



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Service of the Word

January 14th, 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

Lorin Divine

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

Pastor Ron Gerl

Reader: *Barb Vadnais*

Acolyte: *Colton Plemon*

Video: *Dave Young*

Ushers: *Billy Heltne, Tim Jenson*

Serving Fellowship: *Edie Litzkow & Holly Sweeney*

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

Here I am Lord

WOV#752- all verses

Here I Am, Lord

"I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

Refrain

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

"I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" **Refrain**

"I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" **Refrain**

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

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* CONFESSIO N 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 Lord God, **you showed your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son. As he brought gladness and healing to his people, grant us these same gifts and lead us also to perfect faith in him, Jesus Christ our 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 the 1st Samuel, 3rd chapter.

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] (NIV)

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

¹ The boy Samuel ministered before the LORD under Eli. In those days the word of the LORD was rare; there were not many visions. ² One night Eli, whose eyes were becoming so weak that he could barely see, was lying down in his usual place. ³ The lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the house of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴ Then the LORD called

Samuel. Samuel answered, "Here I am."⁵ And he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." But Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down." So he went and lay down.⁶ Again the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." "My son," Eli said, "I did not call; go back and lie down."⁷ Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD: The word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him.⁸ A third time the LORD called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." Then Eli realized that the LORD was calling the boy.⁹ So Eli told Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."¹¹ And the LORD said to Samuel: "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make the ears of everyone who hears about it tingle.¹² At that time I will carry out against Eli everything I spoke against his family—from beginning to end.¹³ For I told him that I would judge his family forever because of the sin he knew about; his sons blasphemed God, and he failed to restrain them.¹⁴ Therefore I swore to the house of Eli, 'The guilt of Eli's house will never be atoned for by sacrifice or offering.'" ¹⁵ Samuel lay down until morning and then opened the doors of the house of the LORD. He was afraid to tell Eli the vision,¹⁶ but Eli called him and said, "Samuel, my son." Samuel answered, "Here I am."¹⁷ "What was it he said to you?" Eli asked. "Do not hide it from me. May God deal with you, be it ever so severely, if you hide from me anything he told you."¹⁸ So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing from him. Then Eli said, "He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes."¹⁹ The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of Samuel's words fall to the ground.²⁰ And all Israel from Dan to Beersheba recognized that Samuel was attested as a prophet of the LORD

Here ends the first reading. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Please join in reading Psalm 139 responsively.

Psalm: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (NIV)

¹ You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.

² **You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.**

³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

⁴ **Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely.**

⁵ You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.**

¹³ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ **I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ **Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.**

¹⁷ How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ **Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand— when I awake, I am still with you.**

Our second reading is from 1st Corinthians 6th chapter.

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 (NIV)

Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

¹² "I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but I will not be mastered by anything. ¹³ You say, "Food for the stomach and the stomach for food, and God will destroy them both." The body, however, is not meant for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴ By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. ¹⁵ Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶ Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." ¹⁷ But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit. ¹⁸ Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a person commits are outside the body, but whoever sins sexually, sins against their own body. ¹⁹ Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; ²⁰ you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Here ends the second reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.

The Holy Gospel according to John 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: John 1:43-51 (NIV)

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to "Come and see."

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida. ⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." ⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip. ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit." ⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel." ⁵⁰ Jesus said, "You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." ⁵¹ He then added, "Very truly I tell you, you will see 'heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.'"

The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you O, Christ.

MESSAGE **"The Mentor for our Spiritual Journey"**

Pastor Ron Gerl

Jesus calls Us; O'er the Tumult

Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea,
day by day his clear voice sounding, saying, "Christian, follow me."

As of old St. Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for his dear sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

Text: Cecil F. Alexander, 1823-1895

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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.

Encourage the ministry and mission of the church, God of truth. Let the leaders of your church be trustworthy and accountable stewards, that all its resources and outreach bring hope and healing to communities. Especially we pray for Izzy Hollister as she is in Belize doing a service project with a college class. May God protect her in this mission. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Delight in the goodness of your creation, God of fig trees and fertile soil. Heal areas of the world harmed by human greed. Restore those recovering from natural disaster. Protect our forests and waterways and all the creatures that live in them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Call the leaders of every neighborhood and nation to serve faithfully, God of wisdom. Give them visions of justice and unity. Lead them to action that promotes equitable partnership and uplifts those on the margins of society. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Hold in your care any who suffer and struggle, God of compassion. You who know our inner hearts, be present with any who are oppressed, victims of racism or cultural bias, and all who long for respite or restoration. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give this congregation the anticipation and excitement of Samuel, so inspired and empowered to do your work in the world, God of unity. Make us faithful as we build communities of inclusion and mutual care. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting God who raised Jesus and will also raise us in spirit and truth, we remember all who have died and are at peace among the saints (*especially the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. whose faithful advocacy for peace and justice continues to embolden the church*). 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.

Psalm: 51:-10-12

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* OFFERING PRAYER O Lord our God, **maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave 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.**

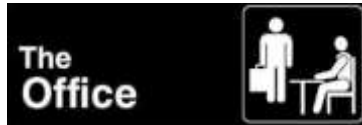
* BENEDICTION

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Effective 10/16 Secretary will be in office Mondays 9:30-11:30 am or occasional Wednesday 6-8 pm depending on her schedule.

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

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~ Saturday February 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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