



January 29, 2023

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Onward, Christian Soldiers”

- ♪ Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus
Going on before. Christ, the royal master, Leads against the foe;
Forward into battle See His banners go!
- ~Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus Going on before.
- ♪ Like a mighty army Moves the Church of God; Brothers, we are treading
Where the saints have trod. We are not divided, All one body we,
One in hope and doctrine, One in charity. ~Onward...
- ♪ Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane, But the Church of Jesus
Constant will remain. Gates of hell can never 'Gainst that Church prevail;
We have Christ's own promise, And that cannot fail...~
- ♪ Onward, then, ye faithful, Join our happy throng, Blend with ours your voices
In the triumph song: Glory, laud, and honor Unto Christ, the king;
This through countless ages Men and angels sing. ~Onward....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 662-Text: Sabine Baring-Gould 1834-1924; Tune: Arthur Sullivan 1842-1900;
Setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
But to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,

Whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

1 Corinthians 1:18, 30

Confession and Absolution

Let us go to the throne of God's grace, confessing our sins and asking His mercy for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

We cannot repay God for our offenses, but He has given us His only Son to pay for every sin. Because of Jesus, God forgives us all our sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Praise and Thanksgiving”

- ♪ Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer For all things living, Created good:
Harvest of sown fields, Fruits of the orchard, Hay from the mown fields, Blossom and wood.
- ♪ Bless, Lord, the labor We bring to serve You That with our neighbor We may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, We would work with You, Harvesting, milling For daily bread.
- ♪ Father, providing Food for Your children, By Your wise guiding Teach us to share
One with another, So that, rejoicing With us, all others May know Your care.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 789 -Text: Albert F. Bayly 1901-84; Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent.;
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Old Testament Reading

Micah 6:1–8

¹Hear what the LORD says:

Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

²Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me!

⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

⁵O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.”

⁶“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Lift High the Cross”

~Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till all the world adore His sacred name.

♪ Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Lift high...

♪ Led on their way by this triumphant sign,
The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine. ~Lift high...

♪ All newborn soldiers of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. ~Lift high...

♪ O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. ~Lift high...

♪ Let ev’ry race and ev’ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. ~Lift high...

♪ So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! ~Lift high....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 837-Text: George W. Kitchin 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt 1874-1956;
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Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Matthew 5:1–12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fifth chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

Verse Hymn

“I Am Jesus' Little Lamb”

♪ I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my name and still provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.

♪ Day by day at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay,
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.

♪ Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 740-Text: Henrietta L. von Hayn 1724-82; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Tune: Choral-Buch, Leipzig 1784; Setting: Ewald Weiss 1906-98;
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Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

♪ Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not; Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

~Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

♪ Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. ~Great is...

♪ Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside. ~Great is....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 809 - Text: Thomas O. Chisholm 1866-1960; Tune: William M. Runyan 1870-1957
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Proclamation of the Word

“Happiness is Not in the Tail but in the Cross!”

Matthew 5:1–12

Offering and Musical Offering

Response Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God”

♪ Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, In whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms Has blest us on our way
With countless gifts of love And still is ours today.

♪ Oh, may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts And blessèd peace to cheer us
And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplexed
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!

Please Stand

♪ All praise and thanks to God The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in highest heaven,
The one eternal God, Whom earth and heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, And shall be evermore.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 895-Text: Martin Rinckart 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth 1827-78;
Tune: Johann Cruger 1598-1662; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Prayer of the Church

Each petition is concluded with the following:

Let us pray to the Lord.

Bless them for Jesus' sake, O Lord.

Lord's Prayer

Hymn

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

♪ Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee; Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

♪ Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee, Swift and beautiful for Thee.

♪ Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King; Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee, Filled with messages from Thee.

♪ Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold; Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose, Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

♪ Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne, It shall be Thy royal throne.

♪ Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store; Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee, Ever, only, all for Thee.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 784-Text: Frances R. Havergal 1836-79;
Tune: Henri A.C. Malan 1787-1864; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

♪ Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To keep His statutes still!

Oh, that my God would grant me grace To know and do His will!

♪ Order my footsteps by Thy Word And make my heart sincere;

Let sin have no dominion, Lord, But keep my conscience clear.

♪ Assist my soul, too apt to stray, A stricter watch to keep;

And should I e'er forget Thy way, Restore Thy wand'ring sheep.

♪ Make me to walk in Thy commands- 'Tis a delightful road-

Nor let my head or heart or hands Offend against my God.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 707 -Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Tune: William H. Havergal 1793-1870;
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Postlude