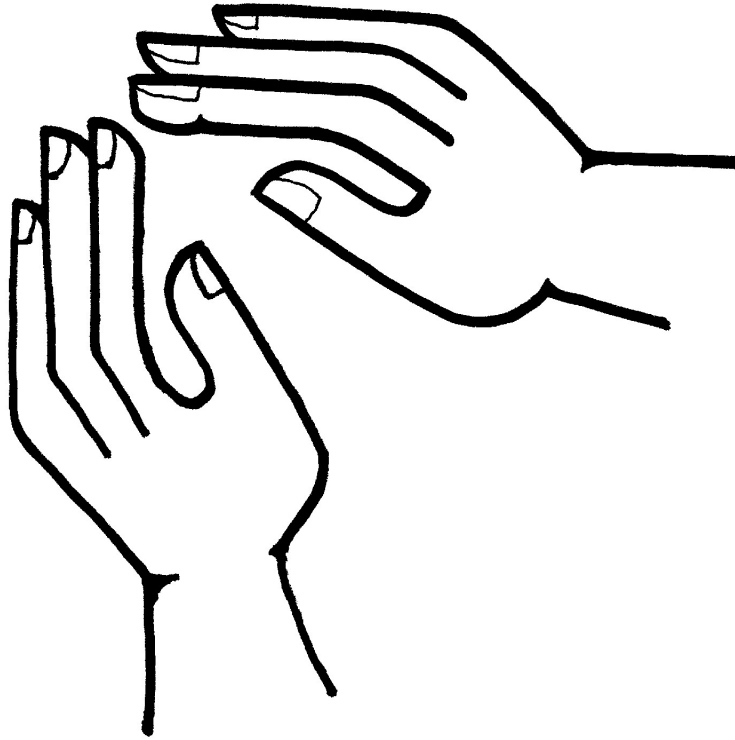


*Welcome to*  
**Luther Memorial Church**  
*of the Erie Lutheran Parish*



28 JANUARY 2024

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
10:30 am

*In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.*

# LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

## LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

WALT GABER

*Cantor*

RON KING

*Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity*

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

*Director of Care & Health Ministries*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI  
*Youth and Family Ministry*

MICHELLE THOM

*Academy Administrator*

**28 JANUARY 2024**

**THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

**Holy Communion • ELW – Setting IV • 10:30**

*Luther Memorial Church and Academy is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people, people of the Six Nations Treaty, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

***GATHERING – “The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.”***

**PRELUDE** – Prelude and Fugue in F Major

J. S. Bach

### **PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP**

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you, hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

☛ **Amen.**

☞ Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

☛ **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection. Please kneel or sit for confession.*



P Most Merciful God,  
 C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.  
 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.  
 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.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

*Please stand as you are able as we gather with song.*

## GATHERING HYMN

DATH 64

### Brighter than the Sun

*Refrain*

Bright-er, bright-er than the sun is the can-dle of the  
 Ho-ly One. Big-ger, big-ger than the sea are the  
 waves of God wash-ing o-ver me.  
 1 Gon-na light my can-dle from the ho-ly flame of the  
 2 Gon-na meet God's chil-dren at the foun-tain of life, where the  
 3 Gon-na gath-er round and gon-na wel-come in ev-'ry  
 one that's bright-er than... my... own name. Gon-na  
 word and the wa-ter and the Lord... Je-sus Christ make a  
 child to be and ev-'ry one who's ev-er been. Gon-na  
 wash my bod-y in the ho-ly sea, in the  
 new cre-a-tion out of ev-'ry one: Ho-ly  
 breathe to-geth-er with this spark of life: Ho-ly



*Refrain*

wat - er of life that's . . . big - ger than me. Oh,—  
 Spir - it of love, let the wa - ters run. Oh,—  
 Spir - it of God, make our flame burn bright. Oh,—

Text: Ray Makeever  
 Music: BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN, Ray Makeever

## GREETING

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ And also with you.

## GLORIA

*Assisting minister*

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, 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

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☑ Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

**WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”**

*Today’s reading is part of a longer discourse in Deuteronomy, an updating of the law for the Israelite community as the people wait to enter the promised land. Here Moses assures the people that God will continue to guide them through prophets who will proclaim the divine word.*

### FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

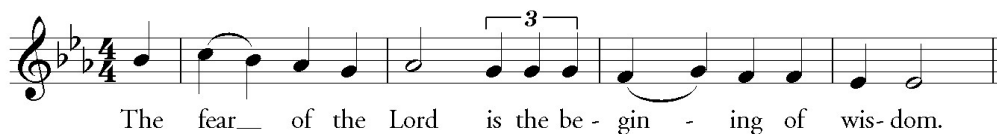
A reading from Deuteronomy. Moses said: <sup>15</sup>“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ <sup>17</sup>Then the Lord replied to me, ‘They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I 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. <sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

### PSALM: Psalm 111

**Refrain:** *(Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by R.)*



<sup>1</sup> Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

<sup>2</sup> Great are the deeds of the LORD!  
They are studied by all who delight in them.

<sup>3</sup> His work is full of majesty and splendor,  
and his righteousness endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> He makes his marvelous works to be remembered;  
The LORD is gracious and full of compassion. **R**

<sup>5</sup> He gives food to those who fear him,  
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

<sup>6</sup> He has shown his people the power of his works  
in giving them the lands of the nations.

<sup>7</sup> The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;  
all his commandments are sure.



<sup>8</sup> They stand fast forever and ever,  
 because they are done in truth and equity.  
<sup>9</sup> He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant forever;  
 holy and awesome is his name.  
<sup>10</sup> The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;  
 those who act accordingly have a good understanding.  
 His praise endures forever. **R**

*Paul is concerned about the way some Corinthian Christians use their freedom in Christ as license to engage in non-Christian behavior that sets a damaging example to other, impressionable believers. Christians have a responsibility to each other that their behavior does not cause another to sin.*

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup> Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge, <sup>3</sup> but anyone who loves God is known by God. <sup>4</sup> Hence, 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.” <sup>5</sup> Indeed, even though there may be so-called deities in heaven or on earth— as in fact there are many deities and many lords— <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> It 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. <sup>8</sup> “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. <sup>9</sup> But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup> For 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? <sup>11</sup> So by your knowledge your weak sibling for whom Christ died is destroyed. <sup>12</sup> But when you thus sin against your siblings in Christ and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup> Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never again eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

**L** The Word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are 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.

*Forces that would bring death and disease have taken hold of a man, yet they recognize Jesus and know what his power means for them. Jesus commands these forces to leave and people are amazed at his authority.*

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28**

- 📖 The Holy Gospel according to Mark.
- 🎵 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup> Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>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.” <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked the spirit, saying, “Be quiet and come out of him!” <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of the man. <sup>27</sup>They 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.” <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

- 📖 The Gospel of the Lord.
- 🎵 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Jay

*Please stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

ELW 860

**I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me**

1 I'm so glad I'm so glad  
2 Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me. Sa - tan had me bound,  
3 When I was in trou - ble, When I was in trou - ble,  
Je - sus lift - ed me. I'm so glad  
Sa - tan had me bound, Je - sus lift - ed me,  
When I was in trou - ble,  
sing - ing glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah! Je - sus lift - ed me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: JESUS LIFTED ME, African American spiritual

## APOSTLE'S CREED

**A** Let us confess the faith into which we are baptized:

**C** 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.

## THE PRAYERS

**A** As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** 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. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** 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,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** 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. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Compassionate God, we pray for all in need, especially those who have known rejection, any who struggle with long-term illness or chronic pain, those without access to safe housing or health care, and any who suffer. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** 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,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Eternal God, we remember all who have been teachers, mentors, and companions in the church and in our lives. We trust that all who have died, especially Frank R. Howell and Pat Olinger, rest in your loving care. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C** Amen.



## DEDICATION OF THE COLUMBARIUM

### THE PEACE

☐ The peace of Christ be with you.      ☑ **And also with you.**  
*We greet one another with a sign of peace.*

*Please be seated.*

**MEAL – “God feeds us with Jesus Christ.”**

### THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

ANTHEM – "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

African American Spiritual

#### *Refrain*

*There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;  
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.*

*Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,  
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.*

*If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,  
You can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all."*

*Don't ever be discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;  
And if you lack for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### OFFERTORY

ELW 310

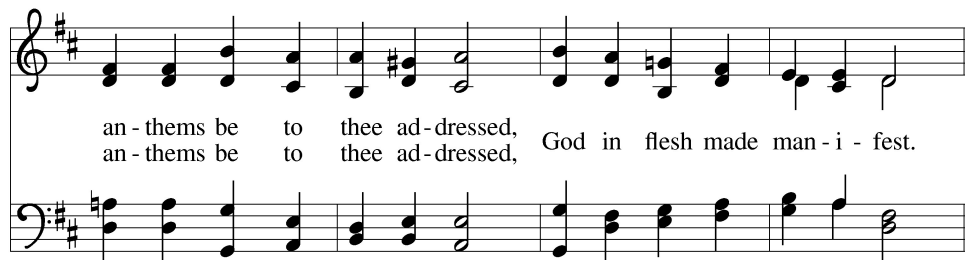
#### Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:





an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,

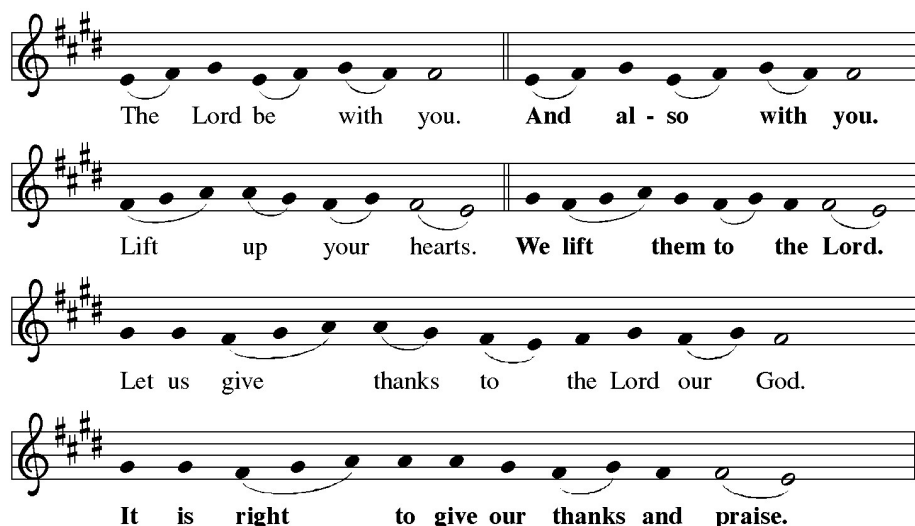
Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.  
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** 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.

**C** Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG

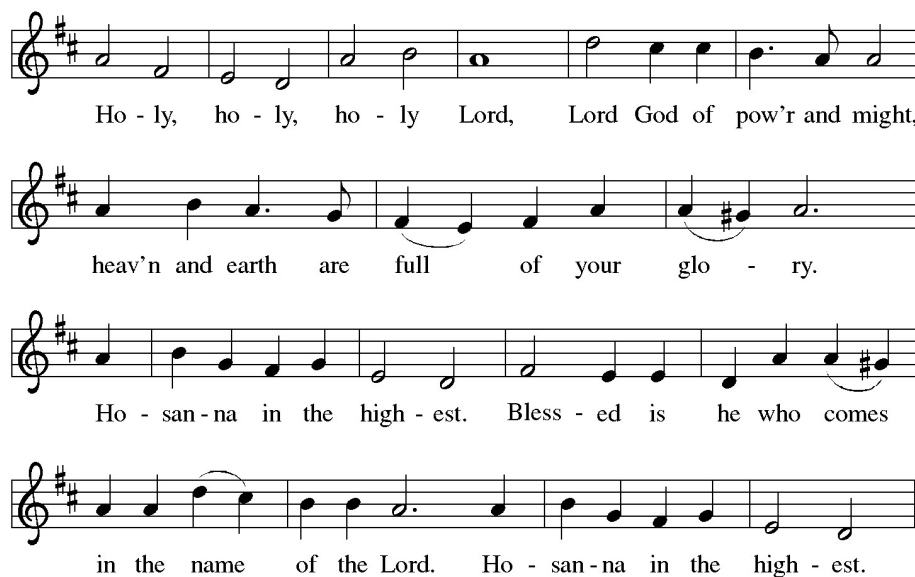


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
 Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
 Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

*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.*

- ☐ Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.
- ☐ By your Spirit bless us and this meal that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- ☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

- ☑ **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 into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI



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

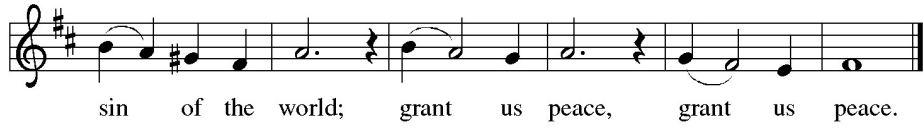


us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the





sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.
- ☑ Amen.
- ☐ Those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the body and blood of Christ for you.

*The congregation is seated.*

### SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

### COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast!  
We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.*

*Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.  
Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.  
White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.  
Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know.  
Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.  
As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.*

*All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine,  
please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

### HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

ELW 469

#### By Your Hand You Feed Your People

1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav-en's bread.  
2 In this meal we taste your sweet-ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.  
3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.

For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:  
Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.  
In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Refrain

Christ's own bod-y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,

giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952  
 Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Text and music © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

ELW 482

### I Come with Joy

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has

free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936  
 Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835  
 Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

☐ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,  
keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.

☑ Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☑ Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -  
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -  
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the  
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.  
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,  
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

## 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 – “God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.”*

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

☐ ...remain with you always.

☑ Amen.

## Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
 and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
 and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.  
 Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A** Go in peace. You are God's beloved!  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE – Toccata

Johann Pachelbel

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## — SERVING TODAY —

GREETER – Mary Daniels

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Linda Swanson

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Linda Graffius

LECTOR – Eric Hedlund

GUEST CANTOR – Bill Lasher

USHERS – Eric Hedlund, Les Fobes, Betty Pletz, Gina Snider

VIDEO STREAMING – Sarah Prylinski

ALTAR GUILD – Loretta Deeds



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our parents, Frank R. Howell and Pat Olinger, by Joyce and Mark Howell.

## Today's Events

**Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held this morning following the 10:30am service. Annual reports from staff members, committee heads and other key members of the congregation will be available. The Annual Report has been emailed and paper copies are also available. Please join us in fellowship hall this morning as we look ahead to 2024.

**Offering envelopes** for 2024 are located on the table by the ramp door. To save on postage we ask that you please pick up your envelopes. They are arranged alphabetically. Thank you.

**Greeting cards** can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

## Worship Matters

**Our Gathering Hymn** this week comes from hymnwriter Ray Makeever. A former pastor and long-time worship leader, Ray writes his music to be both singable and theologically sound. As we have begun each liturgy in the Season after the Epiphany, this song is one of light. However, Ray also makes the connection between Light and Baptism. Indeed, in the baptismal rite, the baptized is given a candle with a command to let their own light shine reflecting the very light of God. In that way, *Brighter than the Sun* speaks of our light and The Light, and asks for the Holy Spirit to help our lights burn brightly. This is a direct tie-in to our reading in Corinthians where Paul admonishes the Church to be mindful of how our actions are seen by others and to act in ways that promote the common good and the Way of Jesus.

**During the Season after Epiphany**, we are using the *Nunc Dimittis* (Latin: "Now dismiss") as our **Post-Communion Canticle**. This Gospel Canticle is the Song of Simeon, which the prophet sings while holding the child Jesus at the Purification in the Temple. Martin Luther added this canticle to the Communion service because, he explained, just like Simeon held the child Jesus in the Temple, in Communion we too hold Jesus in our hands. So, like Simeon, we can sing in prophecy, proclamation, and praise.

## Worship

**Our prelude** begins at 10:25 each week and flows into the 10:30am worship time. We hope that this will draw us together and into our time of worship. Please remember to be mindful of those around you and those worshipping at home by keeping conversations and visiting to the lobbies once the prelude has begun. Thank you.

**A reminder** that our livestream runs from the beginning of the prelude through the end of the postlude. To maintain a worshipful space for those joining from home, please remember to leave the chancel area (the area around the altar) clear until after the postlude.

**Ash Wednesday** worship services will be held in our main church on February 14 at 10:00am and 7:00pm. Ashes will also be given throughout the day for those who would like them.

## Christian Education

**First Holy Communion** will be offered on Sunday, April 14, 2024 during the 10:30am service. In preparation for First Communion two Saturday morning sessions will be held on April 6 and April 13 from 9:00am – 12:00 noon, including snack time. These 2 All-Family Workshops will be our preparation for the big celebration! Any family interested in First Communion should plan to attend both sessions. First Communion is open to all the baptized so any child and family are welcome if you're ready. However, families with children in grades 3-5 are strongly encouraged to participate if your child has not received First Communion yet. Please contact Pastor Jay or the church office if your family will be attending these sessions. Thank you.

## Where Is Pastor Jay?

**Pastor Jay** would love to meet with you! You don't just need to have an emergency to have a great chat. If you want to get together, because Pastor Jay is often away from his desk doing other pastorly things, you should probably call the church office or e-mail Pastor Jay directly at [JMitchell@LutherMemorialOnline.org](mailto:JMitchell@LutherMemorialOnline.org). This week, Pastor Jay is available Wednesday, January 31 from 9:00-10:00am in the office or Thursday, February 1 from 8:00-9:00 at Pressed Coffee (8<sup>th</sup> and Greengarden).



## Opportunities for Fellowship

“**Souper**” **Bowl Tasting** event will be held Sunday, February 4 in fellowship hall following the 10:30am service. All are invited to whip up a batch of their favorite soup for all to have a taste and enjoy. Soup may be taken to fellowship hall in the morning to keep warm. If you’d like to share your recipe, please bring along some copies. Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for planning this fellowship time.

**Magic Fingers Grace Group** continues to spend wonderful mornings together knitting, crocheting, and being creative with needlepoint, cross-stitch and more. Join them the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month; February 13 and 27 from 10:00am – 12:00 noon. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

## Faith Formation

**Steps in Faith**, our Lenten gatherings, will be held each Wednesday in Lent; February 21 – March 20. At 5:30 we gather for dinner; the main dish is provided, please bring a dish to share. A Bible lesson and a craft or activity will be held following our meal.

**B.A.D.** (*Bible After Dark*) will be held on February 7 at 6:30pm at the Brewerie. Our evenings are a wonderful time of fellowship as we gather with folks from Mt. Calvary to share in Bible Study and fellowship (with some adult beverages if you would like). Due to gatherings offered in Lent and Easter our next get-together will be May 1.

## Donations Needed

**Saturday mornings** have been creative for many of our quilters who have been making quilts for Bethesda Women’s Center and local shelters. Quilts made are for children and adults. To assist them they are in need of some items such as portable table-top ironing boards and irons. Donations may be dropped off in the church office or with Jan MacInnes. Thank you.

## Lenten Preparations

**Do you have your palms** from last year? Did you know that the former year's palms are used for the ashes on Ash Wednesday of the next year? Please bring your old palms (from any year) into church and/or the office any time before Sunday, February 11! A basket will be on the Welcome Table near the ramp entrance. We will be using them to make this year's ashes for Ash Wednesday. Thank you.

**Tuesday, February 13** is Shrove Tuesday (some know it as Mardi Gras or "Fat Tuesday"). We will celebrate with a fundraiser for our youth: a Pancake Supper will be held from 5:30 – 7:00pm in our fellowship hall. Join us for pancakes as we celebrate Mardi Gras. Cost is \$8/adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Proceeds will benefit our youth attending the National Youth Gathering in July 2024.

**There will be a Lenten Prayer Retreat** for the whole congregation on Saturday, February 17 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. We will begin with a brief service of prayer and then disperse throughout the building to explore a variety of prayer practices. There will be light refreshments throughout the day. If you have questions, or would like to set up for this event, please see Pastor Jay.

**Lenten Luncheons** will be offered on Wednesdays in Lent; February 21 – March 20 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. A home-cooked meal will fill you up for the day; cost \$8. Help is always appreciated and anyone interested in lending a hand with cooking, serving and/or clean-up may contact Betty Pletz at 898-1053 or the church office. **A Lenten luncheon planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7 at 11:00am in the parlor.**

## Speaker Series

**Lunch and Listen**, a speaker’s series devoted to the idea that listening to talented people sharing their passions, hobbies, career histories, etc., can be a refreshing alternative to the news that we hear daily, will be held at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church, 2402 W. Grandview Blvd. on Wednesday, February 14. Sandy Globa, from “Canine Companions” will share how these amazing dogs help their owners get through each day living with a handicap. Bring a sandwich, relax with a cup of coffee at 12:00 noon, and enjoy the presentation from 12:30 – 1:30pm.

## Outreach

**The Souper Bowl of Caring** is a national project sponsored by churches to help alleviate hunger in the community. Soup kettles will be at the entrances of the church on Sunday, February 4 if you would like to make a donation. All donations received are kept in our local community.

## Items to Note

**In case of an emergency** and unable to reach Pastor Jay, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. During the weekend and evening you are welcome to contact Norma Buerk at 450-7162 or Linda Graffius at 440-5458. Thank you.

## Readings and Commemorations This Week

**January 28 – Thomas Aquinas, teachers, 1274** – Wisdom 7:7-14; Psalm 37:3-6, 32-33; I Corinthians 3:5-11; Matthew 13:47-52 -- *One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.*

**January 29** – Psalm 35:1-10; Number 22:1-21; Acts 21:17-26

**January 30** – Psalm 35:1-10; Number 22:22-28; I Corinthians 7:32-40

**January 31** – Psalm 35:1-10; Jeremiah 29:1-14; Mark 5:1-20

**February 1** – Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; Probers 12:10-21; Galatians 5:1-15

**February 2 – The Presentation of Our Lord** – Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 24:7-10; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 -- *Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.*

**February 3 – Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, 865** – Isaiah 62:1-7; Psalm 96:1-7; Acts 1:1-9; Mark 6:7-13 -- *A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.*

## – PRAYER LIST –

<b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:</b>			
<b>Our Members:</b>			
Lois Fobes	Dave Parsh	Rose-Marie Rose	Phil McAfee
Diane & Bob Giannelli			
<b>Friends and Family:</b>			
Cindy B.	Lorraine Melms	Jeannette Bowers	Doug Blum
Carol E.	Janice Carpenter	Jeff Granger & family	Melanie Benn
Paul Gustafson	Louise Seth	Marky Stein	Jonah Allgeier
Pam (Battersby) Latronca			
<b>Grief:</b>			
Jessica & Matt Kinzig & family	Family of baby Mitchell		
<b>Our Military Service Men &amp; Women:</b>			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			

## CALENDAR

**MONDAY, JANUARY 29**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 30**      1:00pm      Study Group for Pastors  
   2:30pm      LMA Play Rehearsal

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31**    11:30am      LMA Dismissal

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1**      1:00pm      Grief Support Group  
   2:30pm      LMA Play Rehearsal  
   6:30pm      Choir

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024 THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

**Worship** with us at 8:15am in Faith Chapel or 10:30am in the main church.

**Adult Forum** will gather at 9:15am.

**“Souper” Bowl Tasting** will be held in fellowship hall at 11:30am.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Mark Howell
	10:30am	Pam Masiroff
Communion Assistant	10:30am	<i>I needed</i>
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Scout Sunday
Video Streaming	10:30am	Beth Keller
Counters	10:30am	Dave Kinzig, Natalie Montero
Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )	10:30am	Scout Sunday