

GOSPEL: LUKE 4:14-21

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ¹⁸“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, ¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

PSALM 19

To the leader. A Psalm of David.

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. ²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat. ⁷The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. ¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is a great reward. ¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden thoughts. ¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgressions. ¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Pray for these we know to be in need of resolution, healing, support and comfort:



The Cisneros family; Ivy & John Conklin; Austin Marsh; Ewalani Odachi; Brian Kurihara; Ed Sais; Carol & Larry Sullivan; Aki Fukui; Nora Fukui; Karri Padilla; Elsie Ford; Susan and Gene Ramirez; Margarete Schwall; Millie Powell; Mai Madrigal and her family; Phil Stanton; Meher Montessori School; and all who are sick from COVID-19 in our nation and across the globe; for all businesses who are reopening to full capacity; for those who are struggling with returning to normalcy financially, emotionally, or mentally; for those who face discrimination; and for our country, our military and first responders.

Third Sunday After Epiphany January 23, 2022

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

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Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church

We are happy to be open for worship on Sundays at 9:30 am.

LA County is requiring everyone to wear masks when gathering indoors again, regardless of vaccination status, due to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant. The Synod has reaffirmed this in all LA County congregations. So, we are once again asking everyone who comes to worship on Sundays to wear a mask and socially distance from persons outside immediate family.

If you have forgotten a mask, we do have extras, in both adult and kid sizes, in the Narthex.

News and Needs

- **We are blessed to have Pr. Tom Ford** presiding over our services for this month! His sermon title for today is "The Christian's Agenda."
- **While it is still early in the year, Council has been looking into community service projects that we can take on as a congregation for Lent.** Lutheran World Relief is having a "Care Package" drive for their "Season of Hope. A list of items to be included, as well as assembly instructions have been provided in packets on the Narthex table. Additionally, there are other care kits that you are welcome to make, including one for babies. We will also be accepting donations for assembly at the church. If you have any other ideas on how we could help our communities and the world, please contact Elizabeth with details.
- **Save the Date!** We will be holding our annual Congregational meeting on Wednesday, February 23rd over Zoom. Details will be released soon, but Council wanted to give everyone time to prepare any questions, concerns, or comments that you feel need to be discussed. If you are unable to log-in to Zoom, we will have a list of discussion items from the meeting, but we cannot guarantee your input or questions will be heard in a timely fashion.
- **MPK's "Show the Love" stuffed animal and telegram gift package is back.** Send a loved one, friend or neighbor a gift package that includes an adorable stuffed animal, chocolate candy (Kisses), reusable cup, decorative heart bouquet, a heart themed container and a personalized telegram message up to 20 words! Registration began Tuesday, January 18. Deliveries will be made February 7-25 (excluding weekends), all for a low cost of \$10. Deliveries are available in Monterey Park only. To confirm your delivery or if you have any further questions please contact the Recreation and Community Services Department at 626-307-1395 or recreation@Montereypark.ca.gov
- **The White House has recently launched a website to get 4 free COVID tests per residential address delivered to your home.** This is a completely free service and tests will be shipped within 7-10 days of signing up. You can either go to COVIDtests.gov or sign up through the US Postal Service Website.

FIRST READING: NEHEMIAH 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

¹All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ²Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁸So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. ⁹And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31a

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts.

Prayer of the Day

Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.