



## Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

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

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Service with Communion

February 4<sup>th</sup>, 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: *Brandy & Emma Carothers*

Acolyte: *Colton Plemon*

Communion: *Melisa Topper*

Video: *Dave Young*

Ushers: *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

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

LBW#543- all verses

### **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!  
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,  
joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning  
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.  
Have you not seen all that is needful has been  
sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;  
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do

if with his love he befriend you.  
Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!  
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!  
Let the amen sound from his people again.  
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

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\* CONFESSIO 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 Everlasting God, **you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through 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 reading is from Isaiah, 40<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Isaiah 40:21-31** (NIV)

*The Judeans in exile have a good reason to be hopeful: the one who will bring them to freedom is the God who created the world, the God who subdues the rulers of the earth and gives strength to those who are weary.*

<sup>21</sup> Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? <sup>22</sup> He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in. <sup>23</sup> He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing. <sup>24</sup> No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff. <sup>25</sup> "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing. <sup>27</sup> Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup> Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. <sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. <sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; <sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Here ends the reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Please join in reading from Psalm 147 responsively.

**Psalm 147:1-11, 20c** (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD. How good it is to sing praises to our God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him!

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the exiles of Israel.**

<sup>3</sup> He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup> **He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.**

<sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD sustains the humble but casts the wicked to the ground.**

<sup>7</sup> Sing to the LORD with grateful praise; make music to our God on the harp.

<sup>8</sup> **He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills.**

<sup>9</sup> He provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call.

<sup>10</sup> **His pleasure is not in the strength of the horse, nor his delight in the legs of the warrior;**

<sup>11</sup> the LORD delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.

<sup>20</sup> **He has done this for no other nation; they do not know his laws.**

\*Please stand as you are able

The Holy Gospel according to Mark 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Mark 1:29-39** (NIV)

*Everywhere Jesus goes, many people expect him to set them free from oppression. Everywhere he goes, he heals people and sets them free. Disease, devils, and death are running for their lives. The forces that diminish human life are rendered powerless by Jesus.*

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. <sup>32</sup> That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. <sup>35</sup> Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. <sup>36</sup> Simon and his companions went to look for him, <sup>37</sup> and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" <sup>38</sup> Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else to the nearby villages so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." <sup>39</sup> So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you O, Christ.**

## MESSAGE "On Eagles Wings"

Pastor Ron Gerl

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

*God, Whose Almighty Word*

LBW#400- all verses

### **God, Whose Almighty Word**

God, whose almighty word chaos and  
darkness heard and took their flight:  
hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light!

Lord, who once came to bring, on your re-  
deeming wing, healing and sight,  
health to the sick in mind, sight to the inly blind:  
oh, now to humankind let there be light!

Spirit of truth and love, life-giving,  
holy dove, speed forth your flight;  
move on the water's face bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place let there be light!

Holy and blessed three, glorious  
Trinity, wisdom, love, might!  
Boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride,  
through the earth, far and wide, let there be light!

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

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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.*

Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. 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 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**

\* ORDER OF HOLY COMMUNION The Lord be 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 and salutary.....

\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

\* 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.**

\* INVITATION All people are called to Christ's table. Come, eat and drink what is good.

HOLY COMMUNION – *All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to commune with us. Gluten-free wafers available and give "thumbs up" for grape juice. Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing. If you or a family member would like communion brought to them, please tell an usher.*

\* 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

\* BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

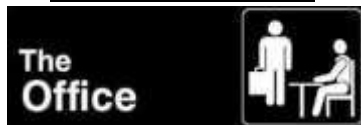
\* BLESSING God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠  
bless you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**



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3 yr - Kindergarten class: Ereik Hanson, Elianna Rasmussen, Lindi Hanson, Lilly Holcomb, Ryder Russo, Ryder Schoch, Felix Schweers, Teacher Bobbi Carothers

### ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Effective 1/29 Secretary will be in office Mondays 10 am-Noon 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.*

- Anita Clemmens E8784 555th Lot 128, Elk Mound, WI 54739
- Audrey Bracher: Colfax Senior Living 110 Park Drive Room 310, Colfax, WI 54730
- Roger Tubbs: 3706 Damon St Apt 11, Eau Claire, WI 54701-9266



*Super Bowl sub order forms are on the welcome table!*

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