

Prelude**Welcome and Announcements****We Gather to Worship**

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

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God, our rock and refuge,

**C: 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.**

P: 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. You are God's
beloved. By the authority of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

(Please rise as you are able)

Gathering Song**"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"****ELW #310**

- 1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also, with you.

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

C: 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)

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. 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.’ Then the Lord replied to me, ‘They are right in what they have said. 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. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. 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.'

Psalms: Psalm 111

R: Praise the Lord!

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

**C: Great are the works of the Lord,
studied by all who delight in them.**

R: Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.

**C: He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the Lord is gracious and merciful.**

R: He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**C: He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.**

R: The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.

**C: They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.**

R: He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.

**C: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge, but anyone who loves God is known by him.

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.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact 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.

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. “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. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. 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? So by your knowledge the weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed. But when you thus sin against brothers and sisters and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. 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.

(Please rise as you are able.)

Gospel Acclamation

ELW p. 151

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-28

P: A reading from the gospel of Mark

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. Just then 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 quiet and come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. 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.” At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

P: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Emily Dalen

Hymn of the Day **“O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing ”**

ELW #886

- 1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing
 my great Redeemer's praise,
 the glories of my God and King,
 the triumphs of his grace!
- 2 My gracious Master and my God,
 assist me to proclaim,
 to spread through all the earth abroad
 the honors of your name.
- 3 The name of Jesus charms our fears
 and bids our sorrows cease,
 sings music in the sinner's ears,
 brings life and health and peace.
- 4 He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,
 new life the dead receive;
 the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,
 the humble poor believe.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

(Please rise as you are able)

We Profess Our Faith - 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.

Intercessory Prayers

P: Lead us, O God,

C: Lead us by your light.

We Share God's Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share God's peace with those around us.

(You may be seated)

We Bring Our Tithes and Offerings

- 1 Arise, your light has come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God
which shines on you today.
- 4 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.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

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(Please rise as you are able)

Offertory Prayer

P: 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.

We Are Fed at God's Table**The Great Thanksgiving**

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.

The Preface

P: 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:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p.130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven 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. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

P: On 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.

The Lord's Prayer

P: Remembering our Lord, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

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.

(Please be seated)

P: At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

Communion Distribution

(Please rise as you are able)

Communion Blessing

P: Now may the body and blood of our crucified and risen Lord strengthen you and keep you in His grace now and forever.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

P: 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.

C: Amen.

The Benediction

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

C: Amen.

Sending Song

"Let the Whole Creation Cry"

ELW #876

- 1 Let the whole creation cry,
"Glory to the Lord on high!"
Heav'n and earth, awake and sing,
"Praise to our almighty king!"
Praise God, angel hosts above,
ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice;
night and stars, in God rejoice.
- 2 Servants striving for the Lord,
prophets burning with the word,
those to whom the arts belong
add their voices to the song.
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law,
to the glorious circle draw;
all who work and all who wait,
sing, "The Lord is good and great!"

3 Men and women, young and old,
raise the anthem loud and bold,
and let children's happy hearts
in this worship take their parts;
from the north to southern pole
let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, Holy, Holy One;
glory be to God alone!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832-1916, alt.

The Sending

P: Go forth into the world to love and serve God with gladness by

C: Knowing Jesus, Telling About Jesus, Loving as Jesus Loves.

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved!

C: Thanks be to God!

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Week of January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Welcome Team: 8:00 a.m. Doug & LaJean Wehring; 10:30 a.m. Kevin & Ann Pingel/Kelby & Jennifer Vorthmann Family

Tellers: Tanya Whitehill & Stephanie Melby

Musicians: 8:00 a.m. Ruby Bentley; 10:30 a.m. Megan Dreyer

Acolyte: 8:00 a.m. Liz Young; 10:30 a.m. Joslyn Chambers

Reader: Sheryl Henderson

Prayers: Randy Jensen; Chris Rochleau; Joy Young; Robert Meier, Jr.; Jeri Schnepel; Dian Wilson; Ed Whitehill; Brenda Riley; Roger Grant; Peggy Engel; Beth Lucy; Logan Young (Military)

You're welcome to attend Adult Bible Study: Join Pastor Emily at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays for a study on the book of Genesis.

Join the Council for Visioning Sessions! Everyone is invited to our Visioning session. Let's gather for an hour to talk about where we have been as a congregation, what needs we see in the community, and the values that we hold. We'll begin to dream about how God is continuing to call this church to be active in the world. Choose one of the sessions to attend:

***Wed., January 31 at 7 p.m.**-Meet at 7 pm in the sanctuary. Do you have confirmation students? This would be a great session for you! Bring the kids and gather upstairs.

***Sun., February 4 at 11:30 a.m.**-Stick around after church for a light lunch and discussion.

***Thurs., February 8 at 7 p.m.**-Join Council at Silos for an informal discussion. We'll provide appetizers; you purchase your beverage of choice.

One More Lenten Speaker Still Needed! Pastor Emily is looking for people who are willing to share a 5-7 minute story on Wednesday evenings during worship. Our theme will be Wandering Heart. We will look at Lent through the eyes of the disciple Peter. Our theme will also utilize stanzas from the song, Come Thou Fount. Would you be willing to share a story about one of the following things:

***March 13**-Matthew 16:21-23 Peter needed a new perspective. Has there been a time when your faith was tested and you needed to rethink what you know?

Bethany Volunteers Needed: Bethany is in need of volunteers that would ride along with residents that have appointments that don't have family that are able to go with them. It would be nice to get our volunteers back. All that is needed is a background check and training.

The Nominating Committee has begun its work: We are currently looking for a Treasurer, a cemetery committee member, and volunteers to serve on the preschool board. Would you prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to serve? Talk with Pastor, Brandon Vorthmann, Alissa Hough, Carrie Schweer, or Dave Keay if you might be interested in serving.

This Week's Calendar:

Sun. 1/28: 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Wedded Band Spaghetti Dinner
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Denise F-hall

Mon. 1/29: 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wed. 1/31: 6:15 p.m. Confirmation
7:00 p.m. SPY Cell Group/Visioning Session Sanctuary

Thurs. 2/1: **Denise's Day Off**
8:30 a.m. Maint. Day
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Fri. 2/2: **Pastor Emily's Day Off**

Sun. 2/4: 8:00 a.m. Worship
9:00 a.m. Fellowship
9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Visioning Session F-hall
4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Silver Keg Feeders 4-H F-hall

Worship Attendance on 1/21/24: 8:00 a.m. **34**; Online: **21**; 10:30 a.m. **47**; Online: **32**

Sunday School Attendance on 1/21/24: **18**

Stewardship Emphasis: The Mission for January: Lutheran Services in Iowa

Current Financial Information: Posted on the bulletin board outside the Church office.

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