

2610 Campbell Street • Valparaiso, Indiana 46385 • (219) 462-6660 clcvalpo.org • office@clcvalpo.org



Season of Epiphany February 5, 2023

WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH!

YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

At Christ Lutheran people of all backgrounds and experiences gather to worship because we all share a common 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. If you have a prayer request, the yellow cards in the seatback holders have a place for them; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran—you can also enter a prayer request in live chat.. 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.

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.

COVID Procedure Update

Masks are encouraged but optional during worship. Naturally if you prefer to stay masked throughout the service, you are of course welcome to do so. Masks are not required for singing but suggested.

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.

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Sonata in E minor (Allegro non tropo)

Brahms

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider <u>filling out a Connection Card online</u> (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.



Prayer requests can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.

If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (8:00 a.m. only)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal, 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.

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.**

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.**

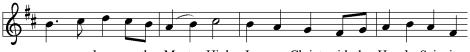
Children: This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (8:00 a.m. only)





For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer. Israel's jealous God, giver of love's law, in whom there is no blandness, no dullness of oppression; liberate us from all that numbs compassion to find in your commands light undimmed and flavor unrestrained; through Jesus Christ, fulfiller of the law. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM FOR LUCAS SAMUEL AND ADELYNN MARIE DANFORD (10:30 a.m.)

The assembly is seated. 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 Lucas Samuel and Adelynn Marie 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 Lucas and Adelynn baptized into Christ?

Response:

We do.

The presiding minister continues:

As you bring Lucas and Adelynn to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer, so that they 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 Lucas and Adelynn grow in the Christian faith and life? **We do.**

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to continue to accompany Lucas and Adelynn in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response:

We do.

The assembly stands.

People of God, will you promise to support Lucas and Adelynn and pray for them in their new life in Christ? Will you grow with them, learn with them, serve with them, 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.

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.

Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

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

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land. By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

BAPTISM

The presiding minister baptizes the candidates.

Lucas Samuel/Adelynn Marie, 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 heads of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain Lucas/Adelynn 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. Lucas/Adelynn, 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.
When children read, they may read a version that is appropriate to their reading level and voice, which may vary from the printed texts.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited forward for a time together.

READING Isaiah 58:1-12

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

 1 Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. ³"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. ⁴Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast,

a day acceptable to the LORD?

⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ^{9a}Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112:1-10

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



¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD and have great delight in | God's commandments!

² Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in their house,

and their righteousness will | last forever.

⁴ Light shines in the darkness | for the upright;

the righteous are merciful and full of compassion. R

⁵ It is good for them to be gener- ous in lending and to manage their af- fairs with justice.

⁶ For they will nev- er be shaken;

the righteous will be kept in everlast- ing remembrance.

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors;

their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

⁸ Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire up- on their enemies.

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever;

they will hold up their head with honor.

¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry;

they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wick-ed will perish. R

READING: 1 Corinthians 2:1-10

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. ³And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. ⁷But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹But, as it is written,

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,

nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him"—

¹⁰these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.





HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³"You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

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 #553 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

The assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: RATISBON, J. G. Werner, Choralbuch, 1815

APOSTLES' CREED (8:00 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

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence*.

Call your people to seek your wisdom in difficult conversations and action. Give the church everywhere courage to repent for the ways we have tolerated, benefited from, and practiced injustice. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Inspire our wonder at creation, from the light of dawn to the beauty of the dark night. Sustain creation, from the unseen depths of the ocean to the plants and animals we know well. Bring healing to lands and communities experiencing natural disasters, especially the ice storms in southern states. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Instruct the powerful in your ways. Provide upright leadership in business and industry, that workers are not oppressed. Throughout the world, inspire voters and raise up politicians to heed your call for nations to practice righteousness. Accompany the people and churches of Andorra, Italy, Malta, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, and Vatican City; inspire the witness and leadership of Pope Francis. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Loosen the bonds of injustice in our midst. Grant peace to endless quarrels, put an end to hunger, and break every yoke of oppression. Shelter all who flee abuse in their homes or violence in their communities. Satisfy those afflicted in any way. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Shape our congregation to be salt for the earth. Give us delight in your commandments, that we are generous with those in need. Make us steadfast in our trust in you, ready with tangible mercy and compassion for our neighbors. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

The cross and resurrection bring redemption from sin and death. We praise you for Ansgar, the Martyrs of Japan, and all whose unshaken faith in Christ shines forth in their witness. Keep them in our remembrance and bring us with them into the kingdom of heaven.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We invite those worshiping 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

Throughout this pandemic our congregation has never stopped serving our neighbors, our community, our world -- all because of your participation and support. This month we are sharing a portion of our offerings for the support of **First Contact** <u>firstcontactinc.org</u> and the **Christ Lutheran Mike Steiner Benevolence Fund.**

If you prefer to give electronically use <u>our CLC app</u> or browse to our secure on-line portal at <u>clcvalpo.org/give</u>.

OFFERTORY (8:00 am):

Pastorale on ST. ANNE

Manz

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 am): Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life Young

Come, my way, my truth, my life; such a way as gives us breath: such a truth, as ends all strife; such a life as killeth death. Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a light as shows a feast: such a feast, as mends in length: such a strength, as makes His guest. Come, my joy, my love, my heart; such a joy, as none can move: such a love as none can part, such a love as none can part; such a heart, as joys in love.

OFFERING PRAYER

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

The pastor begins the prayer and all join in singing:

SANCTUS

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

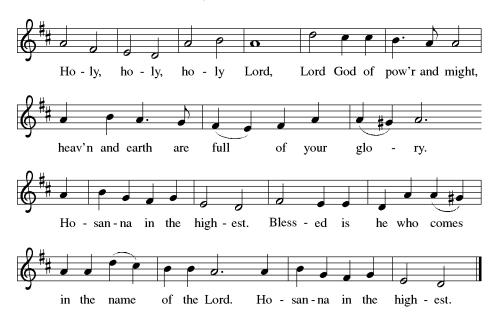


TABLE PRAYER

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

Come and taste the joy of God! Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

The assembly is seated.

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.

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

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen (receive the bread)

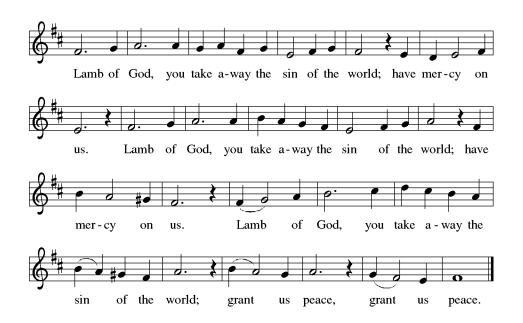
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen (receive the cup)

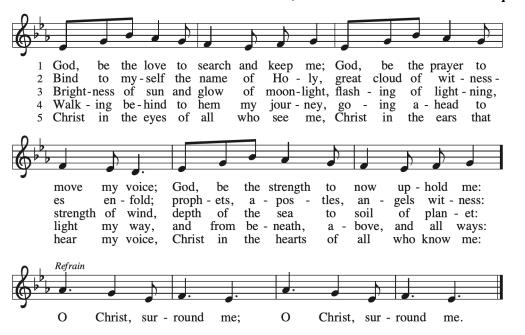
In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored and GRAPE JUICE is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. USED GLASSES are placed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

18

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMNS ACS #1084 God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me



ELW#712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985 Text © 1961 Oxford University Press. Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress. After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

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

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW #673 God, Whose Almighty Word



Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt. Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE Fughetta in A Mendelssohn

As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.

Worship Leaders

8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Acolyte Luke Ridley Noah DeJesus

Lector Don MacMillan John Kroeger

Prayer Assistant Don MacMillan Dirk Bailey

Communion Assistants Chris Schmidgall Carrie & Drew Gschwind

Erin Schmidgall Bob & Tommy Emery

Ushers Irene Adams Harrison Beeg

Luke Venstrom Martin Bateman

Camden Bell Jackson Kick

Sound/Light Lance Nolting Tony Reinhold

Video/Livestream ----- Ben Crill

Welcome Center

Pastors: Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr.

Rev. Erica Gibson-Even

Director of Music Ministries: Brian Bartusch

Worship Participants Kathy Stefans, cantor (10:30 am)

Daniel Gibson-Even, cello

Sanctuary Choir

February Altar Gifts

Communion Baker: Candace Jacques

Communion Wine: To the Glory of God

Altar Candles: Vickie and Gregg Copeland ~ In Honor of Grandchildren

Eternal Lamp Candles: To the Glory of God

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

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.

COMMEMORATIONS Week of January 22, 2023

February 2

Presentation of Our Lord

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.

February 3

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

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.

February 5

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597

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.

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Portions from Prayers for an Inclusive Church by Steven Shakespeare.