



**Christ  
Lutheran**  
CHURCH

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**February 4, 2024**

## **We Welcome You to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.**

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure\* of faith, grace, and love.

*\* The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

### **ABOUT WORSHIP**

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front on you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

### **CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!**

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

### **WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP**

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

### **RESTROOMS**

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

*Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.*

**A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.**

*In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

**PRELUDE**

*Cantilene in F*

Rheinberger

**WELCOME**

**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.**

*Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.*

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**A CELEBRATION OF WELCOME – RECONCILING IN CHRIST**

*Galatians 3:26-28*

For in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

**Together in Christ, we find God's welcome!**

All who are single, married, divorced, widowed, LGBTQIA+, straight, rich, poor,  
**you are welcome here!**

However you describe your ethnicity, skin color, or culture,  
**you are welcome here!**

If you move with a wheelchair, a walker, a helping arm, or fast feet,  
**you are welcome here!**

Crying newborns, those who are very good at sitting still, and those who like to wiggle and make faces,  
**you are welcome here!**

Whether you are a world-class musician or can't carry a tune in a bucket,  
**you are welcome here!**

If you are seeking a faith community or are skeptical of church people,  
**you are welcome here!**

Whether your background is Lutheran or you say "Martin who?"  
**you are welcome here!**

To those who count their age by months, by years, or forget how old they are,  
**you are welcome here!**

If you need healing in mind, body, or spirit, have more questions than answers, or feel confident – at least for today,

**you are welcome here!**

All those who are Indigenous to this land as well as those who are immigrants,

**you are welcome here!**

Those in need of food or shelter, and those who seek grace and compassion,

**you are welcome here!**

Whether you are attending church online and still in your pajamas, or if you are here only because you are visiting Grandma,

**you are welcome here!**

Those in flip-flops, sneakers, or shiny shoes,

**you are welcome here!**

All who could use a prayer, need a friend, or just enjoy learning from one another,

**you are welcome here!**

Gracious God, you have made us one in Christ and called us to be signs of your love. Teach us to celebrate all the ways we are made in your image, and to welcome one another as you have welcomed us.

**Amen.**



**RECONCILING IN CHRIST**

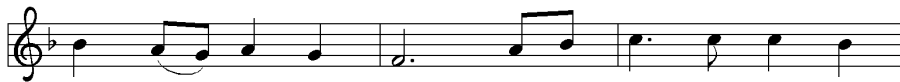
HYMN ELW #641 *All are Welcome*



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
 claim the faith of Je - sus:  
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
 end to fear and dan - ger:  
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen  
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## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Lord of fierce compassion,  
you name the forces of death  
in our hearts and institutions  
and even in the holy places:  
lift from us the canopy of fear  
that feeds on repression  
and pushes away  
what it cannot abide;  
go with us  
to dark and lonely places  
where we can learn again  
who we are called to be;  
through Jesus Christ, the healer of creation.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR LAUREN ADDISON MICK (8:00 a.m.)**

*Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.*

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

*Sponsors present the candidates:*

We present Lauren Addison for baptism.

*The presiding minister addresses the parents:*

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Lauren baptized into Christ?

**We do.**

*The presiding minister continues:*

As you bring Lauren to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,  
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,  
place in her hands the holy scriptures,

and nurture her in faith and prayer,  
so that she may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Lauren grow in the Christian faith and life?

**We do.**

*The presiding minister addresses sponsors:*

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Lauren in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

**We do.**

*The assembly stands.*

People of God, will you promise to support Lauren and pray for her in her new life in Christ? Will you grow with her, learn with her, serve with her, and together give praise to God?

**We will.**

## **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

**I renounce them.**

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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 into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

## **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**



## **BAPTISM**

*The assembly is seated. The presiding minister baptizes the candidate.*

Lauren Addison, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

*Laying both hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:*

Sustain Lauren with the gift of your Holy Spirit:

the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,  
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.*

Lauren Addison, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**Amen.**

## **WELCOME**

*A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized.*

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

## **WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

*Children are invited forward for a time together.*

## **READING: Isaiah 40:21-31**

*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>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
Has it not been told you from the beginning?  
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- <sup>22</sup>It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,  
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;
- <sup>23</sup>who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.
- <sup>24</sup>Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when he blows upon them, and they wither,  
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- <sup>25</sup>To whom then will you compare me,  
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.
- <sup>26</sup>Lift up your eyes on high and see:  
Who created these?  
He who brings out their host and numbers them,  
calling them all by name;  
because he is great in strength,  
mighty in power,  
not one is missing.
- <sup>27</sup>Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
“My way is hidden from the Lord,  
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
- <sup>28</sup>Have you not known? Have you not heard?  
The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He does not faint or grow weary;  
his understanding is unsearchable.
- <sup>29</sup>He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.
- <sup>30</sup>Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;
- <sup>31</sup>but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

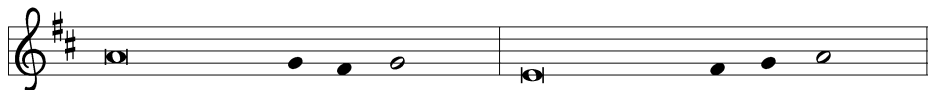
## PSALM: Psalm 147:1–11, 20c

*The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.*

### Refrain



### Psalm Tone



- <sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises | to our God!  
How pleasant it is to honor | God with praise!
- <sup>2</sup>**The LORD re- | builds Jerusalem,  
and gathers the ex- | iles of Israel.**
- <sup>3</sup>The LORD heals the | brokenhearted  
and binds | up their wounds.
- <sup>4</sup>**The LORD counts the number | of the stars  
and calls them all | by their names. R**
- <sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;  
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.
- <sup>6</sup>**The LORD lifts | up the lowly,  
but casts the wicked | to the ground.**
- <sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD | with thanksgiving;  
make music upon the harp | to our God,
- <sup>8</sup>**who covers the heav- | ens with clouds  
and prepares rain for the earth,  
making grass to grow up- | on the mountains. R**
- <sup>9</sup>God provides food | for the cattle  
and for the young ravens | when they cry.
- <sup>10</sup>**God is not impressed by the might | of a horse,  
and has no pleasure in the speed | of a runner,**
- <sup>11</sup>but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD,  
in those who await God's steadfast love. | Hallelujah! R

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

*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.*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>29</sup>As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup>Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup>He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup>That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup>And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup>And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup>In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup>And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup>When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup>He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup>And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

*The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #684 *Creating God, Your Fingers Trace*

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*



1 Cre - at - ing God, your fin - gers trace the bold de -  
2 Sus - tain - ing God, your hands up - hold earth's mys - t'ries  
3 Re - deem - ing God, your arms em - brace all now de -  
4 In - dwell - ing God, your gos - pel claims one fam - 'ly



signs of far - thest space; let sun and moon and stars and  
known or yet un - told; let wa - ter's frag - ile blend with  
spised for creed or race; let peace, de - scend - ing like a  
with a bil - lion names; let ev - 'ry life be touched by



light and what lies hid - den praise your might.  
air, en - a - bling life, pro - claim your care.  
dove, make known on earth your heal - ing love.  
grace un - til we praise you face to face.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934

Music: PROSPECT, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. hymnal version

Text © 1979 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

## **APOSTLES' CREED (10:30 a.m. only)**

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.

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

## **PRAYERS**

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. In Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, and Vatican City, bless the witness and work of churches; protect fragile ecosystems and nurture the efforts of all who tend to those in need.

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.*

God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died, including the Martyrs of Japan. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised 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.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## **OFFERING**

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with **Hilltop House** [www.hilltophouse.org](http://www.hilltophouse.org).*

*If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code or browse to our secure on-line portal at [clvalpo.org/give](http://clvalpo.org/give) or use [our CLC app](#) (download at [clvalpo.org/app](http://clvalpo.org/app)).*



**OFFERTORY (8:00 am):**

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

Burkhardt

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 am):** *In This Moment of Remembrance*

Wood

*In this moment of remembrance the sacrament is spread; here we celebrate Christ's presence through the wine and broken bread. At this table of communion, in the light shed from above, we are sheltered in his mercy and surrounded by his love. There is healing and forgiveness, there is strength as we partake; here we know the Savior's promise that he never will forsake. "Take and do this in remembrance," are the words our Savior said; and we join now in his presence through the wine and broken bread.*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

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.**

**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.

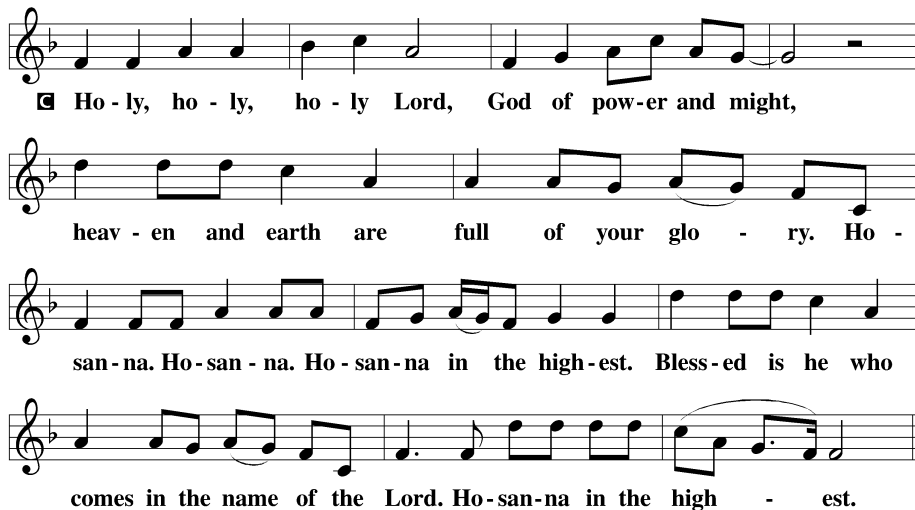
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS

*(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## TABLE PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

*Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus 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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.

Come and see.

**Thanks be to God!**

## DISTRIBUTION

*The assembly is seated.*

*The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

**Amen (receive the bread)**

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen (receive the cup)**

**In-person distribution:** When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored and GRAPE JUICE is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this.

## LAMB OF GOD

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS: ELW #787 *On Eagle's Wings*



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.



3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

*(hymn continues on page 20)*



4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to



guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



bear you up, lest you dash your foot a- gainst a stone.



*Final refrain*

All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

Text: Michael Joncas, b. 1957

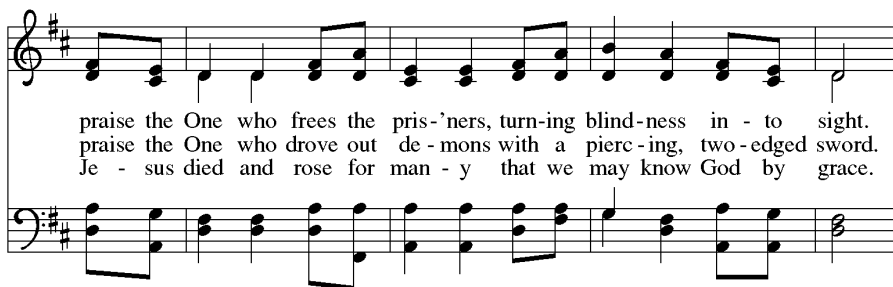
Music: ON EAGLE'S WINGS, Michael Joncas

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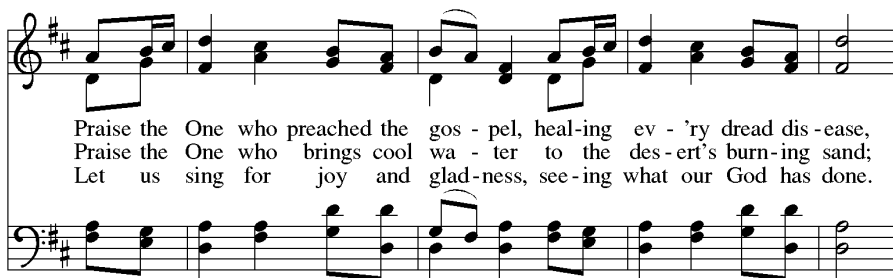
ELW #843 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*



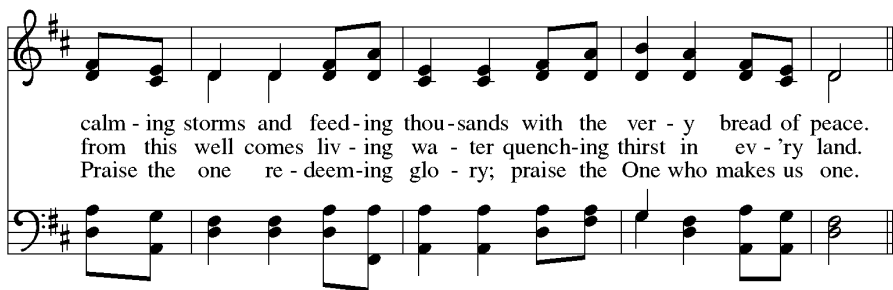
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;  
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955  
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813  
Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*When all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.**

### **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

### **INVITATIONS**

*Brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

### **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 ELW #314

*Arise, Your Light Has Come!*

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
 pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893

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*Children join the pastors to send us in mission*

**DISMISSAL**

*Children: Go in peace. Share God's love.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

Roberts



## Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Lena Gibson-Even	Noah DeJesus
Lector	Jorunn Scheiderich	Gschwind Family Becky Fry (back-up)
Prayer Assistant	Lanie Steinwart	Gschwind Family Phil Hahn (back-up)
Communion Assistants	Betty Lockett Darla Hernandez	Amy Knauff Phil Hahn
Ushers	Luke Venstrom Irene Adams	Camden/Beth Bell Jackson/Jack Kick Dirk Bailey Harrison Beeg Karen/Matt Hernes (back-up)
Sound/Light	Lance Nolting	Jeff Peiffer
Video/Livestream	- - - - -	Ben Crill
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants	Becky Fry, cantor Sanctuary Choir	
Communion Baker	Candace Jacques	

## COMMEMORATIONS

Week of February 4, 2024

### February 5

In the sixteenth century, Jesuit missionaries, followed by Franciscans, introduced the Christian faith in Japan. But a promising beginning to those missions—perhaps as many as 300,000 Christians by the end of the sixteenth century—met complications from competition between the missionary groups, political difficulty between Spain and Portugal, and factions within the government of Japan. Christianity was suppressed. By 1630, Christianity was driven underground.

Today we commemorate the first martyrs of Japan, twenty-six missionaries and converts who were killed by crucifixion. Two hundred and fifty years later, when Christian missionaries returned to Japan, they found a community of Japanese Christians that had survived underground.



## **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Vatican City.**

### **We are thankful for:**

- the rich historical legacies and distinctive cultures in these countries.
- the faithful witness of the churches in the midst of empire building and colonization
- the many and diverse waves of migrants who have come to these lands.
- the hospitality that long has been shown to those arriving on their shores

### **We pray for:**

- the preservation of the fragile environments and shorelines in this region.
- an end to economic and political turmoil.
- stable governments that end corruption and serve the common good.
- policies that relieve disparities between those who are rich and poor

### ***Stewardship Snippet***

*“He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless.” – Isaiah 40:29*

Yes, loving one’s neighbors can be difficult, but it is not impossible. God is with us and gives the strength and power we need to love others, even our enemies. Stewardship of relationships matters!

## **A Fiercely Tender Love**

Think of a lioness; perhaps you've seen one in a nature documentary. Her power is palpable, even through the TV screen. She is strong and fierce, able to expertly take down prey and defend her pride from danger. She is also gentle, grooming her tiny cubs carefully in the afternoon sun. With the same strong jaws she is able both to kill an enemy and to carry her young gingerly by the scruff of their neck. Jesus' power is something like that: just as mighty as it is tender.

Jesus casts out demons relentlessly. In a single evening, he exorcises an entire city's worth! Jesus' power over the demons is so complete that he doesn't even permit them to speak. What are the demons in your own life, or in your community? What forces seek to dominate or control? What systems cause hurt or destruction? Out of God's great love for us, Jesus grapples with each and every source of pain, oppression, and suffering in the world.

With that same power, Jesus gently lifts Simon's mother-in-law by the hand, and her fever is gone. In a tender bedside moment, she is healed personally, intimately, and completely. This woman, ordinary and unnamed in Mark's gospel except by her relation to her son-in-law, is still not so unimportant as to escape Jesus' notice and care. And neither are we.

Jesus bathes us in the waters of salvation and defends us from danger. He feeds us at the table of mercy and carries us tenderly into abundant life. We are protected, healed, and loved by the One who created the cosmos, who possesses power to destroy any earthly power, yet who "gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless" (Isaiah 40:29). Like cubs learning from their mother, we rise and follow so that our lives might show forth that same fiercely tender love.

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Portions from Prayers for an Inclusive Church by Steven Shakespeare.