

SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

149 Lake Avenue, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

The Reverend Adam C. Wiegand, Pastor

R. Laird Conover, April D. Dreher, Bianka A. Krueger, Carol A. Sauter
Commissioned Deacons

Joan Beaudoin, Director, St. Paul's Christian Childhood Center

WARM GREETINGS TO EACH OF YOU in the name of our powerful and precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! It is wonderful to join with you in worship today. May God bless you as we join hearts, minds and voices in praise of our good and gracious God!

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS: We are *delighted* that you have joined with us today! Please know that your presence among us at St. Paul's is very much appreciated, and is an answer to our sincere prayers. Please be sure to visit our Guest Welcome Table in the narthex (the area just outside the worship space) so that we might be able to come to know one another better.

IN ORDER THAT WE MAY SERVE YOU WELL, all worshipers are requested to complete a yellow worship card, located in the pew racks. The front of the card provides space for your name and contact information; the back of the card addresses more in-depth communication such as prayer requests, interest in specific congregational ministries and requests for pastoral care. Frequent worshipers at St. Paul's are asked to return their worship cards at the time of the offering; guests and visitors are invited to bring their worship cards to the person stationed at the Guest Welcome Table after worship.

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN: We love to hear the joyful sound of God's little lambs worship Him! If your children are having difficulty during the service, please feel free to bring them to the narthex until they are ready to return. Recognizing the needs of families with infants, changing stations are available in the restrooms that are located just off the narthex. Childcare is provided every Sunday in classroom #2 for children up to 5 years old from 8:15am—12:15pm. Please ask an usher for assistance with directions.

WORSHIP RESOURCES FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED including large-print worship folders, hymnals and devotional booklets are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

THE WORD FOR YOUR WEEK:

If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?

Please commit Luke 16:11 to memory.

THEME OF TODAY’S WORSHIP:

God is the Giver of all the good things we have in this life and the life to come. Sometimes we forget that, and begin mistakenly to believe that we have attained these things on our own, thinking that we own them and can use them as we please instead of using them as God would have us use them in a way to advance His kingdom. Thankfully, we have a God who is merciful and forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness, paying our debt with the life of His Son. God’s love empowers us to utilize the blessings He continues to place in our lives for the good of all.

Service of Welcome

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor: The Lord be with you;

People: **And also with you.**

Opening Hymn *All who are able are invited to stand.*

“O Holy Spirit, Enter In” (stanzas 1-2) [LW #160]

Invocation & Opening Verses

Drawn from Psalm 113

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Deacon: Praise the Lord! O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

All: **Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!**

Deacon: From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised!

**All: The Lord is high above all nations,
and His glory above the heavens!**

Confession

Pastor: As people of God, let us take refuge in His infinite mercy,
seeking His grace for the sake Christ Jesus, as we confess
our sin to Him.

We keep a time of silence to call our sins to mind and confess them before God.

Pastor: Holy and generous God, You graciously give us all we need
for this body and life—and more. Yet, we take Your gifts
for granted and claim them as our own. So often we trample
on the needy and damage Your creation. We misuse what
You give us instead of shrewdly using it to extend Your
kingdom.

**All: We have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and
deeds. Though we owe You a debt we could never repay
and do not deserve Your generosity, mercy, or grace, we
still come to You, asking You to forgive us, restore us,
and renew us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Pastor: God is faithful and rich in His mercy! He extends this mercy
to us, the most undeserving, poor, miserable sinners. Be-
cause of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we know
God's grace. Therefore, as a called and ordained 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.

All: Amen!

The Peace

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to
completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace
of the Lord be with you all.

People: And also with you.

*Forgiven and freed in Christ,⁴ please take a moment to greet and share God's
peace with one another.*

Hymn of Praise

“O Holy Spirit, Enter In” (*stanza 3*) *LW #160*

**O mighty Rock, O Source of life,
Let Your dear Word, in doubt and strife,
In us be strongly burning
That we be faithful unto death
And live in love and holy faith,
From You true wisdom learning.
Your grace and peace
On us shower; By Your power Christ confessing,
Let us see our Savior’s blessing.**

Salutation & Prayer of the Day*

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Deacon: Let us pray together:

**All: O Lord, keep Your Church in Your perpetual mercy;
and because without You we cannot but fall, preserve us
from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profit-
able to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son,
our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever; Amen**

Service of the Word *Please be seated.*

Old Testament Reading.....Amos 8:4-7

The Lord will make things right.

Hear this, you who trample on the needy
and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying,

“When will the new moon be over, that we may sell grain? And the Sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the ephah small and the shekel great and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and sell the chaff of the wheat?”

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
“Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.⁵

People: Thanks be to God.

HomilyPastor Adam Wiegand

“Shrewdly Unfaithful”

Alleluia and Verse *All who are able, are invited to stand.*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Luke 16:1-15

The parable of the shrewd manager

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

People: 
Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

Pastor: [Jesus] also said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was wasting his possessions. And he called him and said to him,

Lector: ‘What is this that I hear about you? Turn in the account of your management, for you can no longer be manager.’

Pastor: And the manager said to himself,

Deacon: ‘What shall I do, since my master is taking the management away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do, so that when I am removed from management, people may receive me into their houses.’

Pastor: So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he said to the first,

Deacon: 'How much do you owe my master?'

Men: *'A hundred measures of oil.'*

Deacon: 'Take your bill, and sit down quickly and write fifty.
And how much do you owe?'

Women: *'A hundred measures of wheat.'*

Deacon: 'Take your bill, and write eighty.'

Pastor: The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings.


One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

The Pharisees, who were lovers of money, heard all these things, and they ridiculed Him. And He said to them,

People: **"You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is exalted among men is an abomination in the sight of God."**

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.



People:  Praise to You, O Christ.

Homily Pastor Adam Wiegand

Hymn of the Day *All who are able are invited to stand.*

“O God of Mercy, God of Light ” [LW #397]

Apostles' Creed

Deacon: God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come 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 Φ everlasting; Amen**

[†]*In this context, “catholic” means the whole Church as it believes, teaches and confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine.*

Prayers of the Church *Please be seated.*

Intercessor: Lord, in Your mercy:

People: Hear our prayer.

Words of Welcome *Please be seated.*

Regarding the Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is a holy meal, founded by our Lord Jesus Himself, by which He comes to us in the form of bread and wine, inviting us to eat and

drink His Body and Blood for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. St. Paul's Lutheran Church celebrates this life-giving Sacrament weekly.

The Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions to which St. Paul's Lutheran Church is committed teach that in order to receive the Lord's Supper a person should first be:

- (1) Baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and*
- (2) Instructed in the nature and meaning of the Sacrament; and*
- (3) Able to examine himself or herself about the Sacrament and their faith.*

Since our Lord would have us receive Him and the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation in Holy Communion, all who intend to receive His Supper are asked to thoroughly examine their hearts to give honest answer to the following questions:

- Do I know and believe that I am a sinful person? Am I sorry for my sins?*
- Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my Savior?*
- Do I believe that God mercifully forgives my sins on account of Jesus Christ, and that I am saved solely by His grace?*
- Do I believe that by His Word and promise, Jesus Christ is truly—not symbolically—present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with His very Body and Blood?*
- Do I plan, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live a Godly life?*

As God grants you to answer "Yes" to these important questions, please come to the Altar to share in the Lord's Supper. If these are not your beliefs, or if you are not sure—even if you have received Holy Communion at other congregations—please speak with the pastor before receiving the Sacrament.

Communion Distribution at the Altar

At the invitation of the ushers, please approach the altar by the center aisle. Please take your place at the altar rail, and as the pastor welcomes you, all who are able are invited to kneel. Those who cannot kneel may certainly remain standing.

First, receive the Body of Christ from the pastor, either in your hands or into your mouth. Gluten-free communion wafers are available by request at the altar rail. Then, receive the Blood of Christ, either by individual glasses or from the chalice.

When the pastor dismisses the group from the altar with a blessing, please return to your seats by the side aisles. Those who have received the Blood of Christ by individual glasses are asked to place the empty glasses in the reception trays on the tables provided at the front of the side aisles.

Children and adults who do not receive the Sacrament are welcome to come to the altar for a spoken blessing from the pastor. Those not communing are asked to place a finger in front of their mouth to indicate their preference for a spoken blessing.

Those with limited mobility are invited to alert an usher if they desire to receive

Service of the Sacrament.

Gathering of Tithes and Offerings

Voluntary at the Offering


Offertory

All who are able are invited to stand and sing as the gifts are presented.

“Lord of All Good”LSB #786




1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;
2 We give our minds to un - der - stand Your ways;
3 Fa - ther, whose boun - ty all cre - a - tion shows;



Use them Your ho - ly pur - pose to ful - fill.
Hands, eyes, and voice to serve Your great de - sign;
Christ, by whose will - ing sac - ri - fice we live;



To - kens of love and pledg - es they shall be
Hearts with the flame of Your own love a - blaze—
Spir - it, from whom all life in full - ness flows;



That our whole life is of - fered to Your will.
Thus for Your glo - ry all our pow'rs com - bine.
To You with grate - ful hearts our - selves we give.

Offertory Prayer^o

Deacon: Let us pray:

People: We place these gifts and ourselves before You, O God, for Your gracious purposes. Use them and all our resources to open eyes and ears to the presence of Christ and the good news of His salvation. In His name we pray; Amen

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

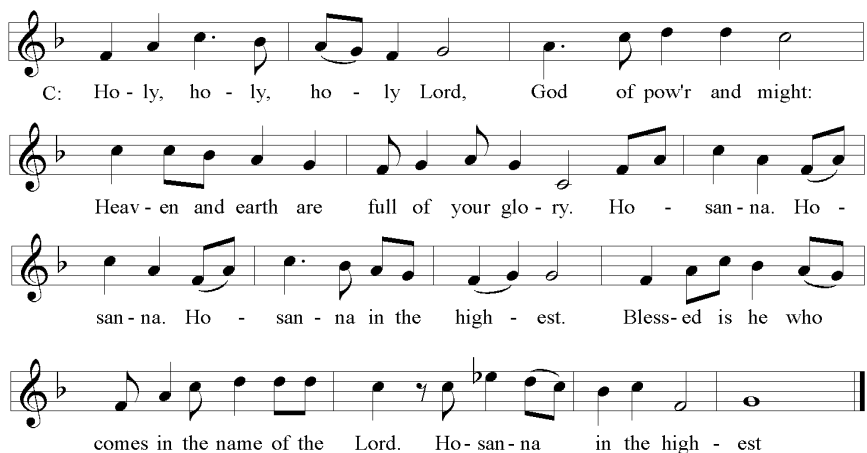
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Pastor: It is good; it is right; it is our blessing at all times and in all places to give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est

The 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**

The Words of Our Lord

Pastor: 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."

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."

Agnus Dei


 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.

Choral Anthem (8:30)

“He Is a Mighty Lord”

– *Jay Althouse*

Hymns at the Distribution

Worshippers are invited to bring hymnals with them to the communion rail in order to sing.

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us ” [LW #402]

“I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus ” [LW #408]

“What Is the World to Me ” [LW #418]

Service of Sending

All who are able are invited to stand.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Deacon: Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;

People: His steadfast love endures forever. *Psalm 118:1*

Deacon: Let us pray together:

All: We praise and thank You, merciful Father, for coming to us in this holy feast this day, a foretaste of the feast to come. We thank You for touching us with Your mercy and grace as You forgive our sins through bread and wine, the body and blood of Your only Son. Faithfully lead us and guide us, by Your Spirit, so we use the gifts You give us to extend Your Kingdom in this world as we wait for the world to come. We pray this through Your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit world without end. Amen.

Benediction

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory ”¹³..... [LW #398]

The Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace; serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

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PRAYER REQUESTS

God graciously invites His people to pray to Him with words of praise, thanksgiving and in all kinds of petitions for others and for ourselves. St. Paul’s Lutheran Church gladly receives and shares prayer concerns so that God’s people may “Bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2) and “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.” (Romans 12:15).

If you wish to submit a prayer request for publication on St. Paul’s email prayer chain, in the weekly worship folder, on the long-term prayer list in the monthly newsletter, please use the space provided on the reverse side of the Worship Cards found in the pew racks. If this is not convenient, please contact the church office (584-0904 x.4 or office@spelcss.com) between 8:00AM and 3:30PM, Monday through Friday.

Ordinarily, prayer concerns published in the worship folder will be removed on the first Sunday of the next month. If the concern persists, please renew the request by using a worship card, or by contacting the church office.

Optimally, to preserve the privacy and dignity of those for whom we will pray, please ask permission before publishing their names and concerns on any of St. Paul’s prayer lists. Care and common sense should be used in describing prayer concerns, especially as they pertain to medical or psychological conditions, financial or marital problems, or other sensitive information.