



A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America



THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 28, 2024 - 10:00 AM - in the Gym



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 honor of the church staff by Jeanne Blinkoff.

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister	Susan Crowell
Preaching	Colby Martin
Assisting Minister	Patrik Preacher
Pianist and Choir Director	Jim Parham
Lector	Josh Warner
Prayers	Ann Berlam
Cantor	Melanie Helling
Acolytes	Charlie Fontecchio Harper Roth
Children's Worship Activity Leaders	Amanda Cook Anne Fagala Lara Wannemacher
Praying for Possibilities	Karen Nichols
Greeters	Mark Allen Cathy O'Neill Pat O'Neill Mary Beth Ridenhour Suzanne Rudisill
Ushers	Steve Boguski Bonnie Farmer Calvin Harmon Wayne Landreth
Fellowship Hosts	Chris and Dean Nix Rosa Waldrop
Video	Henry Wilcox
Audio	Gregg Alley

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WORDS OF WELCOME AND AFFIRMATION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

We have wounded one another

and sinned against you.

We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit

dwelling in each of us.

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us,

that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of † Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

Amen.

**Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely
live, a place where saints and children tell how
hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and
visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
Christ shall end divisions:**

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and
true, where all God's children dare to seek to
dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as
witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we
claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain***

**Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and
wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground where
peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through
Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in
Christ the feast that frees us: *Refrain***

**Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and
stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and
live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the
stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an
end to fear and danger: *Refrain***

**Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions
heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as
words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and
laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house
proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain***

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.

**O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with
God's own truth and light, aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's line, King David's son, our Lord and Savior,
you have won our hearts to serve you only! Lowly,
holy! Great and glorious, all victorious, rich
in blessing! Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

**Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there
falls from God above a ray of purest pleasure.
Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood refresh our souls with
heav'nly food. You are our dearest treasure! Let your
mercy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For
you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.**

**Oh, let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy
be all with music crowned, our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes, with us all the way— today, tomorrow,
ev'ry day! His love is never ending! Sing out!
Ring Out! Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the Story!
Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of infinite love and compassion, you journey with us as we live out your call to proclaim the inclusive gospel. We, your people, long to be seen, named, affirmed, celebrated, and cared for in this world. Make a way for each of us to be who you are creating us to be, both individually and as a community. Strengthen our voices, make us to trust in the gifts you have given us, and light the way on your path of truth. Guide us to be a people of faith who are committed to learning and re-learning what it means to welcome, include, and advocate for all you call beloved. We pray these things in the holy name of Jesus Christ, through whom we are reconciled again and again.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from first Deuteronomy.

[Moses said:] ¹⁵God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then God replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

The Word of God for the people of God.

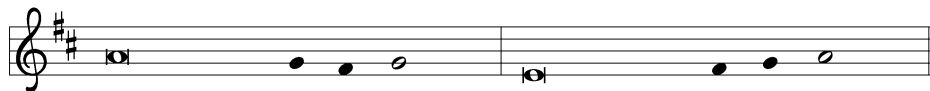
Thanks be to God.

Thereafter, the congregation is invited to sing without introduction.

Psalm



The fear of the LORD is the be - gin - ning of wis - dom.

Psalm
Tone

- ¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.
- ²**Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.**
- ³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.
- ⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion. R**
- ⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.
- ⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**
- ⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.
- ⁸**They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity. R**
- ⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.
- ¹⁰**The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise en- | dures
forever. R**

A reading from first Corinthians.

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by God. ⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists,” and that “there is no God but one.” ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, Abba God, 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. ⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸“Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Children’s Sermon

A Book Filled with God’s Love

Please stand as able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

#512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

**When my heart is hard, break the stone away. When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.**

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark the first chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and 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." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Colby Martin

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 your kingdom come. *Refrain***

APOSTLES' CREED

**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

Trusting in the one who names us, claims us, and calls us beloved, we pray for the world, the church, and all in need.

Brief silence.

Loving God, we pray that your example of teaching with confidence and authority builds up your church in love. May all church leaders and teachers honor your instruction and model your inclusive ways. Silence the voices of shame and hatred – including the ones in our own heads – and inspire us to love ourselves and one another the way you so desperately, passionately, and deeply love us. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Renewing God, we pray for all of creation, that waterways flow clean and clear, natural spaces are protected, and our planet is healed. Let us commit to thoughtful care of the earth. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Creating God, Teach us a fondness and delight for our bodies as we are called to live in them, in all of their holy, messy, and fabulous glory. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Justice-seeking God, we pray for those in government and community leadership, that they lead with honor and mindfulness. May they remember their covenants and be upright in their ways. Make a way for governments and leaders to see that the lives, loves, and gifts of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, ace, queer, intersex, native, black, brown, incarcerated, differently abled, neurodiverse, migrant, and other marginalized people matter to you, and so therefore matter to us. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, we pray for those who need hope, for those who feel excluded, and for all to know that they have value and are worthy of love, acceptance, and celebration. Be with any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer. We especially pray for all those we name now on our lips or silently in our hearts ... God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Still-speaking God, we pray for our congregation, for its artists and musicians, for its educators and caregivers, that all gifts are used to care for those in need and to live out your example of accompaniment, gospel witness, and love. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Radically Inclusive God, We pray for our LGBTQIA+ siblings who have lost their lives to hateful and fearful acts. We pray for those who work to make our neighborhoods safer and more peaceful places. End violence. Restore communities. Bring peace and comfort to the families and friends of queer siblings who have lost their lives. Strengthen us and keep us until that day when we meet you face to face. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those desires too deep for words, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

ANTHEM

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Adult Choir

Music: Allen Pote

Text: Psalm 72 paraphrase by James Montgomery

Hail to the Lord's anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He comes with rescue speedy to those who suffer wrong;
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turned to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying, were precious in his sight.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
And righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever: that name to us is Love.

Please stand as able.

**Arise, you 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.**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Holy One,
**for all good things come from you.
In bread and cup you open heaven to us.
Meet us at this table,
that we receive what we seek
and follow your Son, Jesus,
in whose name we pray.
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.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son,
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.
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 - er and
 might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est, 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, 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 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.

Gluten free wafers are available.

At the direction of the ushers, worshippers are invited to move to the front of the center aisle to dip the bread into the wine to receive Communion by intinction.

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, grant us peace.

In the Singing

#466

**In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking, in your presence at the table,**

Refrain

***Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.***

**In the question, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart's cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people. *Refrain***

God, We Gather as Your People



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a - bove, and we
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be free; and we
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and shame, so a -
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and wide can



dare to claim the pro - mise of your love. Though the day may not yet
sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be, that they nev - er have a
fraid of who they are and whom they love. May the mes - sage now be
live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride. As they grow in strength and



be here, we trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
rea - son to doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
ban - ished that your love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
stat - ure, may they join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

Refrain



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

**Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise;
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**

**Manifest at Jordan's stream, prophet, priest, and king supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine, changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**

**Manifest in making whole weakened body, fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.**

**Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy word;
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany,
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in flesh made manifest.**

Light Dawns on a Weary World

#726

**Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to
see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a
weary world: the promised day of justice comes.**

Refrain

***The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.***

**Love grows in a weary world when hungry hearts find
bread and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes. *Refrain***

**Hope blooms in a weary world when creatures, once
forlorn, find wilderness reborn. Hope blooms in a
weary world: the promised green of Eden comes. *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

Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

God who names you,
Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Shine, Jesus, Shine

#671

Refrain

***Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory;
blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;
send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!***

**Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the
darkness, shining; Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us,
set us free by the truth you now bring us.**

Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain*

**As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display
your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory,
mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.**

Shine on me, shine on me: *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

People of God, walk out of these doors knowing these things, without a doubt:
You belong!
Your voice matters!
God creates you to be you!
You are God's most beloved child!
Share that news with the world and go forth in peace!
Thanks be to God.

*Everyone is invited to gather in the back corner of the Gym
for refreshments and fellowship.*

All Are Welcome

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Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

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Shine, Jesus, Shine

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Kerry Sease

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