



## Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

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

Third Sunday after Epiphany

Service of the Word

January 21<sup>st</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

Michelle Young

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

Pastor Ron Gerl

Reader: *Melisa Topper*

Acolyte: *Colton Plemon*

Video: *Dave Young*

Communion Assistant: *Sarah Larson*

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

I Love to Tell the Story

LBW#390- all verses

### **I Love to Tell the Story**

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story, because I know it’s true;  
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

**Refrain** I love to tell the story; I’ll sing this theme in glory and tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
the message of salvation from God’s own holy word. **Refrain**

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. **Refrain**

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

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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 Almighty God, **by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, 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 Jonah, 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**Jonah 3:1-5, 10 (NIV)**

*The book of Jonah is a comedy starring a reluctant prophet who is given a one-sentence message: Nineveh will be destroyed in forty days. Much to Jonah's dismay, the people of Nineveh repent. The point of the story is to get the reader to wrestle with the question "On whom should God have mercy?"*

<sup>1</sup> Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for one of the Jewish festivals. <sup>2</sup> Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. <sup>3</sup> Here a great number of disabled people used to lie- the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. <sup>4</sup> From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease they had. <sup>5</sup> One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years.

<sup>10</sup> and so the Jewish leaders said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."

Here ends the first reading.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Please join in reading Psalm 62 responsively.

**Psalm: Psalm 62:5-12 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him.

**<sup>6</sup> Truly he is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will not be shaken.**

<sup>7</sup> My salvation and my honor depend on God he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

**<sup>8</sup> Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.**

<sup>9</sup> Surely the lowborn are but a breath, the highborn are but a lie. If weighed on a balance, they are nothing; together they are only a breath.

**<sup>10</sup> Do not trust in extortion or put vain hope in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.**

<sup>11</sup> One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard: "Power belongs to you, God,

**<sup>12</sup> and with you, Lord, is unfailing love"; and, "You reward everyone according to what they have done."**

\*Please stand as you are able for the Gospel.

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

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

**Gospel: Mark 1:14-20 (NIV)**

*Before Jesus calls his first disciples, he proclaims a message that becomes known as "the gospel" or good news from God. God is ready to rule our lives. Those who realize this will respond with repentance and faith.*

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup> When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets.

<sup>20</sup> Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord

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

\* HYMN OF THE DAY

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

LBW#29- all verses

**There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.  
There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment giv'n.

There is welcome for the sinner, and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.  
There is grace enough for thousands of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations in that upper home of bliss.

For the love of God is broader than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.  
But we make this love too narrow by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify its strictness with a zeal God will not own.

'Tis not all we owe to Jesus; it is something more than all:  
greater good because of evil, larger mercy through the fall.  
Make our love, O God, more faithful; let us take you at your word,  
and our lives will be thanksgiving for the goodness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, 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.*

God our rock and deliverance, do not let your church be shaken. We trust you never abandon your promises to the most vulnerable among us. Give your church wisdom and empathy in its varied ministries. 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.**

God our hope and refuge, you placed the fish in the sea. Guide our care of oceans and all creatures that live in them. Hold us accountable for actions that endanger water sources and the people who depend on them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who proclaims judgement and offers mercy, be a model to the leaders of our nation and the world. As they lead, may they follow in your way of justice and truth. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God who cares for the suffering, care for survivors of assault and sexual abuse and sustain all who minister to them. Keep safe any who live under threat of violence, those living in poverty, and any among us who are ill or in pain (*especially*) Duane Clemmens. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection and new life, as the first disciples shared the good news, empower us and this faith community to be open to your call. When we are uncertain of your call, assure us. When we have strayed from your ways, redirect us. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God who holds the saints against your tender bosom, we trust you welcome them into your care. Comfort those who grieve, even as we place our hope in your salvation. 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 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 received 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.

\* 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

O Jesus I Have Promised

LBW#503- all verses

**O Jesus, I Have Promised**

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;  
remain forever near me, my master and my friend.  
I shall not fear the battle if you are by my side,  
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.



## 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.

***\* Shepherd of the Hill Annual Meeting- Sunday 1/28/2024 after worship. 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
- Duane and 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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