

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church



Epiphany 4
Holy Baptism



January 28, 2024

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
Who stretches out the heavens, who sends light to the nations,
Who gives breath to us all.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Loving God,

**We confess that we have turned from your way
to follow our own ways.**

Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly;

we have not spoken or acted at all;

we have hurt those closest to us;

we have hurt those we have yet to know;

we have thought more about ourselves than others;

we have thought less of ourselves than we ought.

Turn us around, and give us a fresh start,

so that we can live again as your children. Amen.

Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right.
Even when we have messed up, God puts us together.
God's love never runs out.
God never tires of calling us beloved children.
Hear God say to you now; your sins are forgiven,
For the sake of + Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

HYMN ELW # 886 O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING

**O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!**

**My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.**

**The name of Jesus charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears,
brings life and health and peace.**

**He speaks, and list'ning to his voice
New life the dead receive;
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
The humble poor believe.**

**Look unto him, your Saviour own
O fallen human race!
Look and be saved through faith alone,
Be justified by grace!**

**To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW # 510 WORD OF GOD COME DOWN ON EARTH

Word of God, come down on earth,
Living rain from heav'n descending;
Touch our hearts and bring to birth
Faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere You;
Word made flesh, we long to hear You.

Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
Crucified for our salvation,
Saving Word, the world restoring,
Speak to us, Your love outpouring.

Word that speaks God's tender love,
One with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above,
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Saviour. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

PASTOR: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of Baptism. By water and the word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to a new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

SPONSOR: I present *Kimia Monemrad* for baptism.

PASTOR: *Kimia*, called by the holy God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

KIMIA: *I do.*

PASTOR: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture *Kimia* in Christian faith as you are empowered by God's spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

SPONSORS: *I do.*

PASTOR: People of God, do you promise to support *Kimia* and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

All: We do.

PASTOR: You are making public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God promises in Baptism:

To live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

KIMIA: *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

PASTOR: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

KIMIA & SPONSORS: *I renounce them.*

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

KIMIA & SPONSORS: *I renounce them.*

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

KIMIA & SPONSORS: *I renounce them.*

PASTOR: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

PASTOR: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

PASTOR: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: 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 everlasting. Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

PASTOR: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

PASTOR: let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PASTOR: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your spirit moved over the waters and by your word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honour and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

BAPTISM

PASTOR: *Kimia*, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

All: You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.

PASTOR: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the holy spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain *Kimia* with the gift of your holy spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

All: Amen.

PASTOR: *Kimia*, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

All: Amen.

WELCOME (Presentation of Candle)

SPONSOR: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

WORD

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 111

Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are your works, O Lord,
pondered by all who delight in them.

Majesty and splendour mark your deeds;
and your righteousness endures forever.

You cause your wonders to be remembered;
You are gracious and full of compassion.

You give food to those who fear you;
remember forever your covenant.

You have shown your people the power of your works,
in giving them the lands of the nations.

The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;

all of your precepts are sure.

They stand fast forever and ever,

because they are done in truth and equity.

You sent redemption to your people;

and commanded your covenant forever.

Holy and awesome is your name.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;

all those who practice this have a good understanding.

God's praise endures forever.

The holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

MARK 1:21-28

They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN # 507 O GOD OF LIGHT

**O God of light, your word, a lamp unfailing,
shall pierce the darkness of our earthbound way
and show Your grace, your plan for us unveiling,
and guide our footsteps to the perfect day.**

**From days of old, through blind and willful ages,
though we rebelled, you gently sought again,
and spoke through saints, apostles, prophets, sages,
who wrote with eager or reluctant pen.**

**Undimmed by time, those words are still revealing
to sinful hearts your justice and your grace;
and questing spirits, longing for your healing,
see your compassion in the Saviour's face.**

**To all the world your summons you are sending,
through all the earth, to ev'ry land and race,
that myriad tongues, in one great anthem blending,
may praise and celebrate your gift of grace.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honour your instruction and model your inclusive ways.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honour and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, any who suffer or are grieving, especially Ingrid, Tom, and all we name in our hearts.....

pause

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for all gifts used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. We rejoice with Kimia on this the day of her baptism and pray God's holy blessing abide in her life and the life of her sponsors Mori and Ali.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives. We trust that all who have died rest in your loving care.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Merciful God, receive the gifts we bring, ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Through this meal unite us as your body, shining with the light of your justice and mercy, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, through Christ our Lord.

In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh
you have opened the eyes of faith
to a new and radiant vision of your glory;
that, beholding the God made visible,
we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see.

Our Lord Jesus Christ,

in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.
Come. Be filled with light and life. **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY COMMUNION

you are invited to eat your bread and drink your wine as you hear the words
"the body of Christ given for you" "the blood of Christ shed for you"

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen
us and keep us always in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from
this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey
humbly with you. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The God of glory dwell in you richly,
Name you beloved,
And shine brightly on your path;
And the blessing of Almighty God,
The Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit ,
Be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN ELW # 538 THE LORD NOW SENDS US FORTH

**The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,
to make of all the earth a better place to live. *Repeat***

**The angels are not sent into our world of pain
to do what we were meant to do in Jesus' name;
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will today. *Repeat***

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE