



4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 2, 2025, 9:30 A.M.

HOLY COMMUNION

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*
- *We receive communion by intinction today (take the wafer and dip it into the wine or grape juice). Come forward as the ushers invite. If you prefer to receive communion in your pew, let your usher know—and the servers will come to you. If you desire a gluten-free wafer or grape juice instead of bread or wine, please let the servers know.*

Today is the 4th Sunday after Epiphany, and the theme of the day is healing. Scripture proclaims of an “everlasting God” who seeks to bind up the broken-hearted. Christ suffers as one of us to embody even our death. The Gospel of Luke reveals Jesus’ power in stories of healing and casting out powers which have bound people. As a part of worship, we receive God’s healing presence and promise in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

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**

Hark, the Glad Sound

ELW #239

*** 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.

*** KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

*** CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

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This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you bind up the broken-hearted, lift up the downtrodden, and bless the meek. Help us hear and trust your word of salvation and join your redemptive work in the world, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

II. WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:25-31

(After what has seemed like a long dark night, Isaiah ushers in a word of comfort and hope. Drawing upon God's identity in creation, Isaiah proclaims God's creative action especially for the faint and powerless.)

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me,
or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶ 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.

²⁷ 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'?

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹ 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.

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:1-11

- ¹ Praise the LORD!
How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.
- ² The LORD builds up Jerusalem;
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.
- ³ **He heals the broken-hearted,
and binds up their wounds.**
- ⁴ He determines the number of the stars;
he gives to all of them their names.
- ⁵ **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;
his understanding is beyond measure.**
- ⁶ The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;
he casts the wicked to the ground.
- ⁷ **Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make melody to our God on the lyre.**
- ⁸ He covers the heavens with clouds,
prepares rain for the earth,
makes grass grow on the hills.
- ⁹ **He gives to the animals their food,
and to the young ravens when they cry.**
- ¹⁰ His delight is not in the strength of the horse,
nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;
- ¹¹ **but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him,
in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18

(Here Christ's solidarity with humanity is lifted up, showing the depth of relationship and thus the depth of redemption in God's ministry to God's people.)

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters* in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the

people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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 4:31-41**

(Jesus' power is revealed in multiple healings. While his identity and authority are recognized by the demonic voices, they are silenced and cast out by his word.)

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ He went down to Capernaum, a city in Galilee, and was teaching them on the sabbath. ³²They were astounded at his teaching, because he spoke with authority. ³³In the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ³⁴'Let us alone! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God.' ³⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!' When the demon had thrown him down before them, he came out of him without having done him any harm. ³⁶They were all amazed and kept saying to one another, 'What kind of utterance is this? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and out they come!' ³⁷And a report about him began to reach every place in the region.

³⁸ After leaving the synagogue he entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked him about her. ³⁹Then he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. Immediately she got up and began to serve them.

⁴⁰ As the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various kinds of diseases brought them to him; and he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. ⁴¹Demons also came out of many, shouting, 'You are the Son of God!' But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Charlie Ruud

HYMN OF THE DAY

*There Is a Balm in Gilead
(Please stand for the final verse.)*

ELW #614

*** APOSTLES' CREED**

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,

Receive our prayer.

*** SHARING OF 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 and MEAL

*** 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.**

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

*** 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.

COMMUNION SONG

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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.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*** POST- COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

Amen.

* **POST COMMUNION SONG** *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise*
Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus Lord, to thee we raise;
Manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
Branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:
Anthems be to thee addressed, God in flesh made manifest.

ELW #310, vs. 1

IV. SENDING

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

* **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

* **SENDING HYMN**

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ELW #256

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, Feb 3. Luke 2:22-40

Thurs, Feb 6. Psalm 138

Tues, Feb 4. Psalm 56

Fri, Feb 7. Acts 9:26-31

Wed, Feb 5. Luke 19:41-44

Sat, Feb 8. Judges 3:7-11

Next Sunday, February 9th is the 5th Sunday after Epiphany. The gospel Luke 5:1-11 when Jesus calls some of the first disciples. The stories highlight how perhaps unlikely people amid unexpected circumstances are called to reveal and share God's glory.

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