



OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Southern Pines, North Carolina

ORDER FOR WORSHIP
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 29, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, (+) one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin. Holy One, source of our renewal,

People: **we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of (+) Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG - Shout to the Lord

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

People: **And also with you.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE - ELW p. 139

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

People: **Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING: Acts 13:32-43

And we bring you the good news that what God promised to our ancestors he has fulfilled for us, their children, by raising Jesus; as also it is written in the second psalm,

'You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.'

"As to his raising him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, he has spoken in this way,

'I will give you the holy promises made to David.'

"Therefore he has also said in another psalm,

'You will not let your Holy One experience corruption.'

"For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, died, was laid beside his ancestors, and experienced corruption, but he whom God raised up experienced no corruption. Let it be known to you therefore, brothers and sisters, that through this man forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you; by this Jesus everyone who believes is set free from all those sins from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses. Beware, therefore, that what the prophets said does not happen to you:

'Look, you scoffers!
Be amazed and perish,
for in your days I am doing a work,
a work that you will never believe, even if someone tells you.' "

As Paul and Barnabas were going out, the people urged them to speak about these things again the next Sabbath. When the meeting of the synagogue broke up, many

Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.

Here ends the reading. Word of God, Word of Life...

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM: Psalm 15 (*Read responsively by half verse.*)

THE SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

*"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."*

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Here ends the reading. Word of God, Word of Life...

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON - Heather Lussier

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *"God, Whose Almighty Word" ELW #673 v. 1*

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

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

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

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

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

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE SERMON: *Witnesses: The Impact - Pastor Frank Waugh*

THE HYMN OF THE DAY - Rise Up, O Saints of God! - ELW 669

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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.**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING RESPONSE

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free.
Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and
shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore,
through Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - ELW p. 144

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE PREFACE (*Sung by Pastor*)

THE SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might, heaven and earth are 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.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Spoken*)

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and take the joy of God!

COMMUNION:

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.

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod (+) bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG - Everywhere I Go

THE DISMISSAL

God in peace. Follow in the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE