

St. Paul Lutheran Church, LCMS

503 S. State Street, Caro, MI 48723

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Rev. Richard Boshoven, Interim Pastor

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 18, 2026, 8:30 AM

Contemporary Service



AS WE GATHER

People often speak about a person's calling in life. They are describing a unique purpose or vocation according to interests and talents. Often, trying to determine a person's "calling" or "destiny" is defined by some innate ability or giftedness found within ourselves, something we were born with or somehow born to do.

Today we hear of God calling otherwise ordinary fishermen

Andrew and his brother Simon Peter. They were called by God through John the Baptist to follow the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth. They were called to be disciples and eventually to be sent on Christ's mission as apostles. The prophet Isaiah says even the Savior, the servant of the Lord, was called from the womb by God, "that Israel might be gathered to Him," and called "as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth" (Isaiah 49:5-6). Saul of Tarsus was "called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus," and Saul, now named Paul, reminds the church at Corinth and us that we are "called to be saints" (1 Corinthians 1:1-2). This calling differs from merely surveying interests or abilities within us; it comes to us from outside of ourselves, from the living God, our creator and Redeemer. This calling comes from God to everyone. It is the call of salvation, the divine call that transforms us from sinners into saints. Therefore, this calling depends not on anything within us but solely and totally on the grace and mercy and love of God.



FOR THOSE DESIRING HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the Pastor. For further study, see Matthew 5:23ff; 10:32ff; 18:15-35; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.)

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

“Beautiful Savior”

(Verse, Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus)

**All my days I will sing this song of gladness,
Give my praise to the Fountain of delights;
For in my helplessness you heard my cry,
And waves of mercy poured down on my life.**

**I will trust in the cross of my Redeemer;
I will sing of the blood that never fails,
Of sins forgiven, of conscience cleansed,
Of death defeated and life without end.**

Chorus:

Chorus:

**Beautiful Savior, Wonderful Counselor,
Clothed in majesty, Lord of history,
You're the Way, the Truth, the Life.
Star of the Morning, glorious in holiness,
You're the risen One, heaven's Champion,
And You reign, You reign over all!**

**I long to be where the praise is never ending,
Yearn to dwell where the glory never fades,
Where countless worshipers will share one song,
And cries of “worthy” will honor the Lamb!**

Chorus:

WELCOME

(Please stand)

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy.

You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Called by God “to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ”, let us give rightful praise and honor God, who calls sinners to repentance and bestows saving faith in our hearts by His Word and Spirit. Behold, the Lamb of God!

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, mercifully hear our confession. We are sinners and have sinned against You. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors with our whole heart. We cannot free ourselves from our sin. Hear our prayer of confession and let us hear Your call and gift of forgiveness, salvation, and life.

Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to you. And in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 19:1–4a, b; antiphon: v. 14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,

O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

**The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.**

Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.

**There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.**

Their measuring line goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In them he has set a tent for the sun.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

(Please be seated)

SONG OF PRAISE

“Holy, Holy”

(Repeat once, ending: sing last line 3 times)

**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.
Who was and is and is to come, who was and is and is to come.
Lift up His name with the sound of singing.
Lift up His name in all the earth.
Lift up your voice and give Him glory,
for He is worthy to be praised.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 49:1–7

¹Listen to me, O coastlands, and give attention, you peoples from afar.
The LORD called me from the womb,
from the body of my mother he named my name.

²He made my mouth like a sharp sword;
in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.

³And he said to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.”

⁴But I said, “I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my right is with the LORD,
and my recompense with my God.”

⁵And now the LORD says,
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him;
and that Israel might be gathered to him—
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD,
and my God has become my strength—

⁶he says:

“It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;
I will make you as a light for the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

⁷Thus says the LORD,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,
the servant of rulers:

“Kings shall see and arise; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: 1 Corinthians 1:1–9

¹Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵that in every way you were enriched in him

in all speech and all knowledge—⁶even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you—⁷so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁸who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

HOLY GOSPEL: John 1:29–42a

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁹The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³²And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” ³⁹He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. ⁴¹He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). ⁴²He brought him to Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✝ of the world to come.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG OF THE MONTH:

"Fishers of Men"

I will make you fishers of men, fishers of men, fishers of men.

I will make you fishers of men if you follow Me.

If you follow Me, if you follow Me;

I will make you fishers of men if you follow Me.

Hear Christ calling, "Come unto Me. Come unto Me, Come unto Me."

Hear Christ calling, "Come unto Me; I will give you rest.

I will give you rest; I will give you rest."

Hear Christ calling, "Come unto Me; I will give you rest."

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY

“How Majestic Is Your Name”

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.
O Lord, we praise Your name. O Lord, we magnify Your name:
Prince of Peace, mighty God; O Lord God Almighty.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.
O Lord, we praise Your name. O Lord, we magnify Your name:
Prince of Peace, mighty God; O Lord God Almighty.

MESSAGE

OFFERING *(Please fill out the fellowship pad beside you)*

(Please stand)

PRAYERS

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; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

HOLY COMMUNION

(Visitors, please read the statement at the beginning of this service folder.)

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Please be seated)

RECEIVING THE LORD'S SUPPER

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“All Who Are Thirsty”

(Verse, Chorus, Verse, Chorus, Verse)

**Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.**

**All who are thirsty,
All who are weak,
Come to the fountain
Dip your heart in the stream of life.
Let the pain and the sorrow
Be washed away
In the waves of His mercy.
As deep cries out to deep**

Holy Spirit, come....

Come, Lord Jesus, come...

DISTRIBUTION SONG

“Be Thou My Vision”

(4 Verses)

**Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light**

**Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one**

**Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art**

High King of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Son
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all

(Please stand)

PRAYER OF THANKS

Amen

BLESSING

(Please be seated)

SONG TO DEPART

“May the Peace of God”

May the peace of God our heav'nly Father,
And the grace of Christ the risen Son,
And the fellowship of God the Spirit
Keep our hearts and minds within his love.

Refrain

And to him be praise for his glorious reign
From the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.
We declare the name of the Lamb once slain-
Christ eternal, the King of kings.

May this peace which passes understanding,
And this grace which makes us what we are,
And this fellowship of his Communion
Make us one in spirit and in heart.

LEAVING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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St. Paul Lutheran Church LCMS, 503 S. State St., Caro, Michigan

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