

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” ²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

PSALM 29

A Psalm of David

¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. ²Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor. ³The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. ⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. ⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, And Sirion like a young wild ox. ⁷The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. ⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say, “Glory!” ¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. ¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Baptism of Our Lord January 9, 2022

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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 "Problem Solved!"
- **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.
- **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.
- **Creative aging:** UCLA Visual and Performing Arts Education Program and the Pasadena Senior Center offers a free, eight-week series of "Creative Aging" workshops, designed to help older adults minimize the effects of age-related challenges to cognitive motor skills. The workshops are set from 2:30 to 4 p.m. Thursdays, Jan. 13 to March 3, at the Pasadena Senior Center, 85 E. Holly St., Pasadena. For more information, visit pasadenaseniorcenter.org or call (626) 795-4331
- **Lightscape:** Tickets are on sale for Lightscape at the Arboretum, set through Sunday, Jan. 16. The Los Angeles County Arboretum will be transformed into a walk-through Winter Cathedral and Fire Garden. Wander past lighted water fountains and more. Admission is \$30-\$32 for adults, \$18-\$20 for children 3-12, and free for infants and toddlers up to 2. For more information, visit arboretum.org/lightscape or call (626) 821-3222.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 43:1-7

¹But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.³For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you;⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

SECOND READING: ACTS 8:14-17

¹⁴Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶(for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, 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; Shauna Childers; Laurie Ann Hammel; Ed Sais; Larry Sullivan; Aki Fukui; Nora Fukui; Karri Padilla, Susan and Gene Ramirez; Margarete Schwall; Millie Powell; Mai Madrigal and her father; 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.