



## *Life Sunday 2023*

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

Sunday, January 29, 2023

*Welcome to*

### **SAINT PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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"In Nomine Iesu"

**Welcome!** Whether you are a long time member or visiting us for the first time, you are a gift of God to us. **Members and Guests**, please take a moment to let us know you are here by filling out the registration card found in the pew rack.

As Christians, we view every life as blessed and valuable, no matter their size, location, or ability. Churches all over the nation use the month of January to celebrate God's gift of life, commemorate the lives lost to abortion, and commit to protecting human life at every stage, from birth to natural death.

Because the issue of life is an issue on everyone's mind, lips, and social media, we spend this day reminding ourselves of the truth of God's Word, that you, and all people, are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:13-16), that you, and all people, have value and purpose (Ephesians 2:10), and that you, and all people, are blessed to be the children of God (1 John 3:1-2).

**A life quote from Michelle Bauman, Y4Life •**

[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org) "Our true identity turns us back toward our Creator, the one who not only made us but also defines us in His Word. So, permit me to remind you of that truth once more: You are a created child of God. You are handmade by Him, loved by Him, redeemed by Him, and sustained by Him. The gifts you possess are gifts He's given you; all that is good comes from Him. Your identity and your value are, always were, and always will be, found in Him."

In the celebration of Holy Communion we joyfully receive the true body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. Since this is also a sign of our common confession of faith, we welcome to the Lord's Supper all those who are presently confirmed members of congregations of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. If you wish to commune for the first time at St. Paul's, please speak to Pastor before the service.

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship ~ Ringing of the Bells**

**The Order of Worship**

Lutheran Service Book – Divine Service Setting Five

## Hymn of Invocation *“Blessed Jesus At Your Word”* LSB #904

### Invocation *(please stand)*

P In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

### Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart  
and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching  
Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us  
forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,  
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

### Confession of Sins

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by  
nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned  
against You in thought, word, and deed, by what  
we have done and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved You with our whole heart; we  
have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We  
justly deserve Your present and eternal  
punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus  
Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us,  
and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will  
and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy  
name. Amen.**

### Declaration of Grace

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to  
die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins.  
To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power  
to become the children of God and bestows on them the  
Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good

work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord  
Jesus Christ.

**C Amen.**

### **Service of the Word**

**Introit**

*Ps. 1:1-5; antiphon: Ps. 1:6*

**P For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,**

**C but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**P Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the  
wicked,**

**C nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;**

**P but his delight is in the law of the LORD,**

**C and on his law he meditates day and night.**

**P He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields  
its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither.**

**C In all that he does, he prospers.**

**P The wicked are not so,**

**C but are like chaff that the wind drives away.**

**P Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,**

**C nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.**

**All 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.**

**P For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,**

**C but the way of the wicked will perish.**

**Salutation**

**P The Lord be with you.**

**C And also with you.**

**Collect of the Day**

**P Let us pray.**

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**All Amen.**

*(be seated)*

**Choir Anthem** "*May the Light of God Go With You*"

Words and Music by Nancy Price and Don Besig.

**Old Testament Reading**

*Genesis 1:26-31*

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

<sup>29</sup> And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. <sup>30</sup> And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. <sup>31</sup> And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle

*Ephesians 1:3-10*

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, <sup>8</sup> which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel (*please stand*)

*Matthew 5:1-12*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup> And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### **Nicene Creed**

**All** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*(be seated)*

## Children's Message

Hymn of the Day “*Jesus Sat with His Disciples*” LSB #932

## Sermon

## Presentation of the Offering & Musical Offering

## Prayers of the Church

(After each portion of the prayers)

P Lord, in your mercy, **C Hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs:

P Lord God, heavenly Father, receive our thanks for the saints whom You preserved in righteousness and delivered to glory. Purify our hearts by Your grace and strengthen us against temptation, that we would look joyfully to the day when we will see You in Your glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

## Service of the Sacrament

### **Preface** (*please stand*)

P The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

**C We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord our



God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Grant us Your Spirit, gracious Father, that we may give heed to the testament of Your Son in true faith and, above all, firmly take to heart the words with which Christ gives to us His body and blood for our forgiveness. By Your grace, lead us to remember and give thanks for the boundless love which He manifested to us when, by pouring out His precious blood, He saved us from Your righteous wrath and from sin, death, and hell. Grant that we may receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a gift, guarantee, and pledge of His salvation. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### **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.

**P** In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, at His command, and with His own words, we receive His testament:

### **The Words of Our Lord**

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My (+) body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My (+) blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

### Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;  
 heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,  
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He,  
 bless - ed is He, bless - ed is He that com - eth in the name of the Lord  
 Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

### Agnus Dei

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a - way the sin of the  
 world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that  
 tak - est a - way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

**Distribution** *(be seated)*

All members of our St. Paul’s family are invited to meet the Lord in this Sacrament. When at the table, please indicate your preference of common or individual cup. *Children are welcome to remain standing to receive a blessing from the pastor.*

The CENTER RING of the individual communion cup tray contains *white* grape juice. The OUTER RINGS contain *red* wine. Gluten free wafers are also available from a communion assistant.

**Distribution Hymns**

- |                                      |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| “Your Table I Approach”              | LSB #628 |
| “Lord of Glory, You Have Brought Us” | LSB #851 |

**Post-Communion Collect** *(please stand)*

- P** O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

**Benedicamus**

- P** Let us bless the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Benediction

P 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 peace.

C Amen.

**Sending Hymn** “*Sent Forth By God’s Blessing*” LSB #643

## Silent Prayer

*(be seated)*

## Postlude

“Soli Deo Gloria”

Acknowledgments Divine Service, Setting Five from Lutheran Service Book Unless otherwise indicated, all scripture quotations are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version*, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Streaming license through CCLI, Stream License number: 20193242 Copyright License number: 1259603

