

Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

[¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Psalm 147:12-20

¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion, ¹³who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you. ¹⁴God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat. ¹⁵God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly. ¹⁶God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes. ¹⁷God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold? ¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow. ¹⁹God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel. ²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!



Second Sunday of Christmas January 2, 2022

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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Next — Baptism of Our Lord: Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29 (3); Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17 21-22

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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 Word Made Flesh."
- **If you have not picked up your Bread for the Day 2022 order**, please ask Jean Sais or Jo Anne Mitchell for in-person pickup after services. If you are unable to make it to church, please reach out to Elizabeth. She is resuming her normal hours of 10:30AM-12:30pm and 1:30pm-3:30pm.
- **Christ in Our Home books for the first quarter of 2022 are available and in the Narthex** for you to pick up if you would like one.
- **The Church Council will be meeting on Wednesday, January 12th.** If you have any questions, comments, or concerns for council to discuss, please contact Jean Sais, Jo Anne Mitchell, or Elizabeth Mitchell.
- **Karen Suarez, who helps run American Legion Post 394, is looking for any available volunteers** to help her with the post's food bank on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons! If you are able and willing to help, please let Elizabeth know and she will provide Karen's contact information.
- **The City of Monterey Park will be having a community clean-up event on Saturday January 15th!** It is a drive-in and drop-off event that is open to Monterey Park residents that will be held at George Elder Park. A list of accepted and prohibited items is posted on the community bulletin board.
- **Next Sunday, January 9th, a tribute and benefit concert is being held for Johnny Thompson at Barnes Park.** For more information, please contact the Alhambra Educational Foundation at www.aef4kids.com or by calling 626-943-3080.

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will,⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ,¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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; Larry Sullivan; Elsie Ford; Aki Fukui; Nora Fukui; Karri Padilla, Susan and Gene Ramirez; Margarete Schwall; Millie Powell; Phil Stanton; Mai Madrigal and her father; 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.