



Sunday, February 2, 2025

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

The glory of God is often revealed when and where it is least expected. God uses our lips to declare that glory, inexperienced and hesitant though they may be. God uses our love to demonstrate that glory and so urges us to exercise it. God uses Jesus of Nazareth, water and the word, bread and wine, to reveal God's glory where and when God chooses. Take heed, lest the glory of God slip through our midst unnoticed.

GATHERING

WELCOME

(Please stand as you are able)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.
Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp.
Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In ✚ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

OPENING SONG ELW #705 vs.1,4 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.
- 4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969.

GREETING

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

CANTICLE OF PRAISE ELW 886 vs. 1 & 6 *Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

- 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!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever giv'n
by saints below and saints above,
the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God,
increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Please be seated)

WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

First Reading: Jeremiah 1:4-10

God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and consecrates him in the womb. Jeremiah's task is to preach God's word amid the difficult political realities of his time, before the Babylonian exile. He is to make God known not only to Judah, but also to the nations.

⁴Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

⁵"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you;

I appointed you a prophet to the nations."⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy."⁷ But the LORD said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy';

for you shall go to all to whom I send you,
and you shall speak whatever I command you.

⁸ Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,
says the LORD.”

⁹ Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me,
“Now I have put my words in your mouth.

¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down,
to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Psalm: Psalm 71:1-6

¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

² **In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free;
incline your ear to me and save me.**

³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe;
you are my crag and my stronghold.

⁴ **Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.**

⁵ For you are my hope, O Lord GOD,
my confidence since I was young.

⁶ **I have been sustained by you ever since I was born; from my mother’s womb you have been my
strength;
my praise shall be always of you.**

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia*
**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

People in Jesus’ hometown are initially pleased when he says that God will free the oppressed. Their pleasure turns to rage when he reminds them that God’s prophetic mission typically pushes beyond human boundaries so that mercy and healing are extended to those regarded as outsiders.

²¹ Then [Jesus] began to say to [all in the synagogue in Nazareth,] “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” ²³ He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’” ²⁴ And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.” ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Music: *Jesus Loves Me* – ELW #595

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Music: *Lord, Listen to your Children Praying* – ELW #752

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY ELW 737 vs.1,4,5 *He Comes to Us as One Unknown*

- 1 He comes to us as one unknown,
a breath unseen, unheard;
as though within a heart of stone,
or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
a pulse of being stirred,
a pulse of being stirred.
- 4 He comes in love as once he came
by flesh and blood and birth;
to bear within our mortal frame
a life, a death, a saving name,
for ev'ry child of earth,
for ev'ry child of earth.
- 5 He comes in truth when faith is grown;
believed, obeyed, adored;
the Christ in all the scriptures shown,
as yet unseen, but not unknown,
our Savior and our Lord,
our Savior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Text © 1984 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

(Please stand as you are able)

APOSTLE'S CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, Gods 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance. Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Embolden leaders of nations, corporations, and all in authority, that they lovingly tend those in their charge. Help them to respond to all who cry out in need. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Provide for those whose hunger runs deep due to isolation, loneliness, or illness (*especially*). Send your Spirit so that all are filled with your presence and experience welcome from their communities. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the young people in our congregations. May their voices be celebrated. Give youth a place of honor and value among us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Accept our thanksgiving for the people you surround us with, especially for those who celebrate their lives and birth last week and this week:

Becky Del Rio

Cindy Martin

Rudy Madsen

enrich them with a sense of joy and grace for yet another year. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

For police officers and firefighters, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

For your people in the midst of war, civil unrest, or conflict, grant protection, strength and hope for a better tomorrow. Bring peace and an end to the conflict. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We remember those who have gone before us. Let their faithful example continue to bear witness to us all. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share the Lord's Peace with one another

(Please be seated)

MEAL

OFFERING

*The Worship/Communion Registration Card may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed.
Thank you for your support of our ministry.*

(Please stand as you are able)

OFFERTORY ELW #186 *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.

Text: Lutheran Book of Worship

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.
Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.
Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and [our joy] that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.
Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light.
And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Music: *Holy, Holy, Holy* – ELW Service Page 144 (Setting 3)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O holy God:

you are the Life and Light of all.

By your powerful word you created all things.

Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son.

He is your Light, shining in our darkness
and revealing to us your mercy and might.

In 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.
Remembering, therefore,
his preaching and healing,
his dying and rising,
and his promise to come again,
we await that day when all the universe
will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.
By your Spirit bless us and this meal,
that, refreshed with this heavenly food,
we may be light for the world,
revealing the brilliance of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.
Amen

PRAYER AT THE TABLE

Let us pray together the prayer our Lord taught us:

**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)

COMMUNION

The presiding minister invites the assembly

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

Come, eat this meal of gladness.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Text: Evangelical Lutheran Worship

CONTINUOUS COMMUNION BEGINS

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

(Please stand as you are able)

The body and blood of our Lord,

Jesus Christ, strengthen you and

preserve you in his grace.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE ELW #207 *Thankful Hearts and Voices*

Thankful hearts and voices raise;

tell ev'ryone what God has done.

Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice

and bear the name of Christ.

Send us with your promises

and lead your people forth in joy

with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,

at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send

us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ

we pray, Amen

SENDING

(Please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God

✠ bless you with joy,

anoint you with compassion,

and send you in love.

Amen

SENDING SONG ELW631 vs 1, 4 *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.
- 4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!

Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THE DAY

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOR

5th Sunday of Epiphany

February 9, 2025

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]

Isaiah says, Here am I; send me

Psalm 138

I will bow down toward your holy temple. (Ps. 138:2)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I am the least of the apostles

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people

Upcoming Commemorations

Presentation of Our Lord

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865

Monday, February 3, 2025

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

February 2, 2025

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

He Goes on His Way

It wasn't so long ago that we sang a song about the "meek and mild" newborn Jesus. But we see he is anything but that in today's gospel! When he makes the audacious claim that Isaiah's messianic prophecy "has been fulfilled in [their] hearing" (Luke 4:21), the crowds are delighted and glad to claim him as one of their own.

Jesus instigates a conflict, though, by recalling instances in which Elijah and Elisha ministered to Gentiles instead of to the people of Israel. That the people of Capernaum so quickly turn on him shows how easily we all become focused on ourselves, our status, and our desires, instead of on God's mission to reach those who do not yet know God's love. The crowd's reaction points, for example, to a perennial temptation in faith communities to prioritize insiders' preferences over ways to invite and make room for newcomers to hear the gospel. We are quick to draw lines around "our" people and look at anyone beyond those lines as an outsider. But what if Jesus leads us, as God led the prophets, to someone unexpected? How would we respond if Jesus called us to embrace people whose socioeconomic class or language is different from ours? Would we pick up stones if Jesus announced he was off to go bless folks who voted for *that* candidate?

Even though this story ends with the Nazareth crowd stuck in their anger, it offers hope for us when we find ourselves struggling with the call of Jesus. Luke tells us Jesus simply "went on his way" (v. 30). The crowd's rage could not deter Jesus from his path to the cross and the empty tomb. He redeems even those who deny, oppose, and reject him. Just so, our resistance does not prevail. No matter what our ways might be, his is the way of mercy for all. Jesus fulfills God's plan to rescue the world, to reconcile all creation!

Le Christ du Silence (1890) by Odilon Redon (French, 1840–1916). Photograph copyright © 2024 Peter Horree/Alamy Stock Photo. Used by permission.

Music used by permission. CCLI #10006394, One License # A-714701. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS007374. New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary, Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.