



## **As We Gather 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany Jan. 21, 2024**

Ever had those days that felt like weeks or those weeks that felt like days? Those minutes that felt like hours, or the hours that felt like minutes? Time is a fickle thing on this earth, as we are bound by it yet our perspective of it is ever changing. Our Scripture Readings today all deal with time. As God deemed it time for Nineveh to have the opportunity to repent and know His grace, He came to Jonah a second time. In the Epistle, Paul reminds us time is short, and the physical world is passing away. In the Gospel, Jesus would begin His earthly ministry and call His disciples, echoing the words of John the Baptist, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand” (Mark 1:15). Though to the Lord a day is like a thousand years and a thousand years are like a day, we live each day knowing that all time is in His hands. Until He calls His people to glory, we rejoice for the time to gather where His Spirit is, be blessed by His Word of Law and Gospel, rejoice in mercy and forgiveness, and make use of the time given to be witnesses to others.

**Mesquite Lutheran Church & Childcare Center**

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**Please meet with an usher for prayer requests.  
Ask us about Associate Memberships for Lutherans who are part-time residents.**

**A Gentle Reminder to turn off cell phones. Thank You.**

### **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP & HOLY COMMUNION**



As Lutheran Christians, we believe that our Lord's Body and Blood are truly present (not symbolic) in the Bread and Wine and received by all who attend. Since our Lord reminds us that thoughtless or faithless reception of the Sacrament can incur His judgment, all are encouraged to examine themselves that they may receive it worthily. (1 Corinthians 11:27-32)

Please use the following questions and LSB p. 329 as a personal guide before partaking of this Holy Sacrament:

- \*Do I renounce sin, Satan and my own flesh, and seek true forgiveness and reconciliation with God and my neighbor?**
- \*Do I believe that Jesus Christ is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil?**
- \*Do I believe that Christ's own words, this is my body and this is my blood shed for you for the forgiveness of sins (Mt. 26:28), mean exactly what they say for us today?**
- \*Do I earnestly desire to live a Godly life by the power of the Holy Spirit and in thanksgiving to Christ?**

Because attendance at Communion is also a testimony to this faith in the Triune God confessed and taught here, and to unity in belief as brothers and sisters in Christ (1 Corinthians 10:16-17), we ask that any visitors not yet instructed, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation, and who desire to receive the Sacrament introduce themselves to the Pastor or Elder beforehand if possible.

#### **Please Note**

An invitation for children not confirmed in the Lutheran church to come and receive a blessing at the altar.

We offer a traditional communion wafer,  
Off-White Color Wafers are Gluten Free.

While communing, please point to the bread meeting your preference.  
Clear Color Wine is Alcohol Free

**PRELUDE** Prelude in A Minor – J.S. Bach  
**WELCOME**

**PREPARATION**

**OPENING HYMN** #906 “O Day of Rest and Gladness”

**INVOCATION**

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

**EXHORTATION**

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**ABSOLUTION**

- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

**WORD**

**INTROIT** Psalm 113:1–2, 4, 7–8; antiphon: v. 3

- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C** the name of the LORD is to be praised!

**[P]** Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD,  
**[C]** **praise the name of the LORD!**  
**[P]** Blessèd be the name of the LORD  
**[C]** **from this time forth and forevermore!**  
**[P]** The LORD is high above all nations,  
**[C]** **and his glory above the heavens!**  
**[P]** He raises the poor from the dust  
**[C]** **and lifts the needy from the ash heap,**  
**[P]** to make them sit with princes,  
**[C]** **with the princes of his people.**  
**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.**  
**[P]** From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**[C]** **the name of the LORD is to be praised!**

**KYRIE** (*Spoken*) **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE** “This Is The Feast” LSB 155

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## **SALUTATION**

**[P]** The Lord be with you.  
**[C]** **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## OLD TESTAMENT READING      **Jonah 3:1–5, 10**

“Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days’ journey in breadth. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. . . . When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL *Psalm 117:1–2a; 96:8*

**P** Praise the LORD, all nations!

**C** Extol Him, all peoples!

**P** For great is His steadfast love toward us,

**C** and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.

**P** Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name;

**C** bring an offering, and come into His courts!

## EPISTLE READING      **1 Corinthians 7:29–35**

“This is what I mean, brothers: the appointed time has grown very short. From now on, let those who have wives live as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no goods, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away. I want you to be free from anxieties. The unmarried man is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to please the Lord. But the married man is anxious about worldly things, how to

please his wife, and his interests are divided. And the unmarried or betrothed woman is anxious about the things of the Lord, how to be holy in body and spirit. But the married woman is anxious about worldly things, how to please her husband. I say this for your own benefit, not to lay any restraint upon you, but to promote good order and to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord.”

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## VERSE

**P** Alleluia. The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;

**C** repent and believe in the gospel. Alleluia.

## HOLY GOSPEL Mark 1:14–20

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

“After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## HYMN OF THE DAY #839 “O Christ, Our True and Only Light”

## SERMON “Undivided Devotion To The Lord” 1 Corinthians 7:29-35

## THE APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*Isaiah 60:1, adapted*

- P** Let us pray for the Church of God and for all people according to their needs, for You, O Lord, in all times and in all places, promise to hear our prayers and to answer them according to Your will. In this season of Epiphany where the light shines on our Savior, manifested as the Word made flesh, continue to reveal to us through Your Word the mercy and grace found in Jesus Christ alone. Arise and shine,
- C** for our light has come.
- P** *[Petitions...]* Arise and shine,
- C** for our light has come.
- P** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** Amen.

## OFFERING

### OFFERTORY *LSB 805*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

(Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711 Text: Public domain)

## SACRAMENT

### PREFACE

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who since the beginning of time has been present and continues to bless us in this time. Prepare our hearts with true repentance as we receive Your gracious gift of the forgiveness of sins in this Supper. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

## SANCTUS *LSB 178*

- C** Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

### LORD'S PRAYER

- C** 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.

## PAX DOMINI

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## AGNUS DEI *LSB 180*

- C** Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### **“I Love to Tell the Story”**

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and His glory  
of Jesus and His love. I love to tell the story because I know it’s true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

*Refrain:* I love to tell the story; ‘twill be my theme in glory to tell the old,  
old story of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story, ‘tis pleasant to repeat what seems , each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet. I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God’s own holy Word. *Refrain:*

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and  
thirsting to hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of glory I sing the new,  
new song, “twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. *Refrain:*

#856 O Christ, Who Called the Twelve #744 Amazing Grace #554 O Jesus, King

## POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P** Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.
- C** His steadfast love endures forever.
- P** We give thanks to You, gracious Father, that Your grace is timeless and Your mercy is for all people. As we heed the call of Christ and follow, strengthen us in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

HYMN #733 “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

+ + +

**Reader Today: Kathy Hammar**

**PRAYERS:** Aaron, (step-son of Jan Crouch) brain cancer surg. Tues.; Simon, (cousin of Roger Takashita), recovery from brain cancer surgery.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tue . Jan. 23	11:00 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
Wed. Jan 24	10:00 a.m.	Women's Bible Study
<b><u>Wednesdays</u></b>	<b>3:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Deadline for announcements for the bulletin.</b>
		<b>The bulletin is printed on Thursday.</b>
Thur. Jan. 25	10:30 a.m.	Grief Group
Thur. Jan. 25	11:00 a.m.	Jesus Time (Preschool)
Thur. Jan. 25	1:00 p.m.	Men's Bible Study
Thur. Jan. 25	3:00 p.m.	Choir
<b>Sunday Jan.28</b>	<b>8:30 Bible Study</b>	<b>10:00 a.m. Worship</b>

## BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 23 Greg Larson	
Jan. 26 David Gnacinski	Jan. 26 Jim Jones
Jan. 26 Ruby Stuart	Jan. 30 Beverly Brack
Jan. 30 Joan Samuelson	Jan. 31 Jeff Meckley

## ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 31 Gordon & Carol Shepherd

## RED ROCK ZONE 31/32 LWML 2024 PRAYER AND PRAISE

**EVENT** **February 3, 2024 9:30 a.m.– 1:30 p.m.** Ingathering: Bring food item for Lutheran Social Service food pantry. **RSVP by January 24, 2024** **To: Barbara Coverdale, Zone Secretary, bcoverda@wyoming.com** Or Kathi Anderson, VP Gospel Outreach, text to: 702-427-4186. Gathering At: **First Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 301 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas.** Joyfully let's gather together!

## **OUR STATEMENT OF MISSION**

Our mission is **to witness the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ** and **to minister His love** to the residents of Mesquite and surrounding areas, as well as our many visitors. We desire **to reach out to those in need** and **to open our doors** as a place for worship and spiritual growth for all people.

**Mesquite Lutheran Childcare Center** was established by Mesquite Lutheran Church as **an outreach to this community**. The mission of the center is to provide a safe, nurturing environment that includes the teaching and application of Christian values. We will promote a daily awareness of the presence and love of Christ, the Son of God, in the lives of the children and the staff. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me.” We seek to fulfill that command by witnessing the love and truth of Christ to children and to their parents.

**10 a.m. service available online at our Facebook page** (live and recorded - @MesquiteLCC). You do not need a Facebook account to view. Go to [facebook.com/MesquiteLCC/live](https://facebook.com/MesquiteLCC/live) or visit our website [mesquitelutheran.org/Online-Services](https://mesquitelutheran.org/Online-Services).

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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