



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

“Encouraging faith and proclaiming God’s love by Gathering, Growing and Giving.”

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Service of the Word

January 28th, 2024

This worship is being live streamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

NOTE: **Bold text** indicates worshippers’ response, and * means please stand as able.

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

Pastor Ron Gerl

Reader: *Kris Jenson*

Acolyte: *Morgan Titel*

Video: *Dave Young*

Ushers: *Billy Heltne, Tim Jenson*

GATHERING

* GREETING 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.**

* GATHERING HYMN

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

LBW#559- verses 1-4

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

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.

He breaks the pow’r of canceled sin; he sets the pris’ner free.
His blood can make the foulest clean; his blood avails for me.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

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* CONFESSION 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.

* FORGIVENESS 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, our sins are forgiven. We are God's beloved.

Amen.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY 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.

* HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise God from whom All Blessings Flow

LBW#564

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

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GROWING

Our first reading is from Deuteronomy, 18th chapter.

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 (NIV)

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.

¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. ¹⁶ For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die." ¹⁷ The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. ²⁰ But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."

Here ends the first reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please join in reading Psalm 111 responsively.

Psalm 111 (NIV)

¹ Praise the Lord. I will extol the Lord with all my heart in the council of the upright and in the assembly.

² **Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them.**

³ Glorious and majestic are his deeds, and his righteousness endures forever.

⁴ **He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate.**

⁵ He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

⁶ **He has shown his people the power of his works, giving them the lands of other nations.**

⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

⁸ **They are established for ever and ever, enacted in faithfulness and uprightness.**

⁹ He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever— holy and awesome is his name.

¹⁰ **The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise.**

Our second reading is from 1st Corinthians 8th chapter.

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 (NIV)

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.

¹ Now about food sacrificed to idols: We know that "We all possess knowledge." But knowledge puffs up while love builds up. ² Those who think they know something do not yet know as they ought to know. ³ But whoever loves God is known by God. ⁴ So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that "An idol is nothing at all in the world" and that "There is no God but one." ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), ⁶ yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. ⁷ But not everyone possesses this knowledge. Some people are still so accustomed to idols that when they eat sacrificial food they think of it as having been sacrificed to a god, and since their conscience is weak, it is defiled. ⁸ But food does not bring us near to God; we are no worse if we do not eat, and no better if we do. ⁹ Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does

not become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if someone with a weak conscience sees you, with all your knowledge, eating in an idol's temple, won't that person be emboldened to eat what is sacrificed to idols? ¹¹ So this weak brother or sister, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. ¹² When you sin against them in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother or sister to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause them to fall.

Here ends the second reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Mark 1:21-28 (NIV)

Individuals are amazed by Jesus and his control over impure spirits. He wants to have control over our life too because he wants the best for us!

²¹ They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. ²² The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. ²³ Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an impure spirit cried out, ²⁴ "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" ²⁵ "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" ²⁶ The impure spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. ²⁷ The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching—and with authority! He even gives orders to impure spirits and they obey him." ²⁸ News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O, Christ.

MESSAGE "**Who's in Control?**"

Pastor Ron Gerl

* HYMN OF THE DAY

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

LBW#90- verses 1-4

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

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 palsied limbs and 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.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885

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*THE APOSTLES' CREED (professed together)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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**

*Or, He descended to the dead. ** universal

* PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

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.

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, **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.**

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, **receive our prayer.**

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

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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 rest in your loving care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

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.

Amen.

The OFFERING PLATE is located at the entrance of the church sanctuary. Your generous giving supports God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill.

*OFFERING HYMN

Create in me a Clean Heart

LBW page 96

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen

Psalm: 51:-10-12

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* OFFERING PRAYER Merciful Father, **we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us- ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

* 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

* BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* 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

Rise, Shine, You People

LBW#393- all verses

Rise, Shine, You People!

Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered our human story; God in him is centered. He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded, with grace unbounded.

See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing. All men and women, who by guilt are driven, now are forgiven.

** TODAY after worship- Shepherd of the Hill Annual Meeting. On the agenda is approving the Changes being made to the constitution **

MAILING ADDRESSES for those folks who you may want to send words of care, concern, cheer, or sympathy.

Please, let the secretary know if you would like to be added and/ or know someone who might like to be.

- Audrey Bracher:
Meadowbrook at Bloomer 1840 Priddy St, Room 112 B, Bloomer, WI 54724
- Roger Tubbs: 3706 Damon St Apt 11, Eau Claire, WI 54701-9266
- Anita Clemmens E8784 555th Lot 128, Elk Mound, WI 54739

SIGN UP TO HOST A SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP~

Serve with family or friends *or* pair up with a “veteran” fellowship server- we love to help!
Entails: Making/serving coffee, cut/serve summer sausage and cheese, and crackers (found in the church refrigerator/ cabinets), and bring one treat (fruit or sweets or popcorn...you choose). Then just clean up after the event.

Luther Park annual meeting is Saturday 2/3/2024 @ Luther Park in Chetek.
Coffee and refreshments served 9:30 am, 10 am meeting.



Super Bowl sub order forms are on the welcome table!

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