

Worship Notes for Visitors & Members

Welcome to worship - Welcome to all, and especially to our visitors, we are glad you are here today, and hope that you will worship with us again soon and often. Please fill out an attendance card and place it in the offering plate. These will aid our record-keeping. Thank you. Large print bulletins are available from an usher in the narthex. *"It is good to worship the Lord together, and to come into his presence with thanksgiving." Psalm 95*

Welcome children - Jesus said "Let the children come to me." Children are welcome and encouraged to worship here at St. Paul. We rejoice that they are among us; however, if you need it, our nursery is available at all services and you can hear the service on audio. An usher will guide you.

St. Paul welcomes all to the Communion Table. Christ is the Host and the Meal. Come, taste, and see that the Lord is good. Grape juice is available for those who prefer it rather than wine. Children and those choosing not to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

There are **restrooms** located in the basement of this building and on the ground floor of the hallway leading to our fellowship hall and on each floor of the educational building.

PARTICIPANTS

MINISTERS

PASTOR

VICAR

ORGANIST

CHOIR DIRECTOR

ASSISTING MINISTER

LECTOR

USHERS & GREETERS

ACOLYTE

ALTAR CARE

The People of God
Rev. John Shipman
Troy Spencer
Marvis McNeil
Marty Cantleberry
Alayna Krey
Vicar Troy Spencer
Kathy Burton, Nancy St. Onge
Barb Szczesniak, Jeff Ciupka
Saibree Helzer

Sue Moggie, Jessica O'Neil, and Karen Wekwert

We thank all participants for enriching our worship service.

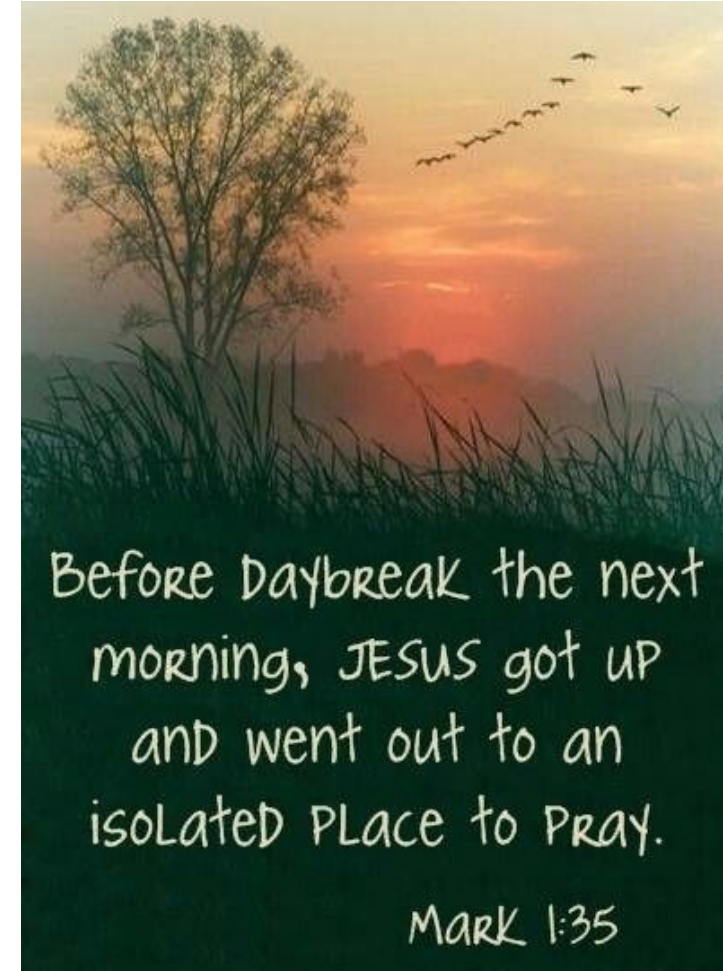
**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Worship Service**

celebrates and shares God's love and compassion

727 S. 2nd, Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989-356-1658 and Fax 989-356-3206

www.stpaul.org



February 7, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD
The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 7, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.

(Congregational responses are printed in bold.)

Welcome! Please remain seated throughout the service and the offering will be received at the back and front of the church building.

CALL TO WORSHIP

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin— our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

“Christ, Be Our Light”

St. Paul’s Eucharistic Ministry: We have trained Eucharistic Ministers who will take communion kits to shut-ins on a regular basis. Questions? Contact Bernie at 595-6835.

Pastor John is planning on having a Women’s retreat February 26th. There is no cost to participants. This will be an opportunity to grow, laugh, weep, and celebrate relationships. This is an overnight event so we need to know the number of people who plan to attend. Please contact the office if you plan to attend.

Lent is a solemn religious observance in the Christian liturgical calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter Sunday. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, repentance, and giving up or taking on a project that will remind you of God in your life. During the time of Epiphany, **I ask that 40 people take time to write a paragraph about their faith journey** during this past year/ COVID 19 situation. Please write how God has blessed you. Please e-mail these paragraphs/faith statements to the vicar by February 10th, so he can include them in a Lenten Devotional.

Please join us for our Lenten Worship Services. They will begin on Ash Wednesday (February 17th) at 12:00 p.m. and we will continue each Wednesday through March 24th.

We are looking for a few volunteers to undecorate the church. If you would like to help please let Pastor John know or call the church office, 356-1658.

Pastor John and Vicar Troy planned some adult education opportunities to inspire your faith walk throughout the coming school year. The next Bible study and book study will run February 15 – March 26. The class length will be 1 hour. Pastor John’s class (Book Study – The Wounded Healer by Henri Nouwen) will meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM and Vicar Troy’s class (Bible study on Isaiah) will meet on Mondays at 4:00 PM. Please call the office (356-1658) so we know how to plan/books to order. Sign up for one or both of these opportunities to grow in faith.

Stephen Ministry is moving forward as we reactivate this ministry. We are looking for candidates for Stephen Leaders, men and women, who will help lead, train, and coordinate Stephen Ministry. If you feel this calling and/or would like more information, contact Iris at 354-2553 or Judy at 595-2247.

St. Paul Lutheran Church celebrates and shares God's love and compassion.

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS: Dorothy Jury, Mabel Townsend, Dennis Dzieszinski, Doris Peterson, Lyla Wyman, Marian Dove, Dolores Sumerix, Sutton Badder, Edna Byce, Amy Waite, Charlie Busuttil, Eleanor Schellie, Kenneth Sylvester, Geri Hanson, Jeff & Kendra Truman, Barb Crittenden, Megan Schleben, Ron Kelsey, Audrey Reck, Barb Skaluba, Randy Donakowski, Tim Grossman, John David Maleport, Deb Lange, Bernice Menck, Annette Jones, and Karen Wallace.

ARMED SERVICES: Michael Emington, Dominick Christou, Sawyer Hein, Rachael Mayes, Brandon Sloan, Lauren Hoeksema, Alexander Gould, Andrew Hein, Mandy Killingbeck, Abigail Miller, Jacqueline Crimmins, Ashley (Dingman) Grant, Charles Tudor, and Justin A. Smith.

We remember our prayer partners in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod:

* St. Paul Lutheran Church, Au Gres, Rev. Max Miller

This week we join in prayer with the other LARCC parishes (Grace Lutheran, Trinity Episcopal, First Congregational UCC, All Saints Parish) for the Faith Formation Program at All Saints Parish.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL are given in honor of Bodo and Geri Hanson on their 69th Wedding Anniversary, February 2.


Worship begins again in our building today. Please wear a mask and remember that social distancing is in place. If you don't have a mask, we will provide one at the door. Be open to directions for your safety and the safety of others. Please no hand shaking or hugs and when communicating with others please remain at a safe distance. When sitting please listen to the usher's directions. Services will be different due to social distancing so please have an open mind/heart and rejoice that we are worshipping again.

Next weekend, worship on the 13th of February at 5:30 PM & 14th of February at 9:00, with the same directions as above.


Worship on February 20th at 5:30 PM & February 21st at 9:00 & 10:30, with the same directions as above.

Please Note: The Fellowship hours and Children's church are suspended for now.


Random Acts of Caring/Kindness Ministry (RACK M): Donna Kensa is leading this new ministry adventure that began in December. RACK M is planning on visiting people in the community who are in need. We will provide some service, baked goods, cards and various other items to inspire faith, hope and love. Please contact Donna if you would like to take help in this ministry or if you need some help.



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants




your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

GREETING

Pastor: The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³ who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (Read Responsively)

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834–1911

Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849–1936

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

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Send us with your prom - is - es, O God,
and lead us forth in joy with shouts
of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Christ Jesus, at this table we have feasted on your very life and are strengthened for our journey. Send us forth from this banquet nourished in body and in spirit to proclaim your good news and serve others in your name. **Amen.**

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“I Love to Tell the Story”



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best
of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst-ing to hear it like the rest.

He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.
His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Praise the Lord!

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶ If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law) so that I might win those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
 - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
 lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of Our Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

“Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise”

Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
 one what God has done. Let all who seek the
 Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise . . . *(concluding)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

C C/G Asus Am F G F/C C

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My
San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi

F G C Am F G⁷ C

heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.
cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to_e - res Se - ñor.

EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:

**People: 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Christ is both the host and the meal. Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. Those not receiving Communion are invited forward for a blessing. There is grape juice for those who prefer it.

"Lamb of God"

SERMON

“”

Pastor John Shipman

HYMN OF THE DAY

“On Eagle’s Wings”

Leader or All

1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,
 say to the Lord: “My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!”

Refrain
 All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,
 make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All

2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no
 fear; un-der God’s wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.

Leader or All

3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by
 day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

Leader or All
3

4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to

guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Final refrain
All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957
 Music: ON EAGLE'S WINGS, Michael Joncas
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Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Universal**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

**OFFERING IS BEING RECEIVED IN THE BACK & THE FRONT OF THE
CHURCH BUILDING**

OFFERING PRAYER
Let us pray. O God, receive these gifts as you receive us: like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide. Nourish us anew in your tender care, and empower us in faithful service to tend to others with this same love, through Jesus Christ, our saving grace. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.