  
3 See the sun out - shined on the hill and hide.  
4 We stand, gath - ered round on the moun - tain - side.



Wa - ter runs and all heav - en  
Yet six jars are filled with the  
Clothes like light - ning white, heav - en  
Watch the clos - ing clouds hide him



o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.  
fin - est wine. Tell me, who is this by our side?  
o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.  
from our eyes; with a voice u - nit - ed we cry:

#### Refrain



Here's my Proph - et, my Priest, my King, a



light in the dark, Christ steps in; here's my Sav - ior, my



God, my King, the time has come, Christ be - gins.

## CONFESSION OF SINS AND HOLY ABSOLUTION

- P** Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.  
**C** Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

**P** Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**All** Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,  
and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,  
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

*A moment of silence as we think about our sins and anticipate the joyous message of forgiveness through Jesus!*

- P** Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

**C** Amen.

- P** In the joy of the forgiveness of sins, new life, and salvation that is ours through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, let us praise the Lord!

## SONG OF PRAISE

*Refrain*

Come, O come, let us sing to the Lord,  
let us shout with joy to our saving Rock;

come, en - ter in with our songs of praise,

come, en - ter in with thanks - giv - ing.

1 You are a great and a won - drous God,  
2 Come, let us wor - ship and, bow - ing low,

cup - ping in your hands all the depths of earth.  
kneel be - fore the One who has made us all.

You made the hills and the moun - tains high,  
You are the God whom we call our own,

*Refrain*

you made the seas and the dry land.  
we are the flock that you shep - herd.

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we too may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Please Be Seated*

# THE WORD

## A READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Jonah 3:1-10

*The reluctant Jonah had been given the lofty charge of proclaiming a message from the LORD to the people of Nineveh.*

Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: <sup>2</sup>“Get up. Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to it the message that I tell you.”

<sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh just as the word of the LORD had commanded. Now Nineveh was a great city to God. It required a three-day walk. <sup>4</sup>Jonah walked through the city for a day, and he called out, “Forty more days and Nineveh is going to be overthrown!”

<sup>5</sup>The men of Nineveh believed God. They proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least. <sup>6</sup>When word reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup>Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh.

By the decree of the king and his leading officials:

Do not let people or animals, herds or flocks, taste anything. Do not let them eat food or drink water. <sup>8</sup>Instead, let people and animals be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call fervently to God. Let them turn from their evil way and from the violence that is in their hands. <sup>9</sup>Who knows? God may turn and relent. He may turn from his burning anger so that we will not perish.

<sup>10</sup>When God saw their actions, that they had turned from their evil way, God relented from the disaster which he said he would bring on them, and he did not carry it out.

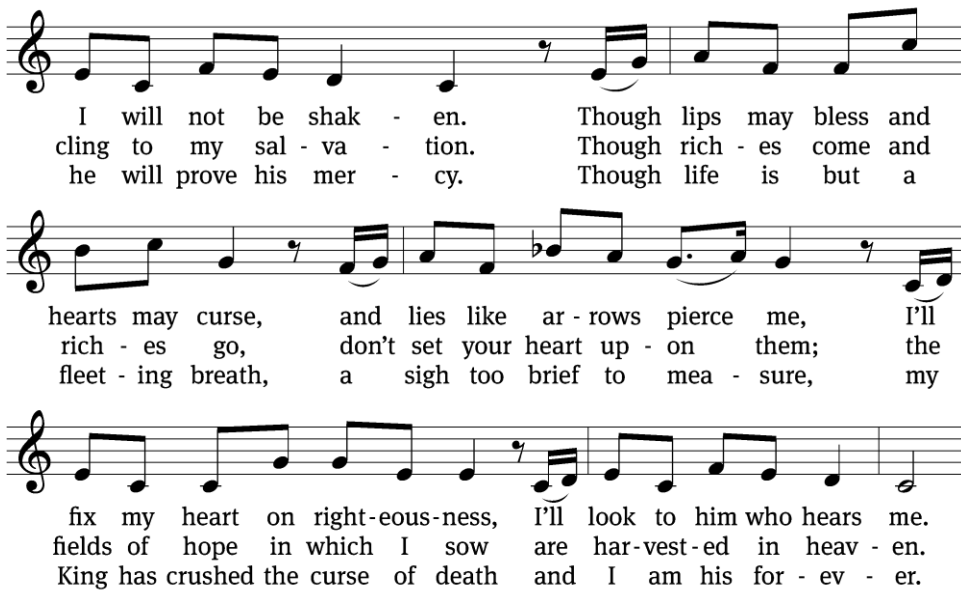
**P** The Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God!

## PSALM OF THE DAY

*Psalm 62C (CW 818)*

1 My soul finds rest in God a-lone, my rock and my sal-  
2 Find rest, my soul, in God a-lone a-mid the world's temp-  
3 I'll set my gaze on God a-lone and trust in him com-  
va-tion; a for-tress strong a-against my foes, and  
ta-tions; when e-vil seeks to take a hold I'll  
plete-ly; with ev-'ry day pour out my soul and



I will not be shak - en.      Though lips may bless and  
 cling to my sal - va - tion.      Though rich - es come and  
 he will prove his mer - cy.      Though life is but a

hearts may curse,      and lies like ar - rows pierce me,      I'll  
 rich - es go,      don't set your heart up - on them;      the  
 fleet - ing breath,      a sigh too brief to mea - sure,      my

fix my heart on right-eous-ness,      I'll look to him who hears me.  
 fields of hope in which I sow are har-vest-ed in heav - en.  
 King has crushed the curse of death and I am his for - ev - er.

#### Refrain



O praise him, hal-le - lu - jah, my de - light and my re - ward;

ev - er - last - ing, nev - er fail - ing, my Re - deem - er, my God.

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## A READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

### *Sermon Text*

<sup>14</sup>For the love of Christ compels us, because we came to this conclusion: One died for all; therefore, all died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again.

<sup>16</sup>As a result, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we knew Christ according to the flesh, we no longer know him that way. <sup>17</sup>So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come! <sup>18</sup>And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. <sup>19</sup>That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be

reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

**P** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

### VERSE OF THE DAY

1 Peter 3:15b-16a

**P** Alleluia. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that is in you. <sup>16</sup>But speak with gentleness and respect. Alleluia!



*Please Stand*

**A READING FROM ONE OF THE FOUR GOSPELS (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John)** Mark 1:14-20  
*When Jesus gave Simon and Andrew the lofty charge of fishing for people, they left everything else behind.*

<sup>14</sup>After John was put in prison, Jesus went to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. <sup>15</sup>"The time is fulfilled," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near! Repent, and believe in the gospel."

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus was going along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea, since they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to them, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." <sup>18</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>Going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately Jesus called them. They left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to you, O Christ!

*Please Be Seated*



# Across the Lands

CW 549

(10AM - The soloist will sing the first stanza; the congregation is asked to join in singing stanzas 2-3.)

*The Epiphany truth – God's cry of love rings out across the lands!*



1 You're the Word of God the Fa - ther from be - fore the  
2 Yet you left the gaze of an - gels, came to seek and  
3 With a shout you rose vic - to - rious, wrest-ling vic - t'ry



world be - gan. Ev-'ry star and ev - 'ry plan-et has been  
save the lost, and ex-changed the joy of heav-en for the  
from the grave, and as - cend - ed in - to heav-en, lead-ing



fash - ioned by your hand. All cre - a - tion holds to -  
an - guish of a cross. With a prayer you fed the  
cap - tives in your way. Now you stand be - fore the



geth-er by the pow - er of your voice. Let the skies de -  
hun-gry, with a word you calmed the sea, yet how si - lent-  
Fa-ther, in-ter - ced - ing for your own; from each tribe and



clare your glo - ry, let the land and seas re - joice!  
ly you suf - fered that the guilt - y may go free!  
tongue and na - tion you are lead - ing sin - ners home!

## Refrain



You're the au - thor of cre - a - tion, you're the Lord of ev - 'ry



man, and your cry of love rings out a-cross the lands.

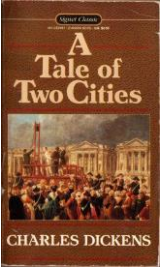


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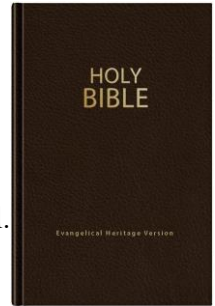


<sup>14</sup>For the \_\_\_\_\_ compels us,

because we came to this conclusion: One died for all; therefore, all died. <sup>15</sup>And he died for all,



A fictional story of one dying for one.



A nonfictional account of one dying for all.

so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again.

For Paul and for you:

Christ's love is \_\_\_\_\_ because it's eternally \_\_\_\_\_!

<sup>17</sup>So then, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come!

According to this verse, what's your identity? How do you view yourself?

I am \_\_\_\_\_.

How do you view others?



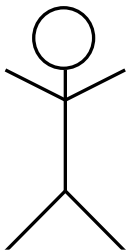
**<sup>16</sup>As a result, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. (We now view people differently than the world views them...they are dear \_\_\_\_\_.) Even though we knew Christ according to the flesh, we no longer know him that way.**

**<sup>18</sup>And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. <sup>19</sup>That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, inasmuch as God is making an appeal through us. We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.**

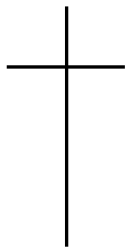
*Jesus died as the substitute for all people (verse 15). When he died on the cross, as true God and true man in one person, he was reconciling the whole world. The phrase not counting is an appositive to the previous phrase reconciling the whole world. It explains that reconciling the world means forgiving their sins. Christ paid for all the sins of all the people, and the Father accepted that payment. This teaching is called world reconciliation, universal justification, general justification, or objective justification. Believers receive the benefits of this reconciliation/justification by faith in Christ. Unbelievers reject Jesus as their Savior, and as a result forfeit the blessings that Christ won for them. To be reconciled to God here means to believe in Jesus as Savior and to receive by faith what Jesus has won. It means enjoying the peace which God created for us. Paul is not teaching universalism (the false teaching that everyone will go to heaven). Only believers in Jesus receive eternal life.*



**<sup>21</sup>God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.**



**God's Great Exchange**



*Please Stand*

## APOSTLES' CREED

**All** 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.

*Please Be Seated*

*The offering is brought forward during the hymn*

## We Give Thee but Thine Own

CW 750



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, abr.

Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

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## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### LORD'S PRAYER

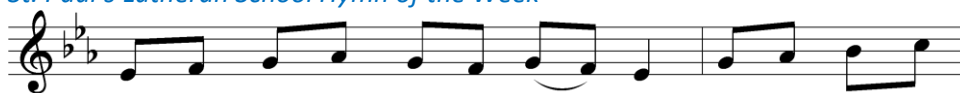
**All** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.

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.

## Of the Father's Love Begotten

CW 358

*St. Paul's Lutheran School Hymn of the Week*



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers and sa - ges sang of old with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him, an - gel hosts his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing, pow'rs, do - min - ions bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he,  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race,  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word.  
 and ex - tol our God and King.  
 and un - end - ing prais - es be,



of the things that are, that have been,  
and the babe, the world's Re - deem - er,  
Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - ed;  
Let no tongue on earth be si - lent,  
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion



and that fu - ture years shall see ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
first re - vealed his sa - cred face ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
let cre - a - tion praise its Lord ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

*Please Stand*

#### PRAYER FOR GRACE

**P** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, you have brought us safely to this new day. Defend us with your mighty power, and grant that this day we neither fall into sin nor run into any kind of danger; and in all we do, direct us to what is right in your sight, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

#### PRAYER RESPONSE

**P** Let us praise the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God!

#### BLESSING

**P** 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.

**P** And all God's people say:

**All** Amen! Amen!! Amen!!!

*Please Be Seated*

# May the Peace of God

CW 929

*What a privilege God gives us to declare the name of the Lamb once slain – Christ eternal, the King of kings!*

1 May the peace of God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther,  
2 May this peace which pass - es un - der - stand - ing,  
and the grace of Christ the ris - en Son,  
and this grace which makes us what we are,  
and the fel - low - ship of God the Spir - it  
and this fel - low - ship of his com - mun - ion  
keep our hearts and minds with - in his love.  
make us one in spir - it and in heart.

*Refrain*  
And to him be praise for his glo - rious reign  
from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.  
We de - clare the name of the Lamb once slain—  
Christ e - ter - nal, the King of kings.

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