

Then you shall see  
and be radiant,  
your heart shall  
thrill and exult...

Isaiah 60:5, ESV



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**St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

2100 16<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Austin, MN 55912

Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School and Bible Class: 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Theodore W. Barthels

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**Worship Services streamed on YouTube Channel: St. Paul CLC Austin.**

*Affiliated with*  
**CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION**  
[stpaulclcaustin.wordpress.com](http://stpaulclcaustin.wordpress.com)  
[www.CLClutheran.org](http://www.CLClutheran.org)  
[www.ilc.edu/home.htm](http://www.ilc.edu/home.htm)

PRESERVICE PRAYER: Heavenly Father as we once again celebrate Your Son's incarnation and birth, lead us to find our comfort and joy in knowing that Jesus was born to be **our** Savior. Help us remember always that it was His sacrifice upon the cross that purchased our peace. May Your Spirit bless our hearing of the Christmas gospel and increase our faith, that we may grow in grace and in the assurance of everlasting life that is ours in Christ Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem. Amen.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE: (p. 22 Worship Supplement 2000)

HYMN 129: Hail, Thou Source of Ev'ry Blessing

1 Hail, Thou Source of ev'ry blessing, Sov'reign Father of mankind!  
Gentiles now, Thy grace possessing, In Thy courts admission find.  
Grateful now we fall before Thee, In Thy Church obtain a place,  
Now by faith behold Thy glory, Praise Thy truth, adore Thy grace.

2 Once far off, but now invited, We approach Thy sacred throne;  
In Thy covenant united, Reconciled, redeemed, made one.  
Now revealed to Eastern sages, See the Star of Mercy shine,  
Myst'ry hid in former ages, Myst'ry great of love divine.

3 Hail, Thou all-inviting Savior! Gentiles now their offerings bring;  
In Thy temples seek Thy favor, Jesus Christ, our Lord and King.  
May we, body, soul, and spirit, Live devoted to Thy praise,  
Glorious realms of bliss inherit, Grateful anthems ever raise!

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: God is light and Him is no darkness at all.

**C: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C: If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**

P: Together let us pray:

**C: Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.**

P: Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven! With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C: 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: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

#### COLLECT FOR THE DAY

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; For your light has come!

And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth,

And deep darkness the people;

But the LORD will arise over you,

And His glory will be seen upon you.

<sup>3</sup>The Gentiles shall come to your light,

And kings to the brightness of your rising.

<sup>4</sup>"Lift up your eyes all around, and see:

They all gather together, they come to you;

Your sons shall come from afar,

And your daughters shall be nursed at *your* side.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and become radiant,

And your heart shall swell with joy;

Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,

The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>The multitude of camels shall cover your *land*,

The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;

All those from Sheba shall come;

They shall bring gold and incense,

And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD.

(NKJV)

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup> So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also.”

<sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

<sup>12</sup> Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way. (NKJV)

THE APOSTLES CREED (The Lutheran Hymnal p. 12)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**HYMN 127:** As with Gladness Men of Old

1 As with gladness men of old Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beaming bright,  
So, most glorious Lord, may we Evermore be led by Thee!

2 As with joyful steps they sped Savior, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before Him whom heav'n and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet Ever seek Thy mercy seat!

3 As they offered gifts most rare At Thy cradle, rude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy, Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King!

4 Holy Jesus, every day Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

5 In the heavenly country bright, Need they no created light;  
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown, Thou its Sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing Alleluias to our King!

**THE SERMON:** Ephesians 3:2-12

Theme: Revealing the Mystery of Christ Regarding All the World

- I. The Mystery Regarding the Unsearchable Riches of Christ
- II. The Dispensing of God's Grace
- III. The Ministry of the Church

**SERMON TEXT:** Ephesians 3:2-12

“If indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, <sup>4</sup>by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), <sup>5</sup>which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: <sup>6</sup>that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, <sup>7</sup>of which I became a minister

according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

<sup>8</sup>To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; <sup>10</sup>to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, <sup>11</sup>according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him. (NKJV)

### PRAYER; THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### HYMN 130:1-2,5-6:

1 O Jesus, King of Glory, Both David's God and Son!  
Thy realm endures forever, In heav'n is fixed Thy throne.  
Help that in earth's dominions Thro'out from pole to pole,  
Thy realm may spread salvation To each benighted soul.

2 The Eastern sages, bringing Their tribute gifts to Thee,  
Bear witness to Thy kingdom And humbly bow the knee.  
To Thee the star is pointing, And the prophetic Word;  
Hence joyously we hail Thee: Our Savior and our Lord!

5 Ah, look on me with pity Though I am weak and poor;  
Admit me to Thy kingdom To dwell there, blest and sure.  
I pray Thee, guide and keep me Safe from my bitter foes,  
From sin and death and Satan; Free me from all my woes.

6 And bid Thy Word within me Shine as the fairest star;  
Keep sin and all false doctrine From all Thy people far.  
Help me confess Thee truly And with Thy Christendom  
Here own Thee King and Savior And in the world to come.

### BENEDICTION

**C: Amen.**

HYMN 131:1-2, 5: The Star Proclaims the King Is Here;

1 The star proclaims the King is here;  
But, Herod, why this senseless fear?  
He takes no realms of earth away  
Who gives the realms of heav'nly day.

2 The wiser Magi see from far And follow on His guiding star;  
And, led by light, to light they press And by their gifts their God confess.

5 All glory, Jesus, be to Thee For this Thy glad epiphany;  
Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Ghost forevermore.

### CALENDAR

TODAY: Sunday school is scheduled to follow the service Adults will be taking down church Christmas decorations. Catechism class is scheduled for 11:30.

NEXT SUNDAY: Worship with Holy Communion at 9:30. Sunday School and church council is scheduled to follow the service. Catechism class is scheduled for 11:30. Sermon text: Luke 3:15-22.

### FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

January 30, 2022: The **annual voters meeting** is scheduled for 12:30 p.m.

### SERVING TODAY

Organist: Denise Barthels

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL:

Attendance: January 2 worship – 13 No Sunday school or Bible class

Weekly Offerings Needed	\$ 1,285.00	Other Offerings:
Offerings Received	\$ 895.00	Memorials: Muriel Schwartz --
Needed for Year:	\$1285.00	Missions \$50.00
Received for Year:	\$895.00	Lincoln Cole --
		Prop Imprv Fund \$50.00

January Church Cleaning: Nelson

CLCNEWS: Pastor Luke Bernthal of St. Stephen Lutheran Churches, Mt. View, CA, Stockton, CA, and Hayward, CA, has received the call to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL.