

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR

* = Please stand *as you are comfortable*.**Bold** type indicates congregational responses.

- **Welcome!**
- *Leave your offering in the plate at the entrance. The offering can be received before, during, or after the service. To give electronically, go to richfield-lutheran.org/give*

In in today's readings from Nehemiah and Jesus' proclamation in the synagogue in Nazareth in the Gospel of Luke, God's glory is revealed in the reading of scripture. People stand at attention. People weep. People prostrate themselves in prayer. Most gloriously, the promises of God are fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. Gather round. Listen up. What will be our response?

I. GATHERING

PRELUDE

(The prelude gathers us in the Lord's presence. You are invited to center through it.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 60, adapted

Arise, shine; for your light has come

and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you

Lift up your eyes and look around

Gathered are God's people, made holy and beloved

WELCOME**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

(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, 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; when we ignore the needs of our neighbors; resist your call to oppose injustice; or give in to scarcity and fear; Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Create in us clean hearts, 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.

*** GATHERING HYMN**

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

ELW #843

*** GREETING**

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

And also with you.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Blessed God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Help us to hear, learn, and inwardly hold them, that, challenged by your will and comforted by your promises, we may embrace and share the freedom you proclaim through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Nehemiah 8:1-12

(The exiles have returned and rebuilt Jerusalem. Now Ezra, the priest, reads the law of Moses to them in the public square. When they hear it, they weep for their sins and for the long years in exile, but Ezra reminds them that “the joy of the Lord is your strength.”)

¹ All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. ⁴ Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose, and beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hash-baddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand. ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, “Amen, Amen,” lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. ⁷ Also the Levites Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah helped the people to understand the law, while the people remained in their places. ⁸ So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." ¹¹ So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, "Be quiet, for this day is holy; do not be grieved." ¹² And all the people went their way to eat and drink and to send portions and to make great rejoicing, because they had understood the words that were declared to them

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19 (*read responsively*)

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
- ² **One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
- ³ Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
- ⁴ **their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where
God has pitched a tent for the sun.**
- ⁵ It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- ⁶ **It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it
again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**
- ⁷ The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re vives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.
- ⁸ **The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**
- ⁹ The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ **More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
- ¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² **Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- ¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- ¹⁴ **Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

(The apostle and pastor Paul uses the metaphor of the human body to describe how intimately connected we are in the church. For this struggling congregation in Corinth, Paul delivers a vital message of unity.)

¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴ Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴ whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵ that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ^{31a} But strive for the greater gifts.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

*** GOSPEL: Luke 4:14-30**

(Near the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, he visits his hometown of Nazareth. In the words of Isaiah, he states and claims his identity, purpose, and mission. His preaching and teaching receive mixed reaction.)

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 4th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁴ Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to set free those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, “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 this not 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 his 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 with a skin disease 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.

SERMON

The Good News Is Bad News Is Good News

Pastor Charlie Ruud

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Let Streams of Living Justice
(Please stand for the final verse.)*

ELW #710

*** APOSTLES’ CREED**

In response to the good news, we confess our shared 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

*** PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

After each petition:

...Merciful God,

Hear our prayer.

*** PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.)

III. THANKSGIVING

CHOIR ANTHEM

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

*** OFFERTORY**

ELW #686, vs. 1

**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

IV. SENDING

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** BLESSING**

Go in peace to shine the light of God's love.

Thanks be to God.

*** SENDING HYMN**

This Little Light of Mine

ELW #677

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to shine the light of God's love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

(The postlude sends us out to be Christ's peace in the world. You are invited to savor it.)

(Our service continues with sharing fellowship in Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall, across the hall; and then in the world with our neighbors.)

THIS WEEK'S DAILY BIBLE READINGS:

Mon, Jan 27. Psalm 119:89-96

Tues, Jan 28. 2 Corinthians 7:2-12

Wed, Jan 29. Jeremiah 36:27-32

Thurs, Jan 30. Psalm 71:1-6

Fri, Jan 31. 2 Chronicles 35:20-27

Sat, Feb 1. 2 Chronicles 36:11-21

Next Sunday, February 2nd, is the 4th Sunday after Epiphany. The Gospel text will be Luke 4:31-41 telling of Jesus casting out unclean spirits and healing many as it continues to be revealed how the love of God in Christ works to bring freedom and release.

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