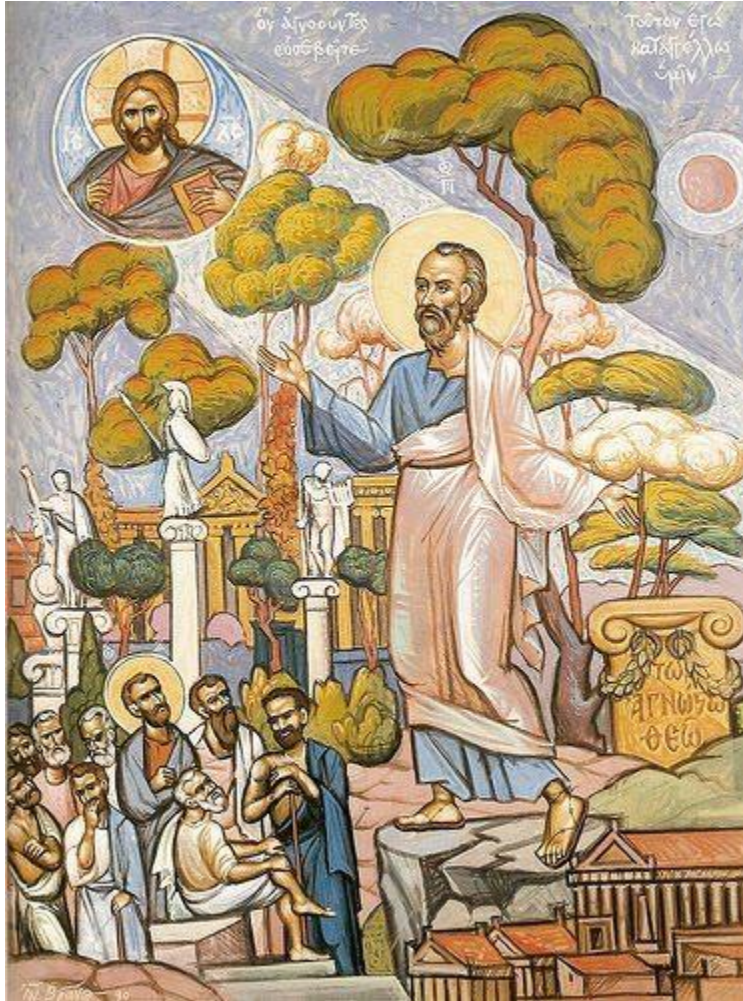


**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship Booklet
The Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul
January 31, 2021 A.D.**



Introduction

In the days after the Epiphany of Our Lord we commemorate not only St. Paul's seeing the light but his saintly effort thereafter at being the light. Having our eyes opened by the Spirit of God in holy baptism, having been enlightened by the word read and proclaimed in the assembly, and having regained our strength in the Lord's supper, we too are converted—turned again to follow in God's way.

PR=Pastor Ryan
L=Lector
C=Congregation

PRELUDE *Meditation on Amazing Grace* by Lester H. Groom

OPENING HYMN *By All Your Saints Still Striving* **ELW #420 v. 1,8,2,last**
[Tune as at ELW 421: KOURTANE]

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

PR: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose voice is upon the waters,
whose mercy is poured out upon all people,
whose goodness cascades over all creation.
Amen.

Silence for self-reflection and examination.

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Holy God,

C: you search us and know us.

You are acquainted with all our ways.

**We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin—
our own sins and the broken systems that bind us.**

**We turn inward, failing to follow
your outward way of love.**

We distrust those who are not like us.

**We exploit the earth and its resources
and fail to consider generations to come.**

**Forgive us, gracious God,
for all we have done and left undone.**

**Even before the words are on our tongues,
you know them;**

receive them in your divine mercy.

Amen.

PR: How vast is God's grace!

Through the power and promise of † Christ Jesus,
our sins are washed away
and we are claimed as God's own beloved.

Indeed, we are forgiven.

In the wake of God's forgiveness,
we are called to be the beloved community
living out Christ's justice
and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PR: O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant that we may follow his example and be witnesses to the truth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING: Acts 9:1-22

Three times the book of Acts describes Paul's conversion. This telling, coming between Philip with the Ethiopian and Cornelius's conversion, sets the stage for extending the gospel to the Gentiles.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY: Psalm 67

R: Let all the peoples praise you, O God.

L: May God be merciful to us and bless us;
may the light of God's face shine upon us.

**C: Let your way be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations. R**

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

**C: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on
earth. R**

L: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

**C: The earth has brought forth its increase;
God, our own God, has blessed us. R**

L: May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

SECOND READING: Galatians 1:11-24

Here Paul himself tells of the prologue to his becoming the great apostle to the Gentiles. He admits his former blindness, seeing the contrast as an avenue for the greater glory of God.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

HYMN *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound* ELW #779

NEW BRITAIN

HOLY GOSPEL: Saint Luke 21:10-19

The third gospel contains several short apocalyptic passages, which helped to encourage readers who, in the decades after the resurrection, were experiencing persecution for their faith. St. Paul had found himself on both sides of such persecution.

The holy gospel according to St. Luke the first chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

This is the gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Silence for reflection.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and 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 everlasting. Amen.**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

PR: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

Let us pray, **C: have mercy, O God.**

PR: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior. **C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

PR: My dearest Lord and Savior, though I am but a sinful servant, I approach you with confidence. I am truly sorry for having offended you by my sins because you are infinitely good. I have a great desire to receive you in Holy Communion and since I cannot be united with you in the Blessed Sacrament, I beseech you most earnestly to come to me at least spiritually and refresh my soul with the sweetness of your grace.

Come my Lord, My God, and my All, come to me and let me never again be separated from you by sin. I wish to become like you. Teach me your grace to practice meekness, humility, purity, charity and all the virtues of your most sacred heart.

Oh my Jesus, I consecrate to you my heart with all of its affections, my soul, with all its power and my body, with all its senses. In union with you I will live and labor and suffer to do the heavenly Father's will. I will ever be mindful of the presence of my God and strive to be perfect. Bless me in life and death that I may praise you forever and ever. **C: Amen.**

TAKING FAITH HOME

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

PR: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **C: Amen.**

PR: The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

PR: The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN *God of Grace, and God of Glory* **ELW #705**

CWM RHONDDA

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE *God of Grace, and God of Glory* setting by Paul Manz

WORSHIP LEADERS

Celebrant and Preacher: The Reverend Fr. Ryan K. Viands

Director of Music and Organist: Mr. David Rankin

Lector: Mrs. Debbie Streicher

Digital Worship Preparation: Mrs. Debbie Streicher and Ms. Debbie Szymanski



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.