



As We Gather Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Jan. 28, 2024

All throughout the Epiphany season is the shadow of the question: Who is Jesus? We have heard Jesus called the Lamb of God and the light of the world. Now He is proclaimed our Brother who lays aside what is His right to become our servant even to death upon a cross. Within that context, we who are called His brothers claim not right or privilege but the path of service in Christ. Our freedom is not the liberty to do as we please but the responsibility of love for the sake of our weaker brother—just as Christ suffered as the innocent for the guilty. Instead of looking inside of us, we have something better to look at: Christ and our neighbor.

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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 Preludes at the Piano

WELCOME

PREPARATION

CHOIR “Down to the River to Pray” - Mary McDonald

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 32:1–2*

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C **Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,”

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection.

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **O most merciful God who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God has had mercy upon you and has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. In the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I, a called and ordained servant of the Word, forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

WORD

INTROIT *Psalm 32:1–2, 5–7; antiphon: v. 10*

- P** Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
C but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.
P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
C whose sin is covered.
P Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
C and in whose spirit there is no deceit.
P I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;
C I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.
P Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
C surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.
P You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
C you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
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 Many are the sorrows of the wicked,
C but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.

KYRIE *(spoken)*

- C** Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *LSB 204*

- C** 1 To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav’nly King.
- 2 To You, O sole-begotten, the Father’s Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow’r are seated at God’s right hand on high—

**3 For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.**

(Text: Stephen P. Starke)

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DAY

P Today is the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, in the season of Christ's self-revelation through word and works. Today we hear the promise of a prophet fulfilled in Christ who bears the authority of the Word to us and confronts and casts out unclean spirits. From this we learn to love as He loves, taking care to season our liberty with the privilege of service.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 18:15–20

"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.'"

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

EPISTLE READING 1 Corinthians 8:1–13

“Concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” This “knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. If anyone imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if anyone loves God, he is known by God. Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through former association with idols, eat food as really offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this right of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol’s temple, will he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brothers and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

VERSE

P Alleluia. They were astonished at his teaching,

C for he taught them as one who had authority. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 1:21–28

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

“They went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath [Jesus] entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And immediately 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 out with a loud voice, came out of

him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him.” And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY #842 “Son of God, Eternal Savior”

SERMON “Love Builds Up” 1 Corinthians 8

APOSTLES’ 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

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Father of love, You rescued Your fallen people with the sufferings and death of Christ, Your Son, our Brother in flesh. Guide us to know and rejoice in His salvation and to proclaim this Gospel with boldness to our brothers and sisters. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P *[Petitions...]* Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

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 *(Sung)*

- C** Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free
spirit. Amen.

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 good, right, our duty and delight, heavenly Father, to bring You thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, for You have given us the revelation of Your love through Him who has become our Brother in flesh and by whom salvation has been won. With astonishing power and mercy, He has set us free from the power of evil that we may love You above all things and our neighbors as ourselves. Now with the company of angels and all the heavenly voices, we praise and glorify You, now and forevermore, singing:

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.

WORDS OF OUR LORD “Remember Me” G. Gustafson & M. Nystrom

- P** *(sung)* “On the night ... This is My blood poured out for you and as you drink it remember Me.”
- C** *(sung)* “So we thank You for the wine and for the bread;
For we see the life You gave And the blood you shed.
And we remember Your wondrous love
You gave your body You shed Your blood
And we remember Your wondrous love
You gave your body You shed your blood.”

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 163*

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.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

SONG “In Christ Alone” Getty & Townend

1. In Christ alone, my hope is found, He is my Light, my Strength, my Song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease! My comforter, my All in all, here in the love of Christ I stand.
2. In Christ alone! Who took on flesh; fullness of God in helpless Babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save:
Till of that cross as Jesus died, the Wrath of God was satisfied; for every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.
3. here in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine – bought with the precious blood of Christ.
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death- This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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#849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

#541 “Away from Us” the Demon Cried #549 All Hail the Power

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

[P] Let us pray. Rejoicing in Your mercy, we pray You to guard and guide us by Your Spirit, that we who have known with joy the blessings of Your mercy in Christ may be kept from all evil and preserved in the righteousness that is ours by faith, until that Day when we no longer must wrestle against principalities and powers. Grant us to live holy, upright, and godly lives in response to all that Your love has accomplished in us and for 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.

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.

CLOSING HYMN #803 “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

ANNOUNCEMENTS/POSTLUDE

+ + +

**Altar flowers today are given by Gordon & Carol Shepherd
in honor of their anniversary**

Reader Today: Julie Kuran

PRAYERS: Aaron, (step-son of Jan Crouch) recovery from brain cancer surgery.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Tues. Jan. 30	11:00 a.m.	Preschool Chapel
Wed. Jan. 31	10:00 a.m.	Women’s Bible Study

Wednesdays **3:00 p.m.** **Deadline for announcements for the bulletin.**
The bulletin is printed on Thursday.

Thur. Feb. 1 10:30 a.m. Grief Group
Thur. Feb. 1 11:00 a.m. Jesus Time (Preschool)
Thur. Feb. 1 1:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study
Thur. Feb. 1 3:00 p.m. Choir

Sunday Feb. 4 8:30 Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Worship

MONTHLY FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION is next Sunday, Feb. 4.

Donations of non-perishable food items, especially useful items that could make a meal or add to it are greatly appreciated and can be placed in box/basket in the Narthex.

8 FOOT WOODEN TABLES in good condition, available for \$20 each.

They are metal frame/wood top, heavy tables! There are eleven of these tables stacked against the wall in the fellowship hall. If interested, speak with Trustee Dan Samuelson, President Jim Bean, or Pastor.

From the Lutheran Women's Auxiliary

If you will be moving or plan to declutter, please save your items for our spring **rummage sale, March 16**. We will be happy to take your donations! No furniture or clothing, please. If you **need a place to store them, call Sandy Copeland. 702-346-3358**. Please do not bring your items to the church before **March 3**.

BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 30 Beverly Brack	Jan. 30 Joan Samuelson	Jan. 31 Jeff Meckley
Feb. 2 Mike Carpenter	Feb. 8 Jim Hinson	Feb. 9 Helen Gerads
Feb. 9 Judy Mickelsen	Feb. 17 JoAnne Neumann	Feb. 21 James Tritchler
Feb. 22 Sam Aslin	Feb. 22 Bill Dalton	Feb. 22 Roberta Jamieson
Feb. 22 Carol Van Lente		

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan. 31 Gordon & Carol Shepherd	Feb. 6 Jan & Daniel Aslin
Feb. 14 Gary & JoAnne Neumann	Feb. 22 Gary & Maureen Smith

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