



LUTHERAN CHURCH 1909

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 29, 2023 - 10:00 AM - in the Sanctuary



### Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church

As disciples of Christ seeking peace and justice in the world, we welcome, affirm, and include all people into the fullness of God's love. We celebrate people of all races, cultures, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, physical or mental abilities, socioeconomic statuses, appearances, family status and citizenship as equally loved and valued in the eyes of God and in this place. All are invited to join this community as we worship God, grow in faith, and strive to love and serve one another. All, without exception, are welcome in this place.

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of her mom, Bertha Cook, by Charlie and Beth Oswald.

## SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister	Jim Blalock
Preaching	Kendra Plating
Organist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Josh Warner
Cantor	John Park
Acolytes	Bethany Hybl Nate Hybl
Prayers	Jaime Fivecoat
Greeters	Debbie Farstad Jo Lewis Lane Lewis Dora Welch Melanie Wessinger
Ushers	Lani Ludian Angie McCormack Franklin Sease
Refreshment Hosts	Chad and Julie Brightwell
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

# GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

*Please stand as able*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
who makes all things new,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One, source of our renewal,

**we confess that we are wrapped up in sin,  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have not practiced your righteousness.**

**Our hearts have turned away from you.**

**For the sake of the world you so love,  
forgive us,**

**that we may be reconciled to one another  
for the glory of your holy name.**

**Amen.**

Thus says our God:

“The former things have come to pass  
and new things I now declare.”

God's mercy makes us new.

We are forgiven in the name of ✙ Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

**Let justice flow like streams of sparkling water pure,  
enabling growth, refreshing life, abundant, cleansing, sure.**

**Let righteousness roll on as others' cares we heed,  
an everflowing stream of faith translated into deed.**

**So may God's plumb line, straight, define our measure true,  
and justice, right, and peace pervade this world our whole life through.**

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.**

# HYMN OF PRAISE

Cantor



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## WORD

### FIRST READING

Micah 6:1-8

A reading from Micah

<sup>1</sup>Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup>Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the LORD has a controversy with the people,  
and will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>"O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

<sup>6</sup>"With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before God with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

<sup>8</sup>God has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of God for the people of God.

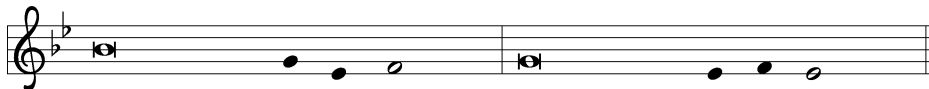
**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm  
 Refrain



LORD, who may a - bide up - on your ho - ly hill?

Psalm  
 Tone



- <sup>1</sup>LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?  
 Who may abide upon your | holy hill?
- <sup>2</sup>**Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,  
 who speak the truth | from their heart; R**
- <sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;  
 they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.
- <sup>4</sup>**In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.  
 They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**
- <sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the  
 innocent.  
 Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. **R**

A reading from first Corinthians.

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” <sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, my siblings: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup>God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup>so that no one might boast in the presence of God, <sup>30</sup>who is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup>in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Pastor Plating

*Please stand as able*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew the fifth chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

SERMON

Pastor Plating

*Please stand as able*

.

**Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for  
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
your holy people, light for the world to see.**

*Refrain*

***Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.  
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.***

**Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for  
hope, many despair. Your word alone  
has power to save us. Make us your living voice. *Refrain***

**Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for  
water, many still thirst. Make us your bread,  
broken for others, shared until all are fed. *Refrain***

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for  
warmth, many are cold. Make us your building,  
sheltering others, walls made of living stone. *Refrain***

**Many the gifts, many the people, many the  
hearts that yearn to belong. Let us be servants  
to one another, signs of your kingdom come. *Refrain***

## APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Cultivate humility in your church. In gatherings of every size, teach us to boast only in the cross. Shape your church to be people of kindness, generosity, inclusion, and justice. When the church preaches and prays of progress, guide us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

The foundations of the earth bear witness to your faithfulness; the mountains and hills echo with your holiness. When we mistreat your creation, show us the error of our ways. Inspire us with reverent awe to honor all you have made. As the world around us rests during the winter, grant us your people the courage to make rest for our bodies and minds a priority. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

You make foolish the wisdom of the world. Raise up honorable leaders who seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly to pursue peace. Frustrate plans that are corrupt, wicked, and self-seeking. Prosper the work of peacemakers and activists. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Bless all whom the world rejects. Accompany those who are regarded as foolish, weak, low, and despised; reveal your power and presence at work where it is least expected. Bring inclusion to the queer community, equity to your black and brown children, freedom to those wrongfully imprisoned, and hope to the poor. Grant healing to the sick and life, strength, and wisdom to all in need. We pray especially for those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

As with your people Israel, remind this congregation of your saving acts. Remind us how your faithfulness brought us through difficulties and sustained us despite our weaknesses.

Establish the radical message of the cross as the center of our life together. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Praise to you for your blessed saints in every time and place. Trusting you accompanied them in poverty, persecution, and in every trial, we trust you abide with your people always.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

**Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ is with you always.

**And also with you.**

*Please share with one another a sign of Christ's peace.*

*Please be seated*

## MEAL

OFFERING

*Blessed Are the Peacemakers*

Adult Choir

Anne Krentz

*Please stand as able*

OFFERING HYMN

*As with Gladness Men of Old*

#302

*(verse 2 & 3)*

**As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to thy lowly bed,  
there to bend the knee before thee, whom heav'n and earth adore;  
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle rude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.**

Let us pray, Liberating God,  
**you break the bonds of injustice  
and let the oppressed go free.  
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving  
for all your works of merciful power,  
and shape us as people of your justice and freedom.  
You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior,  
Amen.**

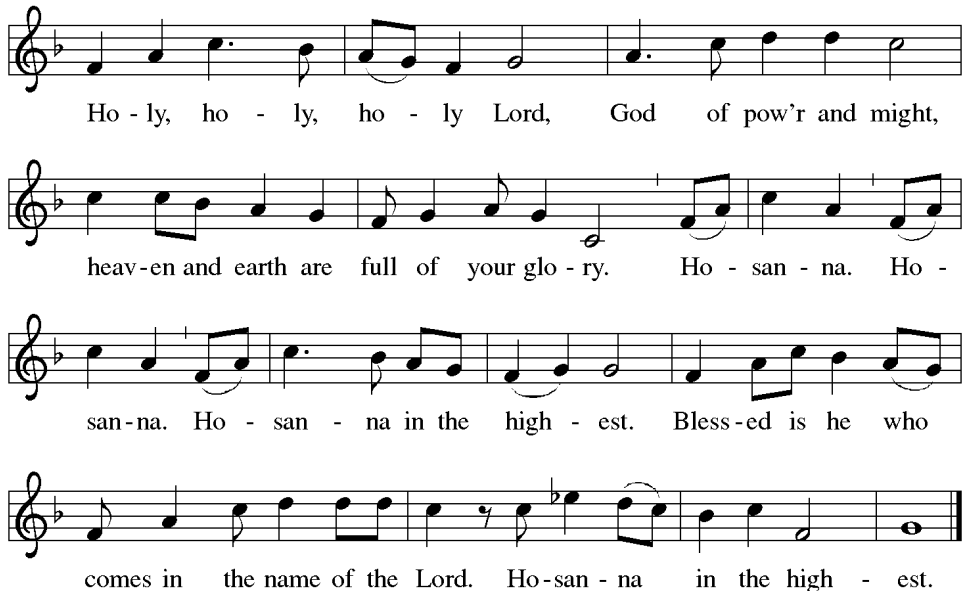
## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus 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.

#### 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.**

#### THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Please be seated*

#### COMMUNION

*All, without exception, are welcome at the table of God's grace and love. Anyone preferring not to receive the wine may receive only the bread, completely trusting that the full benefit of communion — Christ's grace and forgiveness — may be found in either the bread or wine.*

*Worshippers will come forward to receive the bread and wine and then return to their seats to consume the elements.*

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Let Streams of Living Justice*

#710

**Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth;  
give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth.  
The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights,  
the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.  
Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r;  
abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.**

**For healing of the nations, for peace that will not end,  
for love that makes us lovers, God grant us grace to mend.  
Weave our varied gifts together; knit our lives as they are spun;  
on your loom of time enroll us till our thread of life is run.  
O great weaver of our fabric, bind church and world in one;  
dye our texture with your radiance, light our colors with your sun.**

**Your city's built to music; we are the stones you seek;  
your harmony is language; we are the words you speak.  
Our faith we find in service, our hope in others' dreams,  
our love in hand of neighbor; our home-land brightly gleams.  
Inscribe our hearts with justice; your way—the path untried;  
your truth—the heart of stranger; your life—the Crucified.**

**When the poor ones, who have nothing, still are giving;  
when the thirsty pass the cup, water to share;  
when the wounded offer others strength and healing:**

*Refrain*

***We see God, here by our side, walking our way;  
we see God, here by our side, walking our way.***

**When compassion gives the suffering consolation;  
when expecting brings to birth hope that was lost;  
when we choose love, not the hatred all around us: *Refrain***

**When our spirits, like a chalice, brim with gladness;  
when our voices, full and clear, sing out the truth;  
when our longings, free from envy, seek the humble: *Refrain***

**When goodness poured from heaven fills our dwellings;  
when the nations work to change war into peace;  
when the stranger is accepted as our neighbor: *Refrain***

*Please stand as able*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**



# SENDING

## BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice  
and breaks the oppressor's rod  
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,  
today and always.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

*Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

#314

**Arise, your light has come! The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light has come! Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light has come! All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light has come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Everyone is invited to gather on the Front Lawn  
following worship for refreshments and fellowship.*

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Associate Pastor for Worship and Music

Amy R. Brown, Deacon  
Director of  
Educational Ministries

Patrick D. Preacher  
Queer and Justice Ministry Coordinator

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Henry W. Wilcox  
Accountant and  
Digital Media Manager

Karen M. Craig  
Administrative Assistant

Roy L. Cook  
Facilities Manager

Beth C. Oswald  
Nursery Attendant

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